



Palo Alto Senior High School

Established 1894

50 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-329-3701

www.paly.net

CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

2024-2025 School Profile

Palo Alto High School, Paly, has long had a national reputation for academic excellence. The proximity of Stanford University, the Silicon Valley business community, and San Francisco has created a socially diverse community with high academic expectations and a strong belief in quality public education. The student body reflects the community's socio-economic status and educational level. The ethnic/racial makeup of our student population is 37.5% Asian, 2% African-American/Black, 31.3% Caucasian, 15.2% Hispanic/Latino, .1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.7% Pacific Islander, 12.3% 2 or more races. 10% of the student population is enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch Program; 9% are first generation college students. Total student enrollment is 1,866.

Palo Alto High School's Guidance Program provides academic planning, personal counseling, and college and career advising for students. At the core of the guidance department is the Teacher Advisor (TA) Program. The primary delivery of guidance materials and instruction is via the teacher advisors in the Friday advisory periods. The teacher advisors serve as students' academic advisors and write students' counselor recommendations and/or school reports.

ACADEMICS 2024-2025

Paly students benefit from a rich curriculum and extensive extra-curricular opportunities. The student-teacher ratio is 28:1. Students may enroll in up to seven classes a semester. Students must take a minimum of five classes. Students earn 5 credits for passing each semester course.

Graduation Credit Requirements (220)

- English – 40
- Mathematics – 30
(including Algebra I & 2 & Geometry)
- Science – 20
(Biological – 10; Physical – 10)
- Social Studies – 40
- Electives – 25
- World Language – 20
- Arts, Visual & Performing – 10
- Career/Technical Ed (CTE) – 10
- Living Skills – 5
- Physical Education – 20

Honors Courses

Paly offers 31 Honors courses. Note: Japanese 4H was not offered in 2023-24 due to low enrollment

AP Courses

Paly offers 27 AP courses. Paly recommends students take no more than 2 AP courses a year.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Paly offers 6 dual enrollment Foothill Community College courses.

For a list of all Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment courses--as well as a description of special pathway and cohort programs-- please see the course catalog: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

Recognition: Paly's Child Development Pathway received the Santa Clara County Kristi Porter Hoffmann Award for exceptional programming in 2023.

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE

There are 463 students in the Class of 2025. Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist colleges in evaluating student performance, the following distribution chart represents cumulative GPAs from grades 9-11.

Decile	Weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
1	4.37 - 4.50*	4.00 - 4.00
2	4.28 - 4.36	3.93 - 3.99
3	4.18 - 4.27	3.88 - 3.92
4	4.09 - 4.17	3.82 - 3.87
5	3.98 - 4.08	3.72 - 3.81
6	3.85 - 3.97	3.64 - 3.71
7	3.70 - 3.84	3.53 - 3.63
8	3.41 - 3.69	3.27 - 3.52
9	3.05 - 3.38	2.93 - 3.26
10	1.38 - 3.04	1.38 - 2.92

*Highest GPA reflects 6 full semesters of participation within PAUSD

Grading System

All credits earned in grades 9-12 count toward graduation. All courses are counted in computing grade point average with exception of courses earning:
P = Pass NM = No Mark

School service and Teaching Assistant courses are graded on a P or NC basis.

Grade points are determined by using the following scale of equivalents:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

All AP and honors classes will receive an extra grade point for a C or higher in grades 10 - 12.

For more information about department (and course) grading policies, please see the course catalog: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

GPAs are calculated on a weighted 5-point system for Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (D) courses in grades 10-12. All other courses factor into the GPA on a 4-point scale. A student's weighted GPA appears on his/her high school transcript and related college-application School Reports. We do not weight grades from coursework in 9th grade.

Off-campus courses, with prior approval, are added to the Paly transcript; as of summer 2023, those course grades will be issued as Cr/NCr on the Paly transcript.

Concurrent enrollment community college courses earn double credits.

Please note that +/- are not factored into the GPA. The following classes do not provide +/- in their grading rubrics:

- Career Technical Education:
AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Principles of Bio Medical Science, Functional & Object-Oriented Programming, Functional & Object Oriented Programming H, Principles of Engineering, Work Experience, Audio Music Production & Audio Music Production - Advanced
- World Language: all classes

Key to Transcript Symbols in Course Titles on Transcripts

A = Advanced (math)/Accelerated (English)

D = Dual Enrollment Community College Course

SJ = Social Justice Pathway

TESTING

Students at Paly continue to demonstrate outstanding performance on standardized tests.

