


THE NUEVA SCHOOL



Middle School
Program Overview



The Admissions Process

To learn more or inquire about the admissions process for prospective students, please visit us online at www.nuevaschool.org/admissions. See Key Dates and Deadlines on inside back cover.

Admissions Team: admissions@nuevaschool.org | 650-235-7119

Overall School Facts & Figures

967
Students
Enrolled

76%
Students
of Color

80
ZIP Codes
Represented

\$8.6 million
Financial Assistance
Granted

20%
Students Receiving
Financial
Assistance

68%
Faculty Holding
Advanced
Degrees

160+
Electives

110+
Student
Clubs



Since Nueva's founding, our community has offered an innovative and distinguished learning experience specifically designed to meet the needs of gifted learners. Nueva is a preK–12 school committed to unlocking the passions, purpose, and potential in each student, while inspiring a lifelong love of learning. Our unique program directs intellectual growth and development through integrated curricula, guided by experienced faculty with subject-area expertise.

Mission & Values

Mission

Our school community inspires passion for lifelong learning, fosters social and emotional acuity, and develops the imaginative mind.

Vision

The Nueva School uses a dynamic educational model to enable gifted learners to make choices that benefit the world.

Motto

Learn By Doing, Learn By Caring

Values

- A dynamic learning community
- An environment of trust
- Social-emotional acuity
- Curiosity and creativity
- Passion and excellence
- Student agency

Parents as Partners

The Nueva School and Family Partnership

Parents enrich the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. One of the truly wonderful aspects of Nueva is the way parent participation is welcomed. We intentionally weave Nueva's motto Learn by Doing, Learn by Caring, throughout our supportive and inclusive community.

The Nueva Parents Association (NPA) provides avenues for families to be involved, get connected, and support our learning community. All current parents are members of the NPA and can volunteer in the classroom, serve on various committees, assist with event planning, and much more. The strength of volunteerism and involvement at Nueva provides benefits for all students as they witness the collaboration and connection of parents across grades, divisions, and campuses.



Middle School Facts & Figures

300

Approx. Students
Enrolled

6:1

Student:Faculty
Ratio

60–85

Students
per Grade

16

Average
Class Size

33

Campus
Acres

40%

Commute via
Nueva Bus

75%

Athletics
Participation

Notably Nueva: The Nueva Experience

Gifted Education

The Nueva School is committed to serving the specific needs of gifted learners by providing an environment where such students grow and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. A large component of Nueva's mission is offering a space for like-minded students to share an explorative "learn by doing" academic experience that will challenge and stimulate their exceptional intellectual curiosity.

As a leader in the world of gifted education, Nueva remains dedicated to engaging with the gifted community through continued professional development of faculty and staff, and partnerships with institutions like the Stanford d.school. We offer programs for students, educators, and parents throughout the year, including the Innovative Learning Conference and the Giftedness Institute.

Social-Emotional Learning

Nueva's internationally recognized Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program began as Self-Science when Nueva was founded in 1967. It is integral to our pedagogy and fundamental to our commitment to nurture the whole student.

Middle School is an especially important time for students to participate in SEL. Class activities are designed to provide a balance of structure and self-exploration so students can practice active listening, empathy, conflict resolution, and decision-making with peers in an environment where they are encouraged to take risks and reflect on the learning process.

Design Thinking

Nueva partnered with IDEO and the Stanford d.school to develop the first design thinking curriculum and Innovation Lab (I-Lab) specifically for preK-12 education. Students engage with Design Thinking principles on a daily basis and across the curriculum, both in two dedicated I-Lab spaces and in their classrooms. Design thinking is taught, applied, and explored through real-life challenges with integrated projects in all disciplines of our curriculum—science, math, art, humanities, music, and more.

Armed with the mindsets and skills of design thinking, students are able to identify situations where they can better the world—both local and global—and have the personal and collaborative tools to resolve to take action.





Equity & Inclusion

An emphasis on belonging and community is a natural extension of Nueva's mission to produce ethical, compassionate, and engaged global citizens. As a community, we believe a sense of belonging is essential to our vision of educating our students to communicate and connect across differences and to make choices that benefit the world. We acknowledge and respect the different economic, political, racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds and family structures of our students, families, and faculty/staff.

