



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.

45

Class of 2024

40%

Domestic Students of Color

42%

Upper School Students Receiving Financial Aid

5:1

Student-toFaculty Ratio

166

Upper School Enrollment

18%

International Students

100%

Class of 2020 4-year College Admission

9

Average Class Size

49/51%

Boarding/Day

22

Nations of Origin

55

Acre Rural Campus

CONTACTS

TERRI DEVINE

Director of College Counseling

tdevine@dunnschool.org

o: 805.686.0637

GINA PLASTINO

Registrar

gplastino@dunnschool.org

o: 805.686.0640

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



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.

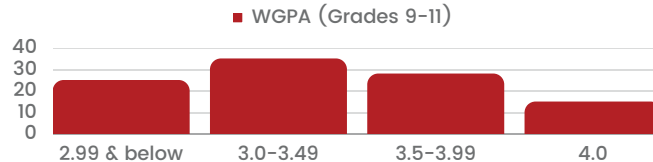
Grading System

- 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

A	93-100%	4.0	
A-	90-92.99%	3.7	
B+	87-89.99%	3.3	
B	83-86.99%	3.0	
B-	80-82.99%	2.7	
C+	77-79.99%	2.3	
c	73-76.99%	2.0	
C-	70-72.99	1.7*	
D+	67-69.99%	1.3	
D	63-66.99%	1.0	
D-	60-62.99%	-.7	
F	0-59.99%	0.0	*minimum passing grade

Class of 2024 GPA Distribution



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

<p>English English 9 English 10 Advanced English 10 English 11 Advanced English 11* English 12 Advanced English 12* Creative Writing Speech and Debate</p>	<p>History History 9 World History Advanced World History* U.S. History Advanced U.S. History* Advanced American Studies Advanced Government* Micro/ Macro Economics*</p>
<p>Math Integrated Math 1 Advanced Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Advanced Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3 Advanced Integrated Math 3 Integrated Math 4 Advanced Statistics* Advanced Calculus (AB)* Advanced Calculus (BC)* Computer Science</p>	<p>Science Conceptual Physics Chemistry Advanced Chemistry I Advanced Chemistry II* Biology Advanced Biology I Advanced Biology II* Advanced Physics (11th-12th) Anatomy and Physiology Advanced Environmental Studies Introduction to Engineering</p>
<p>Visual Arts Studio Art 1 Studio Art 2 Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Development Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Completion Ceramics 1 Ceramics 2 Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Development Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Completion Digital Photo 1 Digital Photo 2 Videography</p>	<p>World Language Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Advanced Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Advanced Spanish 3 Advanced Spanish 4* Multi-Lingual Support (MLS)</p>
<p>Performing Arts Applied Music Fundamentals Ensemble 1 Ensemble 2 Ensemble 3 Vocal Ensemble Acting</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary Electives Jurgensen's Toolkit Jurgensen's Pioneers (11th only) Jurgensen's Investors and Philanthropists Entrepreneurship Economics (11 and 12) *</p>

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.

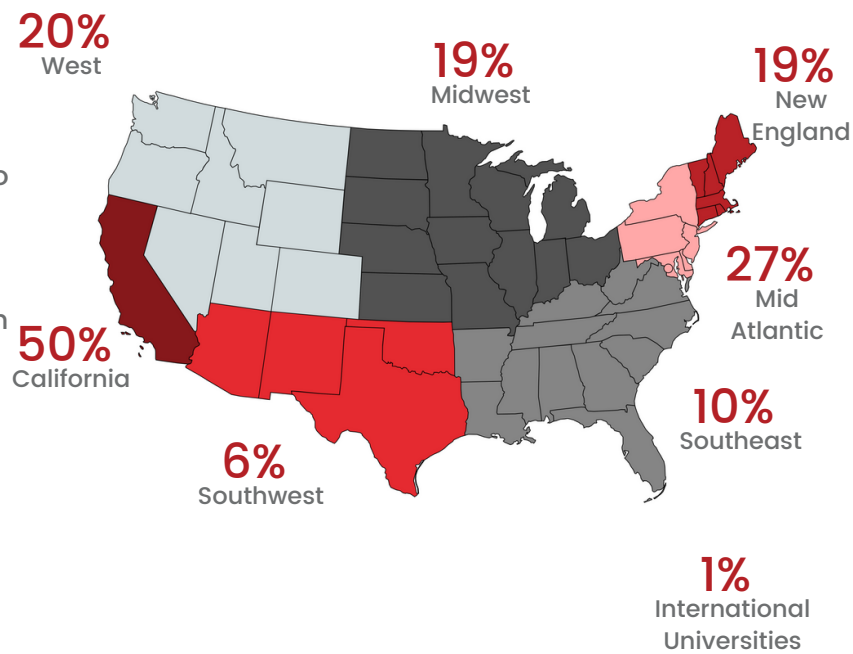


Trimester Elective Courses: Sports Journalism, Refugee Literature, Journalism

*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–Dominguez 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