



College Counseling
School Profile

OUR MISSION

The Post Oak School is a diverse and welcoming Montessori community that honors and guides lifelong learners as they create their own bold pathways in leading purposeful lives.



postoakschool

Founded in 1963, The Post Oak School is an independent, coeducational day school in an urban setting offering comprehensive education from infancy through high school.

MONTESSORI IN HIGH SCHOOL

Students possess a strong ability to self-direct and work independently. Coursework requires significant reading; students should be comfortable using state-of-the-art technology and ready to participate regularly in roundtable seminar discussions.

Students come to Post Oak from many educational backgrounds, and those who succeed have a great capacity to self-manage and work independently.

CURRICULUM

The school offers a challenging curriculum preparing students to earn both the Post Oak and International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas. The IB curriculum fits well with the student-centered, critical thinking, and developmental approach at The Post Oak School. All students in grades eleven and twelve participate in the IB Diploma Program and all seniors sit for the IB exams in May.



PHILOSOPHY

The Post Oak School focuses on the developmental understanding of growing up and becoming a mature adult. Students at Post Oak are usually very involved in the choices about what happens here through community council and community meetings. Post Oak is a place for students to find a voice and to make a positive difference in the lives of others as they explore personal interests. At Post Oak, students have incredible growth opportunities as they encounter challenges.

MATRICULATION

Ninety-nine percent of Post Oak graduates enroll in a four-year college or university.

RANKINGS

The Post Oak School does not rank students academically. Therefore, we do not have valedictorian or salutatorian distinctions. Instead, the seniors elect a class member each year to give the commencement address. Before casting their votes, students engage in a conversation about the characteristics of a Post Oak graduate, enriched by the valuable input from each senior during the discussion. Students vote based on which class member they feel best exemplifies those qualities.

The High School program aims to enable students to achieve the skills necessary for college and life as independent adults and foster the sense of purpose needed to make a meaningful contribution to a better world. Students must be allowed to test their ability to be independent and have a wide range of experiences to discover their interests and develop their passions into talents. Instruction at Post Oak's High School serves these adolescent needs through key lessons that open doors to new areas of human knowledge, activities that allow for further investigation, discovery, and practice, and diverse opportunities for students to demonstrate learning.

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School

Maura Joyce, maurajoyce@postoakschool.org

Assistant Head of School

Kevin McLean, kevinmclean@postoakschool.org

College Counselor/Community Life Coordinator

Louis Dorsey, louisdorsey@postoakschool.org

High School Director

James Quillin, PhD, jamesquillin@postoakschool.org

Associate Admission Director

Tiffney Trimble, tiffneytrimble@postoakschool.org

High School Academic Coordinator

Kim Harrison, kimbarrison@postoakschool.org

Registrar

Annette Figueroa, annettefigueroa@postoakschool.org

CEEB Code: 440562

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Lower Level Courses (Grades 9–10)		IB Upper Level Courses (Grades 11–12)	
English Language Arts		Language and Literature SL or HL	
Mandarin Chinese		Chinese ab initio SL	Chinese B SL
Spanish		Spanish SL or HL	
Integrated History and Social Sciences		Economics HL	Global Politics HL
Integrated Natural Sciences		Biology SL or HL Chemistry SL or HL	Computer Science SL Physics SL
Integrated Math		Math Applications SL	Math Analysis SL or HL
Design Tech	Music	Film SL or HL	Theater SL or HL
Theater	Visual Arts	Music SL or HL	Visual Arts SL or HL

Standard Level (SL), Higher Level (HL)

Core Requirements	Mini-Course Intensives (change yearly)
Theory of Knowledge	Classes have included: 3D Printing, Allocating Capital, Art of Cooking, China Travel, Costa Rica Field School, Falmouth Field School (Jamaica), Historical Game Design, Paleontology Fieldwork, Personal Finance, and Physical Computing
Extended Essay	
Creativity, Activity, Service	
Physical Fitness I/II	