Our program blends social-emotional learning and design thinking, pillars of the Nueva curriculum, with a profound commitment to engage authentically with the world and ultimately make it a better place for all. Nueva strives to be on the leading edge of student empowerment and agency by creating an environment where students envision the kind of world they want to live in and giving them the tools to create a more pluralistic society. In doing so, students not only can transform the world, but also themselves.

Our Equity & Inclusion program is committed to:

Fostering a sense of hope, an impetus to act, and a firm belief that standing up for social justice and equity is both the responsible and just thing to do

Creating an inclusive culture that helps shape our desired "Beloved Community," wherein all people are welcomed, valued, empowered, and feel a vibrant sense of belonging

Challenging systemic inequity and oppression by practicing empathy, understanding privilege, transforming conflict, and exploring creative solutions





THRIVE Program

THRIVE's Mission

The Nueva School believes that a strong transcultural learning environment that seeks out and invites multiple perspectives and lived experiences enriches the education of all students. Developing and nurturing a diverse, pluralistic community—in which every family feels seen, supported, and that they belong—is a top priority for the school and the purpose of the THRIVE program.

What is THRIVE?

Nueva's THRIVE program is designed to remove barriers to accessing an independent school experience by supporting and guiding historically underrepresented students and their families/caregivers from admission through graduation. To be invited to the THRIVE program, students and/or families must **either** identify as historically underrepresented, marginalized, or minoritized in the context of Nueva School and meet one (1) of the bullet points in the criteria list (below); **or** meet three (3) or more of the bullet points in the criteria list (below).

- Student will be a first-generation college student upon graduation from the Upper School
- Student may need social-emotional and/or academic scaffolding and support as they transition to Nueva's program
- Family needs translation services
- Family is new to the independent school system
- Family receives 75%+ financial assistance
- Student is connected with a community-based organization (CBOs), including but not limited to: A Better Chance, Summer Bridge, Peninsula Bridge, SMART, and/or Breakthrough

Academic Overview

Learning at Nueva is authentic, complex, and intellectually rigorous. Students do real work as authors, artists, inventors, explorers, athletes, and mathematicians. By giving students choice, autonomy, and high expectations for growth, we harness intrinsic motivation as the engine for academic excellence.

Through an interdisciplinary and inquiry-based program, students discover and master foundational skills in traditional academic disciplines while learning to grapple with the unknown, embrace multiple perspectives, and create novel solutions.

As they engage in learning, students explicitly develop social and emotional skills that promote self-confidence, emotional intelligence, positive communication, and collaboration.

Our students are empowered to be themselves, to embrace learning fully, and to contribute to the community as stewards and changemakers.

Signature Elements of the Middle School

- Interdisciplinary studies and applied learning
- Dynamic electives beginning in fifth grade
- Competitive athletic teams and P.E. choices
- Social-Emotional Learning program focused on resiliency, self-reliance, and communication
- Design engineering, computer science, art, and music
- Curriculum and choice-based workshops
- Literature discussion clubs
- Curriculum-based, grade-level study trips
- Eighth-grade Quest Projects for deep inquiry in areas of interest
- Grade-level Advisories for community building and supporting students

Middle School students discover learning styles, develop strategies for time management and self-advocacy, and are well prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for the challenges of high school. Nueva's Middle School students are:

- Lifelong learners
- Creative problem solvers
- Ethical decision makers
- Resilient and passionate individuals
- Empathetic citizens of the world
- Strong self-advocates and communicators







CORE AREA OF FOCUS	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
--------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Global Perspectives in Humanities and the Arts	Writing and Humanities	Social Movements and Interdisciplinary Writing Projects	Genre Studies in American Literature and Writing Voice; Exploring US History	Globalization/Los Angeles studies and Shakespeare plays	Silk Road, Cultural Identity and Study of cities in the various countries that our students visit during May Trips
	World Languages	Classes focus on oral proficiency, written language, and cultural understanding in Mandarin, Spanish, or Japanese in preparation for a two-week overseas trip that includes a homestay.			
	Visual Arts and Performing Arts	Weekly classes in visual arts and music. Arts include exploration of clay, 2D drawing and painting, and building with found materials. Music includes Brazilian rhythms and African drumming and dancing.	Arts include clay, 2D drawing and painting. Music exploration of ensemble playing, Beatles and Motown music.	Art and music electives in various subject areas, including steel drums, rock bands, musical theater, technology, humanities, visual and performing arts, science, history, and integrated subject opportunities.	

