



SCHOOL PROFILE 2024-2025

Our School

Since 1964, Henry M. Gunn High School has been a model of rigorous and innovative learning. Gunn's mission is to foster a community of creative thinkers who will acquire knowledge, skills, values, and integrity; be resilient, responsible, respectful, contributing citizens; and lead rewarding lives that pursue personal excellence and lifelong learning. In 2024, Henry M. Gunn High School was ranked **#53 nationally** and **#3 in California** by Niche, making it one of the top public high schools in the state ([Niche](#)). Additionally, it ranks **#1 in the San Francisco Bay Area** for public high schools and college prep. These accolades highlight Gunn's strong academic foundation, making it a premier institution for high-achieving students.

Our Community

Located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 14 miles north of San Jose in Santa Clara County, Palo Alto is a community of approximately 66,955 residents. Palo Alto is also neighbors to Stanford University and an excellent community college, Foothill College. The high tech industry that lays at the heart of the Silicon Valley has its roots in Palo Alto and neighboring cities Menlo Park & Cupertino. A large percentage of city residents are professionals in the high tech industry, education, healthcare, retail, and service industries.

Our Students

The student body reflects the demographics of the ethnically diverse and socio-economically prosperous city of Palo Alto. Gunn embraces Palo Alto's dynamic culture and community with a diverse and vibrant student body.

Key to Transcript Symbols in Course Title on Transcripts

A = Advanced (math)/Accelerated (English)
 D = Dual Enrollment Community College Course
 SJ = Social Justice Pathway

2024-2025 (Total enrollment)

Total Students: 1,652
 African-American: 0.9%
 American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.02%
 Asian: 44.1%
 Hispanic or Latino: 13.5%
 Pacific Islander: 0.5%
 White: 29.1%
 Two or More Races: 11.9%
 Not reported: 0%
 Roughly 2.8% of our students are classified as limited English proficient.

Contact Us

780 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306
 650-354-8200
www.gunn.pausd.org
 CEEB/ACT School Code 052-347

Student Achievement

ACT Composite Average

Year	2022	2023
ACT Scores	29.2	29.2
State Scores	23.3	20.3

SAT

Year	2023	2024	Nat'l & Int'l
ERW	682	662	464
Math	710	674	484

National Merit Scholarship

Year	2022	2023	2024
Semi-Finalist	47	31	37
Commended	74	73	121

AP Scores – May 2024

903 students took 2653 tests
95.7% students scored 3 or higher
53.3% students scored 5

Grading System

Gunn High School lists both unweighted and weighted GPA on the transcript. Weighted GPA is based on all Honors (H) and Advance Placement (AP) courses, grades 10-12. While H and AP courses are given an extra grade point, +/- are not weighted in the student's GPA. Gunn High School does not rank students. The following grade distribution chart is provided to assist you in evaluating student performance

Please note, the following classes do not provide +/-'s in their grading rubrics:	
Biology	Chemistry
Conceptual Physics	AP Chemistry
AP Physics	AP Environmental Sci

Class of 2025 (6 semesters) (size: 430)		
Decile	Weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
1	4.489 - 4.326	4.00
2	4.325 - 4.260	3.979 - 3.940
3	4.255 - 4.186	3.937 - 3.898
4	4.184 - 4.095	3.888 - 3.809
5	4.090 - 3.976	3.804 - 3.707
6	3.975 - 3.785	3.702 - 3.589
7	3.775 - 3.644	3.588 - 3.450
8	3.642 - 3.410	3.448 - 3.150
9	3.390 - 3.021	3.148 - 2.523
10	2.976 - 1.885	2.522 - 1.885

Academics

Gunn students learn and benefit from a rigorous and engaging courses. The student to teacher ratio is 26:1. Students are recommend to take a minimum of five courses. Students earn five credits for passing each semester course.

Honors Courses

Gunn offers 16 Honors courses

AP Courses

Gunn offers 29 AP course. Gunn suggests a maximum of two AP classes per semester. Gunn doesn't recommend AP courses for 9th grade. There is only one AP course offered for 9th grade and is not weighted.