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2022	2023	2024
ACT Scores	29.2	29	29.7
Nat'l Scores	20.6	19.5	TBD

SAT (1600 Scale)

Year	2023	2024	Nat'l Mean
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	675	677	464
Math	709	706	484

AP Scores (May 2024)

953 students took 2,419 tests
95% scored 3 or higher
49% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2024	2025
Semifinalists	23	28
Commended Students	81	75

Award-Winning Student Activities & Clubs

Arts

- Creative Writing
- Scholastic Arts
- Stage Technology & Design
- Theater

Music

- Symphonic Band & Orchestra
- Jazz Band
- Pep Band
- Concert Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Madrigal Singers
- Spectrum Singers
- Premier Choir
- Concert Choir

Student Activities

- Spirit Team
- Cheer and Dance

Community Engagement

289 students in the class of 2025 contributed 37,686 hours of service and had an economic impact of \$ 1,198,416.

Athletics

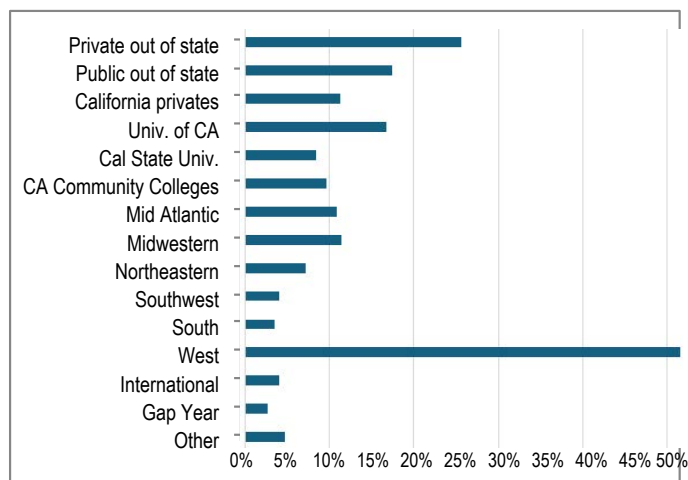
Palo Alto High School is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League in the following sports:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Badminton (C) | • Lacrosse (B, G) |
| Baseball (B) | • Soccer (B, G) |
| Basketball (B, G) | • Softball (G) |
| Cheer (C) | • Swimming & Diving (B +, G +) |
| Cross Country (B, G) | • Tennis (B,G) |
| Field Hockey (G) | • Track/Field (B, G) |
| Football (C #) | • Volleyball (B, G +) |
| Flag Football (G) | • Water Polo (B, G) |
| Golf (B, G +) | • Wrestling (C) |

B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed + = League Champion # = CCS Champion

Palo Alto High School Plans - CLASS OF 2024

83.04% directly to 4-year colleges • 9.61% directly to 2-year colleges
2.65 % Gap Year - 4.70 % Other



A college-specific matriculation summary for 2020-2024 is available on paly.net/college

CONTACT INFO

Principal Brent Kline (650) 329-3831

Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3760
LaDonna Butler (650) 329-3760
Rebecca Shen-Lorenson (650) 329-3760
Michelle Steingart (650) 329-3760

Guidance Department (650) 329-3712

School Counselors

Crystal Laguna = A-Be (650) 329-3712 claguna@pausd.org
James Hamilton = Bh-Gri (650) 329-3712 jhamilton@pausd.org
Selene Singares = Gro-Low (650) 329-3712 ssingares@pausd.org
Charles Taylor = Lu-Shaw (650) 329-3712 chtaylor@pausd.org
Jillian Restivo = She-Z (650) 329-3712 jrestivo@pausd.org

College & Career Center (C&CC) (650) 329-3818

College Advisors

Sandra Cernobori = A-K (650) 329-3813 scernobori@pausd.org
Crystal Laguna = Pathways (650) 329-3719 claguna@pausd.org
Janet Cochrane = L-Z (650) 833-4298 jcochrane@pausd.org

C&CC Receptionist, Community Service & Scholarships

Jen Fernandez (650) 329-3818 jfernandez@pausd.org

Registrar

Karla Larson (650) 329-3823 klarson@pausd.org

Palo Alto Unified School District

Dr. Donald B. Austin, Superintendent
25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 329-3737

- The College Board
- National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)
- Western Association of College Admission Counselors (WACAC)

Complies with NACAC's *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*.
Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