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	Science	Earth Science and Marine Biology	Physics	Chemistry	Biology
	Computer Science and Design Engineering	Design Thinking, Engineering, and Computer Science curriculum includes fabrication art, laser printing, robotics, and mobile app design.			
	Mathematics	Students are placed in classes based on assessments, class work habits, and teacher recommendations. Our math curriculum is spiraling, revisiting topics in greater depth each year in the following topics: data and statistics, algebra, geometry, symmetry, and number theory. Students are encouraged to meet with their math teachers regularly if they would like more challenges or support, and they can attend our twice-weekly Math Lab for support or greater challenges as well. Students interested in math competitions can attend our MathCounts club after school.			

Wellness, Resilience, Applied Learning, and Equity and Inclusion	Social-Emotional Learning	Development of skills in the areas of self-awareness, social awareness, conflict resolution, relationships, community building, and responsible decision-making. Units include puberty education, drug and alcohol awareness, and nutrition.			
	8th Grade Quest	Eighth graders pursue a year-long project under the guidance of a mentor with a focus on the process and management of the project. Students celebrate their project on 8th Grade Quest Night in April.			
	Community Service Learning	Three service days each school year supporting our own campus, regional parks, and preparing for natural disasters and emergency events.			
	Grade-Level Curricular Trips	Monterey, CA	Washington, D.C.	Los Angeles, CA	Spain, China, or Japan
	Physical Education and Athletics	Robust program promoting social, emotional, and physical benefits of athletics, wellness, and healthy competition. Engagement and enjoyment of lifelong fitness as a result of participation in team and individual sports and physical education classes. Activities include volleyball, dance, yoga, hiking, cross-country, golf, tennis, soccer, basketball, track and field, rock-climbing, and conditioning.			
	Clubs	Student-initiated clubs (e.g. Robotics, Debate, Future Problem Solving, Model UN, History Club, Magazine, GSA, Feminism, Social Justice League, and Math Counts); Lit Clubs			

Electives

Student choice is a cornerstone of Nueva’s middle school approach, empowering learners to take an active role in shaping their educational journey. As they grow, students gain greater agency and ownership, with abundant opportunities to explore subjects that spark their curiosity through electives, clubs, and extracurriculars.

Starting in fifth grade, students select from a diverse array of elective courses in areas including visual and performing arts, engineering, and science. These classes meet twice weekly. Each student chooses from two to four quarters of electives depending on the year. By seventh and eighth grade, they also personalize their physical education experience, choosing from activities such as yoga, hiking, dance, rock climbing, strength training, racquet sports, and even off-site squash.

Sample Electives (5th through 8th Grade)

- Groove Workshop (rock bands)
- Mixed Media Art
- Rip, Tear, Crease: Paper Arts
- Steel Drum Band
- Computer Programming
- Film Analysis and Creation
- Engineering and Fabrication
- Sewing
- Debate
- Chemistry and Art
- I-Lab Fabrication
- Model United Nations
- Robotics
- Improv
- Ceramics
- Politics
- Economics
- Game Theory
- Nature Journaling
- Creating Textile Portraits
- Bandsaw Box





