SCHOOL PROFILE  
2023-2024

History & Philosophy

Established in 1957, Dunn School is a grade 6-12, co-educational, independent school for boarding and day students, located in Santa Barbara County on California’s Central Coast. The school is characterized by seminar-style classes that encourage curiosity and open inquiry, responsiveness to a range of learning styles, and a close community of educators who value both intellectual and personal growth.

Mission & Values

The Dunn community educates the whole student to his or her fullest potential in preparation for a life of learning and responsible leadership in society. We strive toward the balanced education of the whole person. Our curriculum, both in the classroom and beyond, is designed around five core values: Emotional Wellness, Physical Readiness, Intellectual Growth, Social Responsibility, and Moral Courage.

Students & Setting

The 45 members of the Class of 2024 have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways. Several have been recognized by the National Merit program as Semi-Finalists, Commended Scholars, Hispanic Scholars and Rural Scholars. The class also includes a member of the local City Council, several livestock champions for 4-H/County Fair Competitions, a documentary filmmaker, a First Place winner at numerous piano competitions, a Questbridge Scholar, a President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award winner, and a variety of talented artists, academics, and athletes. Many students (both boarding and day) also work part-time jobs in the local community.

The Students in the Class of 2024 are from 7 countries (Armenia, China, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, the Netherlands, and Ukraine) and 3 US States (California, Montana, and Texas). 44% are students of color.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2024</th>
<th>Domestic Students of Color</th>
<th>Upper School Students Receiving Financial Aid</th>
<th>Student-to-Faculty Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49/51%</td>
<td>22 Nations of Origin</td>
<td>Class of 2020 4-year College Admission</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average Class Size</td>
<td>Acre Rural Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTACTS

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Registrar  
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GENE VACHON  
Associate Head of School

SIMON SWEENEY  
Associate Head of School for Curriculum and Learning

KALYAN BALAVAN  
Head of School

School Memberships:  
NACAC, WACAC, ACCIS, NAIS, CAIS, TABS

PO Box 98 2555 West Highway 154 Los Olivos, CA 93441 | Ph: 805.688.6471 | CEEB Code: 051863 | www.dunnschool.org
Academics & Grading System

ACADEMICS
Dunn’s academic curriculum encourages intellectual growth and skill mastery. Our supportive and accessible faculty promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. This balanced approach allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose driven approach to their academic life.

Advanced Curriculum
Dunn does not offer AP courses but instead provides Advanced curricular offerings that are responsive to the interests, abilities and aspirations of our students, and the unique strengths of our faculty. In addition to high intellectual standards, Advanced courses place a greater emphasis on creative thought, evidence-based arguments, and intellectual risk – emphasizing skill mastery through multiple modes of assessment. Students in these courses engage with more sophisticated materials across all disciplines and are held to a higher standard of participation. Due to the rigor of these courses, students are encouraged to take only 2–3 advanced courses each year. Students who are significantly advanced in academic areas may be asked to participate in an independent study and serve as a TA (Teacher’s Assistant) for a class. The course selection process, including placement in advanced courses, includes oversight by the Academic Dean, Director of College Counseling, and faculty advisors, to ensure appropriate rigor and balance. Advanced courses receive one additional point in the GPA calculation.

Experiential & Enrichment Curriculum
Central to our whole student philosophy, we dedicate over 100 hours each year to experiential-based learning. Our week-long wilderness trips focus on character development and community mindedness. Our three-week Winter Term encourages students to follow their curiosity and pursue areas of interest along with faculty leaders, and our membership in RoundSquare allows students to connect with like-minded learners around the world through classes and exchange programs.

Learning Strategies
Dunn School offers a unique Learning Strategies program that provides highly personalized academic support designed to meet the needs of students with mild learning differences.

Discipline Policy
Dunn reports discipline in accordance with application requirements. Students are counseled to truthfully answer all questions regarding disciplinary actions rendered through their Dunn tenure.

Grading System
- 34 instructional weeks
- A trimester system began in the 2022-23 school year. Grades are issued three times per year. Previously a semester system was in place.
- 4.0 grading scale
- Advanced classes receive 1.0 bonus point
- Honors classes received 0.5 bonus point
- Both weighted and unweighted GPAs are reported
- Remediated classes taken at Dunn School replace previous grades earned in like classes
- Class rank is not computed nor reported

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>–0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*minimum passing grade

