



Notre Dame Belmont
High School
1540 Ralston Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002
650.595.1913
ndhsb.org

Head of School

Meredith Essalat M.Ed. '98
messalat@ndhsb.org

Associate Head of School Curriculum and Instruction

Jolanda Breazeale B.A. '86
jbreazeale@ndhsb.org

Dean of Academic Advisement

Kristi Rossi M.Ed., PPS
krossi@ndhsb.org

School Counselor

Christina Christenson M.A., PPS
cchristenson@ndhsb.org

School Counselor

Esperanza Flores, M.A., PPS
eflores@ndhsb.org

School Counselor

Allan Gargaritano, M.A., PPS
agargaritano@ndhsb.org

Registrar

G Imazumi-Hegarty '07
ndbregistrar@ndhsb.org

EFS Coordinator

Camilla Soto
csoto@ndhsb.org

Notre Dame High School, Belmont School Profile 2024-2025

About

Notre Dame High School, Belmont (NDB) is an independent Catholic college preparatory school dedicated to the educational mission of St. Julie Billiart and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Notre Dame High School was established by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1851 and moved to the historic William Ralston Estate in 1923. The school is located on 10.6 acres in Belmont, California, a professional suburban community located midway between San Francisco and San Jose. Notre Dame High School, Belmont is a WASC accredited high school.

Mission

We are a caring and compassionate community committed to promoting justice and peace while developing responsible young women of active faith, strong intellect and Christian leadership. We develop the gifts and talents of each student and foster Gospel values in an environment of academic excellence and mutual respect.

Community

The school draws its student body principally from San Mateo County. Families of the school often reflect middle to upper middle class economic background. Of the 359 students, 78 comprise the 2025 senior class. International students encompass 4% of the student body. The student/teaching faculty ratio is approximately 9:1. The student/teaching faculty and professional staff ratio is approximately 13:1. The average class size is 19. For the class of 2024, 94% enrolled into a 4-year college (including two international schools), 4% into community college, and 2% began a gap year.

Ethnicity

- 57%** White Non-Hispanic
- 24%** Asian
- 17%** Hispanic
- <1%** American Indian/Alaskan Native
- <1%** Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- <1%** Black/African American

Faculty/Administration

38.3 FTE, 80% hold one or more advanced degrees

Accreditation

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

CEEB#

050275

Student Activities Program

NDB offers a strong interscholastic sports program including cross country, tennis, flag football, golf, volleyball, water polo, wrestling, basketball, soccer, swimming, softball and track and field. Cheerleading is part of the program, as it competes in regional and national competitions each year. Other activities include the associated student body, student council, California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, mock trial, robotics, math team, one school publication (The Catalyst) and Tiger TV news and broadcasting.

Capstone Project

At NDB, juniors complete a Capstone project within the Spiritual Life (religious studies) curriculum. They are asked to choose a local or global social justice issue, research this topic in depth, and engage in an academic-focused critical analysis. Additionally, students engage in theological and values-based reflection, examining the issue through the lens of the Notre Dame Hallmarks and Catholic Social Teaching.

Double Block AP Lab Sciences

Our STEM program is designed to prepare students for college and careers. Unlike most AP courses, which cover a single semester of college material over a year in high school, both AP Chemistry and AP Biology at NDB encompass a full year of college-level coursework, including labs. Our students engage with college-level labs and analyses, as we allocate the necessary time for them to thoroughly explore the material. By meeting daily on a block schedule, students can delve deeply into the subject matter and complete the comprehensive lab work required. Feedback from our graduates indicates that they excel in their college courses due to the depth of coverage and the extensive lab experience gained at NDB. This daily engagement not only builds confidence, but also helps students master the content and develop crucial lab skills, which contribute to them pursuing science in college and beyond.

Students with Learning Differences are Empowered for Success

The Empowered for Success (EFS) Program is a four-year program designed to support and guide students with documented learning differences (i.e. cognitive, psychological, physical and medical conditions). Our program strives to empower students to become strong self-advocates and voice their support needs. Students in the EFS Program improve their self-determination skills by learning to make meaningful choices regarding their academic and personal goals. Our team offers regular check-ins to review student learning plans and teach students how to effectively utilize their accommodations based on their individual needs. Students are expected to meet the same academic standards as their peers, and they are often enrolled in Honors and AP classes. Our EFS scholars are gifted, highly motivated and dedicated to becoming active members of the Notre Dame community.

Tri-School Program

Notre Dame High School, Belmont, Mercy High School, and Junipero Serra High School participate in a Tri-School program that provides co-educational experiences in the areas of academics, performing arts and student activities.