CURRENT GRADING SCALE

Evaluation	Numeric
Meets or Exceeds	4.0
Approaching	3.0
Developing	2.0
Limited (not passing)	1.0
Incomplete	0.0

Students receive narrative grades in their evaluations. The following weights will be added to the grade points:

- 0.25 for courses in which the student has achieved 100% completion
- 0.25 for upper level 11/12 courses taken at Higher Level (HL)

GRADING SCALE PRIOR TO 2024–2025

Evaluation	Numeric
Exemplary	4.5–5.0
Advanced	4.0–4.4
Proficient	3.5–3.9

Marks below 3.5 are not passing. Grades prior to the 2024–25 school year will not be merged with the grades under the new grading system.

POST OAK DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts and Literature	4
Second Language(s)	4
History and Social Sciences	4
Natural Sciences	4
Mathematics	4
Arts	4
Mini-Course Intensives	4
Theory of Knowledge	4
Extended Essay	½
Physical Fitness (9th and 10th grades)	2
Upper Level HL courses	6

TESTING DATA

The Class of 2024 Standardized Testing Averages:

ACT Composite (mid 50%)	30–33
SAT (mid 50%)	1340–1410

FIELDWORK & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Internships

Among Post Oak's teachers are curators and scientists from world-renowned museums; artists from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Glassell School of Art; doctors from the Texas Medical Center; and researchers from the Houston Museum of Natural Science, all of whom work in our partner institutions throughout the Houston Museum District. Students directly connect with experts in the field, shoulder to shoulder. The result is a school that breaks down walls and maximizes opportunities for students to engage with experts in their field of interest. Additionally, the vast majority of internships are unpaid, benefitting both the student and partner institutions.

Many Post Oak's High School students choose to participate in the internship program. As students pursue their interests through internships, they further develop their classwork skills. Some students secure internships in paleontology, entomology, history, and marine biology by working weekly at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A student with a long-time interest in psychology interned at the Jung Center. A group of students completed an EV car conversion project. You can read about and follow our interns through their blogs on our website.

Mini-Course Intensives & Travel

Post Oak offers more authentic travel opportunities than other schools. Travel together builds relationships, tests capacity, and accelerates growth through real-world challenges.

At Post Oak, we travel, never just a tourist or sightseeing trip, but in context to the course the student takes. You can read about them in the students' travel blogs. For Post Oak students, a trip is a class, and each activity on the trip has a meaning within that course of study.

The annual fall Odyssey trip, which occurs during the first full week of school, allows students and faculty to get acquainted through travel that engages the group in a deep field-study experience. For example, last year we attended the Gulf Coast Research Lab where students engaged in a rich study of marine biology and ecology that included investigations of beach and barrier islands in the Mississippi Sound, laboratory work, estuary kayaking, shark tagging, and more.

Another travel experience is the two-week J-Term and M-Term courses in January and March. These opportunities offer students the ability to dive deeply into specific areas of interest and develop complex skills through traveling locally or internationally, performing community service, and conducting cultural, scientific, or arts-related studies.

Community Service

Complementing the intensives, students undertake volunteer work in support of local organizations throughout Houston.

ATHLETICS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Post Oak School has many opportunities for participation in individual and team athletics as well as other activities. As a small school, much of what is possible will be determined by student interest from year to year.

Examples include:

- ♦ Cross country
- ♦ Golf
- ♦ Soccer
- ♦ Track
- ♦ Volleyball
- ♦ Yoga
- ♦ American Unity Movement
- ♦ Chess
- ♦ Creative writing
- ♦ Film
- ♦ Photography
- ♦ Poker
- ♦ Woodworking
- ♦ Yearbook

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Students in good standing are eligible to participate on the Community Council. Council members are chosen each fall or spring and serve a term of one year. The fall and spring cycles allow a staggered membership cycle ensuring that students serve for one full year and that the full council doesn't turn over at the same time. The members are selected through a process of candidacy to ensure that the Council is representative of the student body. Council members are then confirmed by the faculty.

