



Many Traditions, One School

St. Paul Central High School is the oldest high school in the state of Minnesota, founded in 1866. Central's longstanding tradition of academic excellence is widely acclaimed and has received recognition from Cognia® in 2025 as one of only 24 schools in five countries named a Cognia School of Distinction. Our International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, "exemplifies the very best attributes of an IB World School," according to IB world experts. Central has educated leaders in business, government, literature, arts, sciences, and education throughout the state of Minnesota and the United States, serving as a model for public education serving diverse populations

Principal	Cherise Ayers
Counseling Dept. Co-Chairs	Wendy Eidem & Mai Sue Lee
Accreditation	Cognia
Control	State of Minnesota
CEEB Code	242230
Class Size	Up to 40 students
Stud./Counselor Ratio	249:1
9th grade	473 students
10th grade	477 students
11th grade	405 students
12th grade	386 students
Total enrollment	1,741 students
White	46%
Black/not Hispanic	24%
Multiracial	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12%
Hispanic/Latino	4%
Native	3%
42 Languages spoken in students' homes.	
40% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch.	

GRADE POINT DETERMINATION*

Grade		Grade	
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+ (above avg)	3.3	D+ (below avg)	1.3
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	.7
C+ (average)	2.3	N/NP (fail)	0/NA
		I (incomplete)	NA

*Students may take up to 8 courses per quarter. *All grades except for P and NP are used for GPA and class rank.*

Weighted honor points are earned in the following courses:

- *International Baccalaureate (IB)*: 48* IB courses;
- *Advanced Placement (AP)*: 17* AP courses;
- *Other Honors: 15* courses (listed as Accelerated, Honors, Immersion, or Quest on transcript);
- *Language classes:* Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish are offered, levels III through VI are awarded honor points;
- *College in the Schools (CIS)*: 5* courses; Instructors trained by U of M faculty teach English for University credit at the high school;
- *PSEO*:* Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in courses at colleges or technical institutes through the MN Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

All grades from courses designated as honors will be figured for GPA via a 1.25 multiplier effect, e.g. an "A" in an honors course will be multiplied by 1.25 to yield a weighted grade point of 5.0: (4 x 1.25 = 5.0).

*See description on additional page.

Class of 2025 Highest GPA:

Weighted **4.88**
Unweighted **4.00**

ACT DATA

Central Composite Averages:

2025 (276 students) **21**
2024 (293 students) **21**
2023 (366 students) **22**
2022 (509 students) **22**

NATIONAL MERIT COMPETITION

2026 Merit Program

Commended **4**
Semifinalists **2**
Finalists **TBD**

2025 Merit Program

Commended **8**
Semifinalists **4**
Finalists **4**

2024 Merit Program

Commended **1**
Semifinalists **4**
Finalists **4**

SURVEY OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Students surveyed **399**
Four-year college **71%**
Community/Technical college **12%**
Other/Still Deciding **5%**
Workforce **3%**
Apprenticeship/Career Certificate **3%**
Military **<1%**
Gap Year **5%**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM	
Number of exams, May 2025	1297
Students taking exams	817
Subject areas	27
Passing rate	
AP Scholars Awarded	113
AP Scholars with Honors	39
AP Scholars with Distinction	68
AP National Scholars Awarded	0
Total Scholars	220

Advanced Placement Tests: Art History, Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Chinese Language and Culture, Computer Science A, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, French, German Language and Culture, Human Geography, Japanese, Macroeconomics, Physics 1, Physics C: EM, Physics C: Mech, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics, US Government and Politics, US History, World History: Modern

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM	
Number of exams, May 2025	502
Students taking exams	189
Full Diplomas Awarded	19
Highest Diploma Points	35

IB Program Tests: English Lit, English Lang&Lit, German, German Lang&Lit, French, French Lang&Lit, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish, Economics, History, Biology, Physics; Sports, Exercise, and Health Science; Math Analysis, Math Applications, Visual Arts, Music

TOP 10 COLLEGES ENROLLED IN CLASS OF 2024*:

*2025 data not yet available
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Saint Paul College
University of St. Thomas
Concordia University - St. Paul
St. Olaf College
Augsburg University
DePaul University
Metro State University
Century College
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Class of 2025 Graduation Requirements

86 credits must be earned in the following areas
(2 credits equal one semester):

- English – 16 credits
- Social Studies – 14 credits, including 4 in US History, 2 in Economics, 2 in US Government, 4 in World History, and 2 in Geography
- Math – 12 credits, through Algebra 2
- Science – 12 credits, including 4 in Biology and 4 in Chemistry or Physics
- Physical Education – 2 credits
- Health – 2 credits
- Critical Ethnic Studies - 2 credits
- FACS/Industrial Tech – 2 credits
- Fine Arts – 4 credits
- Electives – 20 credits

Can meet the graduation assessment requirements by having the opportunity to take a college entrance/placement exam, including but not limited to ACT, SAT, and ACCUPLACER.

Academic Specialties

Central offers students six options for rigorous college preparation:

1. International Baccalaureate - IB

Central HS has been an IB World School authorized to offer the Diploma Program since 1987. Our Diploma Program offers 17 testing subjects: Chinese (Mandarin); French; German; Latin; Spanish; Russian; English Lit; French Lang & Lit; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Math Analysis; Math Applications; History; Economics; Philosophy; Music; Visual Arts, and Theory of Knowledge. About 50% of our 11th and 12th graders register for one or more IB Exams; and Central scores have consistently been above average for IB students throughout the world.

The IB Diploma Program is a global pre-university program that provides an interdisciplinary curriculum and incorporates multi-cultural perspectives and internationally-based standards of achievement. IB courses develop and refine higher level thinking skills, writing techniques and oral communications.

2. Middle Years Program – MYP

Central HS in partnership with Hidden River Middle School has been authorized to offer the IB MYP since 2009. The partnership shares a common philosophy of commitment to challenging and high quality international education.

3. Advanced Placement

Central High School has been offering AP courses and exams since 1994. The school currently offers 17 courses and continues to have a significant number of AP award recipients including National AP Scholars. In 2024, Central was named as a Silver member to the AP School Honor Roll.

4. Quest

For over 30 years, Quest classes are honors courses combining traditional group learning with individual pursuit of academic interests and artistic talents. Students are trained to think independently and to learn from each other and from the instructor. The humanities-based curriculum delves into ancient and modern texts by multiethnic authors of all genders. Quest classes stress analysis and synthesis of ideas as well as critical thinking processes articulated in written and oral assignments.

5. College in the Schools (CIS)

Instructors trained by U of M faculty teach English, Latin, Psychology, and African American Studies for University credit at our high school.

6. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program

Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in courses at colleges or technical institutes through the MN Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO).

Other Specialties

Media Communications

Central has a dedicated recording studio. In the audio studio, musicians, singers and technicians rehearse daily to prepare, perform, and record original compositions with state-of-the-art equipment. In the TV studio, broadcast journalism students produce CMN, the Central Morning News.

Performing Arts

Experience is available in acting, band, choir, jazz band and orchestra. Central has an accomplished theater

club, that performs three full shows each year. All aspects of the productions are student driven: acting, music, stage management, costumes, and technical production. Our dance classes perform a recital annually. Vocalists and instrumentalists in Central's Music Department perform throughout the school year in our community. These large organizations tour nationally every two years. Central musicians have a tradition of first place awards and superior ratings at local, state and national festivals and competitions.

Visual Arts

The visual arts department provides a solid introduction to the formal, technical, and expressive qualities of several art media. After completing introductory courses, many students continue work focusing on ceramics, drawing, jewelry, photography, painting, and art history in upper level, honors, IB and AP courses. Central's visual artists participate in several juried exhibits throughout the year.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities at Central support optimal youth development and engage every segment of the school's diverse student population. Central's athletic program includes swimming, tennis, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, badminton, wrestling, gymnastics, track and field, cross-country running, and skiing. Central teams consistently participate in postseason competition for regional and state championships.

Central also has a rich variety of extracurricular activities including theater, jazz band, honor society, community service activities (Fresh Force, Roots & Shoots), speech, debate, math team, yoga, and much more.