6th Grade Sample Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:10-8:25	8:10-8:25	8:10-8:25	8:10-8:25	8:10-8:25
MS Meeting	Grade Meeting	Advisory	Advisory	Grade Meeting
8:30-9:45 (Block 1)	8:30-9:45 (Block 5)	8:30-9:45 (Block 1)	8:30-9:45 (Block 5)	8:30-9:45
Design Engineering/ Computer Science	Writing	Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)	Writing	We The People
9:50-11:05 (Block 2)	9:50-11:05 (Block 6)	9:50-11:05 (Block 2)	9:50-11:05 (Block 6)	9:50-11:05
Science - Physics	PE	Science - Physics	PE	Lit Club
11:05-12:05	11:05-12:05	11:05-12:05	11:05-12:05	11:05-12:10
Lunch / Recess / Clubs	Lunch / Recess / Clubs	Lunch / Recess / Clubs	Lunch / Recess / Clubs	Lunch / Recess / Clubs
12:05-12:35	12:05-12:35	12:05-12:35	12:05-12:35	12:10-1:00
Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Advisory
12:40-1:55 (Block 3)	12:40-1:55 (Block 7)	12:40-1:55 (Block 3)	12:40-1:55 (Block 7)	
Math	Music, Art and Electives	Math	Music, Art and Electives	1:05-1:45
				Assembly
2:00-3:15 (Block 4)	2:00-3:15 (Block 8)	2:00-3:15 (Block 4)	2:00-3:15 (Block 8)	2:00-3:15
World Language Japanese / Spanish / Mandarin	Humanities	World Language Japanese / Spanish / Mandarin	Humanities	Maverick Dives
3:20-5:15				

Athletics Practice & Games and Enrichment Classes





Athletics

Nueva Athletics Mission

The Nueva School offers a physical education athletics program that aims to help students build resiliency, an enduring understanding of movement patterns and skills, and re-emphasize our core values in the classroom and athletic playing fields. The program focuses on promoting the social and emotional benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through sports. Nueva Athletics seeks to build character and community through sports and healthy competition.



Nueva Athletics Values

Athletes

- Respect
- Teamwork
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Leadership

Coaches

- Model consistency
- Build community
- Focus on character
- Prepare athletes for competitive and personal success

Parents

- Support community
- Connect community
- Reinforce long-term benefits of competition



With four seasons and 11 different sport offerings, both individual and team, students are able to explore their passions and build their skill in a competitive environment that upholds the values of Nueva.

Facilities include a sports field, a gymnasium, a multiuse blacktop court, and a twenty-five-foot climbing wall. Our P.E. activities and electives include sports such as flag football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, table tennis, Pickleball, conditioning, yoga, hiking, dance, Spikeball, and climbing.

Nueva teams compete in the West Bay Athletic League (WBAL).

Fall

- Boys & Girls Cross-Country
- Coed Flag Football
- Coed Golf
- Boys & Girls Swimming

Winter I (Early Winter)

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Soccer

Winter II (Late Winter)

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Basketball

Spring

- Boys' & Girls' Track & Field
- Coed Tennis
- Girls' Volleyball

Student Life in the Middle School

Activities and Clubs

Exploring passions and cultivating new interests through clubs—risk-taking and resiliency at its core—is a Nueva extracurricular hallmark, rooted in the development of curiosity and engagement. Guided by professional faculty, parent mentors, and our teachers, students design and lead clubs and affinity groups with representative offerings including:

- South Asian Affinity Group
- Futures Problem Solving Program
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Model UN (MUN)
- Debate
- Math Counts
- Community Service
- Black Student Union
- Art Club
- F4GE (Feminism) Club
- Magazine Club
- Robotics