CURRICULUM

Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

Students must meet faculty recommendation and course prerequisite grades to be eligible for taking honors and AP classes. It is recommended that students take no more than three APs in one year unless the student has shown by grades and teacher recommendation that they are capable. This is considered on a case-by-case basis. The small size of NDB, combined with its block schedule and double-block AP science classes, sometimes result in scheduling conflicts, preventing a student from enrolling in all desired AP courses for which they are qualified. Additionally, select courses may not be offered every year depending on demand.

Advanced Placement Courses (21)

Art History
Biology
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Chemistry
Chinese Language and Culture (Tri-school)
Computer Science Principles
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
French Language and Culture
Human Geography
Physics I
Psychology
Spanish Language and Culture
Spanish Literature and Culture
Statistics
Studio Art: 2-D, 3-D, & Drawing
United States Government/Politics
United States History

Honors Courses (18)

Advanced Solutions for the Global Good (Tri-school)
Algebra I
Algebra II
American Sign Language III (Not offered 22-23 yr)
American Sign Language IV
Anatomy & Physiology (Tri-school)
Biology
Chemistry
English I
English II
French III
Geometry
Journalism IV
Modern World History
Photography III
Pre-calculus
Sculpture III
Spanish III

Graduation Requirements

The minimum course load for a student is 30 credits per semester for all grade levels. Most students take 35 credits per semester. 240 credits with the following distribution are required for graduation:

English 40 credits
Mathematics 30 credits
Physical Education 10 credits
Spiritual Life 35 credits
Science 30 credits
Social Studies 30 credits
Visual/Performing Arts 10 credits
World Languages 20 credits
Becoming Notre Dame 5 credits
Electives 30 credits
Plus 80 hours of community service

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

The calculation of a student's academic standing is based on a weighted GPA, in which Honors and AP classes are weighted 1.0. Grade reporting occurs two times per year. NDB does not report class rank.

A+ = 98-100
A = 93-97
A- = 90-92
B+ = 88-89
B = 83-87
B- = 80-82
C+ = 78-79
C = 73-77
C- = 70-72
D+ = 68-69
D = 63-67
D- = 60-62
F = 59 and below

2024 Grade Distribution

Representing the Class of 2025
78 students on a 5.0 scale
AP and Honors classes weighted +1.0

GPA	Percentile
4.60	100th %
4.28	75th %
4.00	50th %
3.56	25th %

Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations (Class of 2024 and 2025)

In May of 2024, 209 students took 408 examinations in 21 subject areas. From this total, 70% earned a score of 3 or higher.

National Merit Scholarships

PSAT/NMSQT exams are offered to 10th and 11th grade students at NDB every October.

Class of 2020: 2 Finalists, 2 Commended Students

Class of 2021: 2 Commended Students

Class of 2022: 4 Commended Students

Class of 2023: 3 Commended Students

Class of 2024: 1 Finalist, 2 Commended Students

Class of 2025: 4 Commended Students

2024 AP School Honor Roll: Platinum Designation

NDB has been named to the 2024 AP School Honor Roll with Platinum Designation, which recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. For 2024, NDB has been designated as Platinum.

Recent University Acceptances

American University	Fairfield University	Purdue University
Auburn University	Fordham University	University of San Diego
Bates College	George Washington University	San Diego State University
Baylor University	Georgetown University	Santa Clara University
Boston College	University of Georgia	Skidmore College
Boston University	Gonzaga University	Stanford University
Bucknell University	Indiana University Bloomington	University of Southern California
Cal Poly SLO	Loyola Marymount University	Southern Methodist University
University of California, Berkeley	Loyola University - Chicago	Stanford University
University of California, Davis	Macalaster College	Syracuse University
University of California, Irvine	University of Miami	University of Tennessee
University of California, Los Angeles	University of Michigan	Texas A&M University
University of California, Riverside	Michigan State University	Texas Christian University
University of California, San Diego	New York University	The University of Texas, Austin
University of California, Santa Barbara	Northeastern University	Tulane University
University of California, Santa Cruz	Occidental College	University of Utah
Chapman University	University of Oregon	Vanderbilt University
Clemson University	University of Pennsylvania	Villanova University
University of Colorado Boulder	Parsons School of Design	Wake Forest University
Cornell University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Washington
Dartmouth College	Pepperdine University	University of Wisconsin
Denison University	Pitzer College	Washington University St. Louis
Emerson College	Pomona College	