AB Calculus	Seminar
BC Calculus	French - Lang & Cult
Computer Science A/Pri	German - Lang & Cult
Statistics	Japanese Lang & Cult
Biology	Mandarin – Lang & Cult
Chemistry	Spanish – Lang & Cult
Environmental Sci	Spanish – Lit & Cult
Physics 1/C	English – Lit & Comp
Physics C: Mech/E&M	Some of our AP courses

Graduation Credit Requirements (220)

(A) Social Studies - 40	(F) Visual & Performing Arts – 10
(B) English - 40	(G) Electives – 25
(C) Math - 30	Career Technical (CTE) - 10
(D) Science – 20	Living Skills – 5
(F) World Language – 20	Physical Education - 20

Athletics

Gunn has 896 students-athletes participating in 17 sports.

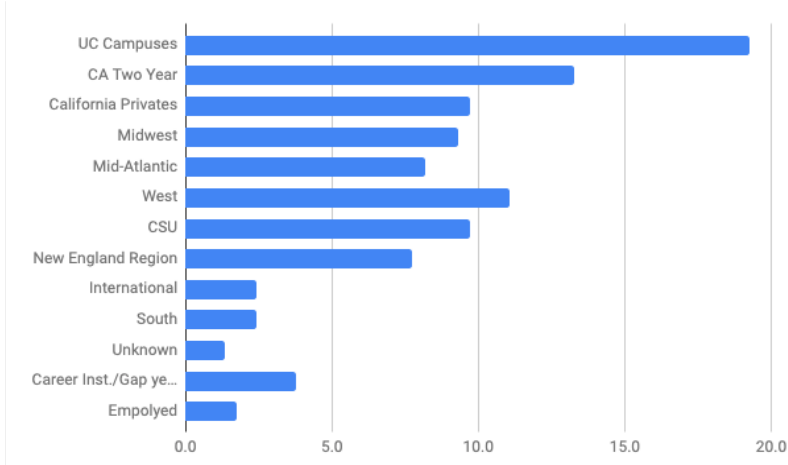
Badminton (C)	Lacrosse (B,G)
Baseball (B)	Soccer (B,G)
Basketball (B,G)	Softball (G)
Cheer & Dance (C)	Swim/Dive (B,G)
Cross Country (C)	Tennis (B,G)
Flag Football (G)	Track/Field (C)
Football (B)	Volleyball (B,G)
Golf (B,G)	Water Polo (B,G)
	Wrestling (C)

Student Activities & Clubs

Over 100 clubs in these exciting areas:

Auto Shop	Food	Med
Activism	Games	Music
Computer	Intellectual	Outdoors
Culture	Key Club	Politics
Dance	Language	Rings
Debate	Lifestyle	ROCK
Entrepreneurial	Literature	Service
Environmental	Math	Student Gov't

Accredited by: Western Association of Schools and Colleges
California Distinguished High School
Complies with NACAS Statement of Principles of Good Practice



College Enrollment – Class of 2024

11.2% to 2 year colleges

86.6% to 4 year colleges

SELF: (Social-Emotional Literacy & Functionality)

SELF is a non-graded 4-year comprehensive weekly program for every Gunn student participates in weekly. As students develop the core SEL competencies – social awareness, self-management, self-efficacy, self-awareness, social management, and social engagement – students build community and share stories with a trusted adult mentor and each other, guided by specific themes each semester like equity and empathy, self-identity, and building relationships.

Alternative Programs

Gunn offers several alternative programs such as AVID, Social Justice Pathway, College Pathway (first-generation students), Business Pathway, Foothill Middle College, and College Now. Also, there are several Dual Enrollment programs that include Sports Medicine, Stage Tech, and Multivariable Calculus.

Our Administration

Principal	Wendy Stratton
Assistant Principals	Kathryn Catalano
	Mycal Hixon
	Harvey Newland
	Erik Olah
Student Activities	Lisa Hall
Athletic Director	Curtis Johansen
Registrar	Ofelia Smith

Our Counselor Team

School Counselors	
Andrea Bueno	abueno@pausd.org
Jorge Chavez	jchavez@pausd.org
Myesha Dickson	mdickson@pausd.org
Lorenzo Gomez	lgomez@pausd.org
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David Leftwich	dleftwich@pausd.org
Cora Ross	cross@pausd.org

College & Career Counselor

Jonathan Fidani jfidani@pausd.org

College & Career Info Spec

Leighton Lang llang@pausd.org