Performing Arts

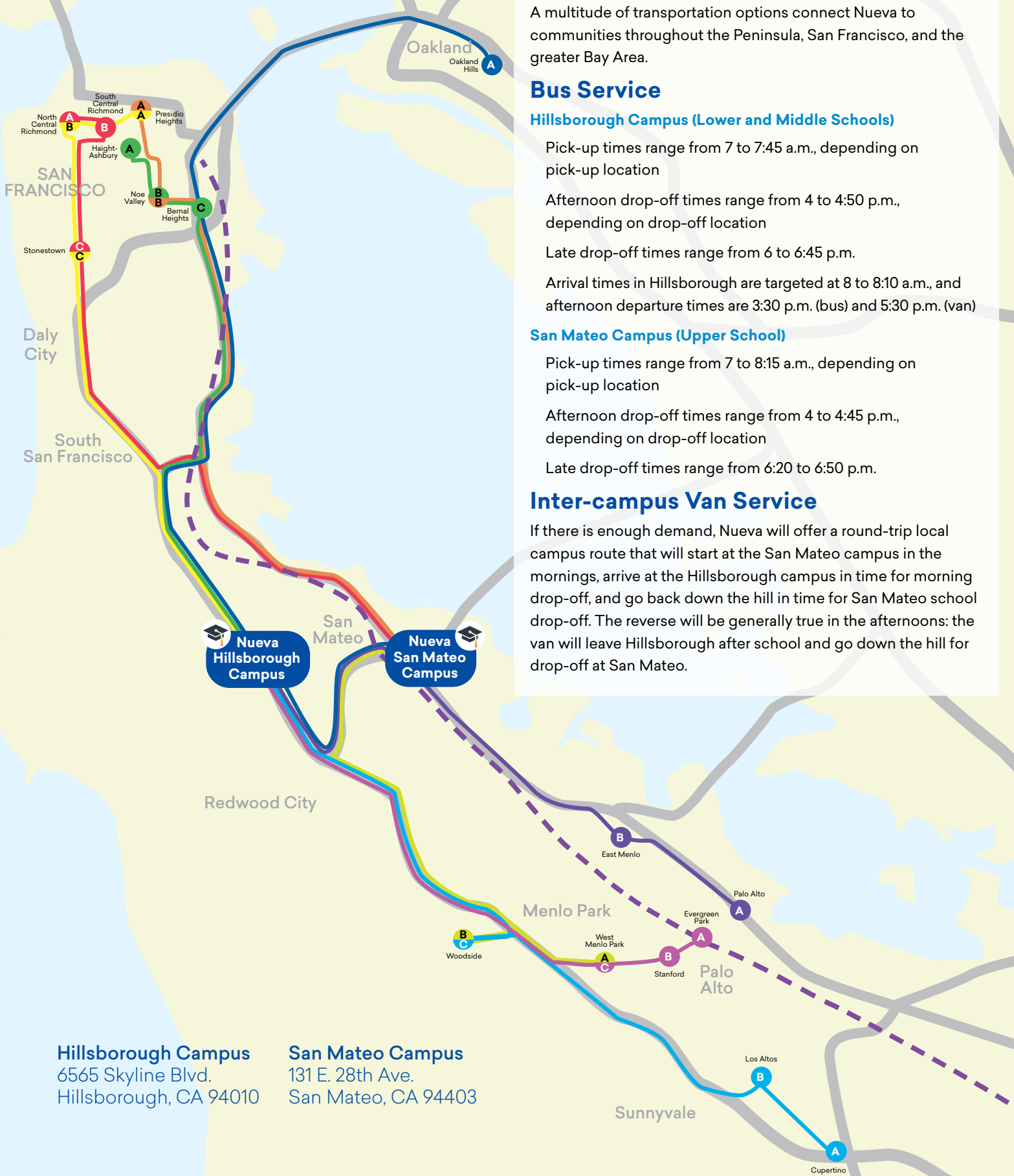
Throughout their time in Middle School, students have a variety of opportunities to engage in the performing arts. Each spring, the division mounts a full-scale musical in which all students are welcome to participate. Previous performances have included *Newsies*, *The Addams Family*, and *Mary Poppins*. Students also participate in creating sets, running sound and light boards, and acting as the backstage tech crew.

Public speaking is also woven into classes. For example, fifth graders write and give a speech about a social justice issue of their choice. Sixth graders do a unit in persuasive writing and speaking, where they practice making their points after researching topics. Sixth and seventh graders do poetry slams, where they recite their poems. A hallmark of the eighth grade experience is the 100-word speeches that each student writes and gives during our 8th Grade Celebration.

The Seventh Grade Drama Conservatory engages students in performing Shakespeare plays, their own plays, or improv. Students first learn acting techniques and stage fighting, as well as how to project their voices. Students create costumes, acquire props, and design simple sets. The culmination—two evenings of performances—is a highlight of the seventh-grade year.



Getting to Nueva: Transportation Options



A multitude of transportation options connect Nueva to communities throughout the Peninsula, San Francisco, and the greater Bay Area.