The student government represents the student body in creating the formal culture of the school through policies, rituals, and expectations. The members of the Community Council represent student concerns and ideas to the faculty and work to develop new student policy proposals to be submitted to the faculty and administration. They also report on their work to the wider community at regular community meetings. This work supports the entire school community and is a service to the school and students beyond the time that any one student serves in the council. The responsibilities that come with service in the student government are great, as are the rewards felt by formally working to improve the school community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Faculty & Staff (High School)

- 13 full-time faculty
- 4 part-time faculty
- 5 staff
- 54 percent hold post-graduate degrees

Student Enrollment

Total School 480
High School 87

9th	24
10th	18
11th	22
12th	23

Ethnicity Data for High School

Race Unsure/Not Reported	19
Asian	6
White	34
Multi Racial	8
Native American	0
Middle Eastern	0
Latino/Hispanic	11
Black/African American	6

FINANCIAL AID

Twenty-six percent of High School students receive financial aid.

GPA

The cumulative GPA is unweighted.

COLLEGE REPORTING POLICY

The Post Oak School does not report disciplinary infractions to colleges. However, we encourage students to be honest and self-report disciplinary actions to colleges and universities.

ACCREDITATIONS

- ♦ Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- ♦ International Baccalaureate (IB)

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

The 21 seniors in the class of 2024 received merit scholarship offers totalling \$6,725,654. Below are the college matriculations for our graduates in recent years. A complete list of college acceptances is available on our website.

- ♦ American University
- ♦ Austin College
- ♦ Babson College
- ♦ Bard College
- ♦ Barnard College
- ♦ Baylor University
- ♦ Belmont University
- ♦ Berry College
- ♦ Boston University
- ♦ Brandeis University
- ♦ Brown University
- ♦ Bryn Mawr College
- ♦ Bucknell University
- ♦ Carleton College
- ♦ Case Western Reserve University
- ♦ Chapman University
- ♦ Colgate University
- ♦ Colorado College
- ♦ Colorado School of Mines
- ♦ Colorado State University
- ♦ Columbia University
- ♦ Cornell College
- ♦ Cornell University
- ♦ Davidson College
- ♦ Drexel University
- ♦ Duke University
- ♦ Elon University
- ♦ Emerson College
- ♦ Emory University
- ♦ Fordham University
- ♦ The George Washington University
- ♦ Guilford College
- ♦ Haverford College
- ♦ High Point University
- ♦ Hofstra University
- ♦ Hollins University
- ♦ Ithaca College
- ♦ Kalamazoo College
- ♦ Lake Forest College
- ♦ Lawrence University
- ♦ Lewis & Clark College
- ♦ Louisiana State University
- ♦ Loyola Marymount University
- ♦ Missouri University of Science and Technology
- ♦ Montana State University
- ♦ New York University, Gallatin School
- ♦ New York University, Shanghai
- ♦ Northeastern University
- ♦ Oberlin College
- ♦ The Ohio State University
- ♦ Pitzer College
- ♦ Pomona College
- ♦ Reed College
- ♦ Rice University
- ♦ Ringling College of Art and Design
- ♦ Rochester Institute of Technology
- ♦ Savannah College of Art & Design
- ♦ Southwestern University
- ♦ Stephen F. Austin State University
- ♦ Texas A&M University, College Station
- ♦ Texas A&M University, Galveston
- ♦ Texas Christian University
- ♦ Texas Tech University
- ♦ Trinity University
- ♦ Tulane University
- ♦ Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- ♦ University of Arizona
- ♦ University of Colorado Boulder
- ♦ University of Connecticut
- ♦ University of Denver
- ♦ University of Florida
- ♦ University of Houston
- ♦ University of Michigan
- ♦ University of Oklahoma
- ♦ University of Pittsburgh
- ♦ University of St. Andrews
- ♦ The University of Texas at Austin
- ♦ University of Washington
- ♦ Wake Forest University
- ♦ Washington University in St. Louis
- ♦ Wellesley College
- ♦ Wesleyan University
- ♦ Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- ♦ Yale University

The
POST OAK
SCHOOL



MUSEUM DISTRICT CAMPUS: GRADES 7-12

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