Class of 2024 GPA Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.99 &amp; below</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0–3.49</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5–3.99</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standardized Testing
The majority of Dunn School students changed their plans for standardized testing due to Covid-19. Our data is insufficient and could be misleading, therefore in fairness to all students we will not be sharing Class of 2024 averages.
### Full Year Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>World Language</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary Electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 9</td>
<td>History 9</td>
<td>Conceptual Physics</td>
<td>Studio Art 1</td>
<td>Spanish 1</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Toolkit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 10</td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry I</td>
<td>Studio Art 2</td>
<td>Spanish 2</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Pioneers (11th only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced English 10</td>
<td>Advanced World History*</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry II*</td>
<td>Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Development</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 2</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Investors and Philanthropists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 11</td>
<td>U.S. History</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>Spanish 3</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced English 11*</td>
<td>Advanced U.S. History*</td>
<td>Advanced Biology I</td>
<td>Ceramics 1</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 3</td>
<td>Economics (11 and 12) *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 12</td>
<td>Advanced American Studies</td>
<td>Advanced Biology II*</td>
<td>Ceramics 2</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 4*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced English 12*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Physics (11th-12th)</td>
<td>Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Development</td>
<td>Multi-lingual Support (MLS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>Digital Photo 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and Debate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Environmental Studies</td>
<td>Digital Photo 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Engineering</td>
<td>Videography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>World Language</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary Electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Math 1</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Development</td>
<td>Spanish 1</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Toolkit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Integrated Math 1</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry I</td>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>Spanish 2</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Pioneers (11th only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Math 2</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry II*</td>
<td>Ceramics 1</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 2</td>
<td>Jurgensen’s Investors and Philanthropists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Integrated Math 2</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Ceramics 2</td>
<td>Spanish 3</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Math 3</td>
<td>Advanced Biology I</td>
<td>Ceramic 3 - Portfolio Development</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 3</td>
<td>Economics (11 and 12) *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Integrated Math 3</td>
<td>Advanced Biology II*</td>
<td>Ceramic 3 - Portfolio Development</td>
<td>Advanced Spanish 4*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Math 4</td>
<td>Advanced Physics (11th-12th)</td>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>Multi-lingual Support (MLS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Statistics*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Digital Photo 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Calculus (AB)*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Digital Photo 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Calculus (BC)*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Videography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COVID-19

The Class of 2024 was impacted by Covid–19 during their freshman year. Dunn School transitioned to online learning in the Spring of 2020. Students faced unforeseen challenges including quarantining in their home countries, times zone differences, and limited/inconsistent internet access. The Fall of 2020 began with online instruction and in the fall, the School moved to an in-person learning option for boarding students. Due to smaller class cohorts students enrolled in only 5 classes instead of the typical 6. Clubs, athletics, and extra-curricular programs were significantly impacted during this time. Students had the option to choose pass/fail grades during the 2020–21 school year.

Trimester Elective Courses: Sports Journalism, Refugee Literature, Journalism

*An asterisk next to the course name indicates that the class is comparable to the course that most prepares students for the AP exam. Advanced courses receive 1 bonus point when calculating weighted GPAs.
Educational Outcomes

All members of the Class of 2023 were admitted to 4-year colleges. Ninety-eight percent are attending four-year colleges and 2% chose to attend a two-year college. The 41 members of the Class of 2023 are attending 32 different colleges in 14 states, and three students are attending colleges abroad in France and Spain.

College Matriculation 2019–2023

The graduates of the Classes of 2019–2023 attended the following four-year colleges and universities in 32 states and the District of Columbia, and 5 countries (Canada, France, Scotland, Spain, and Switzerland.)

College Matriculation 2019–2023

American University
Arizona State University
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Belmont University
Berea College
Berklee College of Music
Boston University
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University–San Luis Obispo
California State University–Northridge
California State University–Bakersfield
California State University–Dominquez Hills
California State University–Los Angeles
Chapman University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University in the City of New York
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College
DePaul University
Drew University
Duke University
Eckerd College
Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University–Prescott
Emerson College
EU Business School – Barcelona (Spain)
Fordham University
Fort Lewis College
George Washington University
Goucher College
Kansas State University
Hawaii Pacific University
Hollins University
IE Business School (Spain)
Indiana University–Bloomington
Lawrence University
Les Roches International School of Hotel Management – (Switzerland)
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield University
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Marist College
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Oklahoma State University–Main Campus
Otis College of Art and Design
Pepperdine University
Pomona College
Pratt College of Art and Design
Princeton University
Purdue University–Main Campus
Regis University
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Mary’s College of California
Savannah College of Art & Design – SCAD
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Sciences Po (France)
Scripps College
Skidmore College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The Catholic University of America
The College of Wooster
The New School
The University of Arizona
The University of the South
Trinity College
University at Buffalo
University of Arizona
University of California–Berkeley
University of California–Irvine
University of California–Los Angeles
University of California–Riverside
University of California–San Diego
University of California–Santa Barbara
University of California–Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Idaho
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews (Scotland)
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Washington
University of Wyoming
Washington University in St Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
Xavier University

20% West
19% Midwest
19% New England
27% Mid Atlantic
10% Southeast
50% California
6% Southwest
1% International Universities