Bus Service

Hillsborough Campus (Lower and Middle Schools)

- Pick-up times range from 7 to 7:45 a.m., depending on pick-up location
- Afternoon drop-off times range from 4 to 4:50 p.m., depending on drop-off location
- Late drop-off times range from 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- Arrival times in Hillsborough are targeted at 8 to 8:10 a.m., and afternoon departure times are 3:30 p.m. (bus) and 5:30 p.m. (van)

San Mateo Campus (Upper School)

- Pick-up times range from 7 to 8:15 a.m., depending on pick-up location
- Afternoon drop-off times range from 4 to 4:45 p.m., depending on drop-off location
- Late drop-off times range from 6:20 to 6:50 p.m.

Inter-campus Van Service

If there is enough demand, Nueva will offer a round-trip local campus route that will start at the San Mateo campus in the mornings, arrive at the Hillsborough campus in time for morning drop-off, and go back down the hill in time for San Mateo school drop-off. The reverse will be generally true in the afternoons: the van will leave Hillsborough after school and go down the hill for drop-off at San Mateo.

Hillsborough Campus
6565 Skyline Blvd.
Hillsborough, CA 94010

San Mateo Campus
131 E. 28th Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

Financial Assistance

20%

of students
receiving financial
assistance

\$8.6
million

in financial
assistance
annually

100%

of families'
demonstrated
financial need
met

\$0

tuition for enrolled
students whose
families earn less
than \$150,000
per year

We know that a Nueva education is a significant financial investment. Nueva has always believed that a community of diverse voices and perspectives provides the best possible conditions for learning. This is why the overriding purpose of our financial assistance program is to ensure that Nueva is affordable for every family.

We seek to attract students who reflect the diversity of the Bay Area and a variety of life experiences, interests, and talents, regardless of their economic circumstances. Additionally, and most importantly, we meet 100 percent of a family's demonstrated financial need, and we meet that need with grants, not loans.

Our commitment is to ensure that all our students can fully access Nueva's curricular and extracurricular programs and services without placing a significant financial burden on their families, for as long as they have a demonstrated need.

Under Nueva's Financial Assistance Program, households earning less than \$150,000 annually, with assets typical of that income level, will receive 100 percent financial assistance. This 100 percent grant covers all aspects of a Nueva education, including transportation, lunch, enrichment activities, and after-school services.

Additionally, households earning between \$150,000 to \$250,000, with assets typical of that income level, will contribute between 1 and 10 percent of their income towards tuition.

For those with an annual income above \$250,000, financial assistance is determined based on a family's demonstrated need.

For all families who receive financial assistance, the school will cover any additional expenses associated with a Nueva education at the same percentage as the tuition assistance each receives.



Additional Programs

Nueva's financial assistance goes beyond tuition.

We ensure every Nueva student can take part in the full Nueva experience.

Nueva provides consistent support from enrollment to matriculation. Assistance toward tuition and wraparound services remains in place throughout a student's time at Nueva, assuming a family's financial circumstances remain consistent.

The percentage of tuition that Nueva covers for your family is **Your FA%**.

Some families receive 100% assistance, meaning that they pay nothing toward a Nueva education.

Nueva *also* covers the cost of additional programs and services at the same percentage as **Your FA%***

We call these "wraparound services" because they support your child and your family from every angle while they are at Nueva!

Essential Services



Lunch (PreK-4th)
(*Lunch in 5th-12th is included in tuition)



Transportation



Extended Day (K-8th)
(before care and after care)

Enrichment Opportunities



Athletic Teams
(Gear and travel to competitions are included in tuition)



Overnight trips



Opt-in electives, enrichment, and activities
(and associated travel and competition)

Miscellaneous Services



Spending money for Nueva's annual book fair



Senior prom and senior yearbook pages



Paid internships
if Your FA is 50% or more (requires application)



Nueva Summer Camp (1st-12th)
(including the summer before enrollment)



Menuhin Music Program



Private music lessons at Nueva

Academic and Personal Support



Spending money for curricular overnight trips
if Your FA is 50% or more



Standardized tests taken at Nueva



College application fees



Learning support and counseling by Nueva staff, if needed, is included in tuition



Learning support/tutoring
(including summer)

Outside Support
when required by Nueva (evaluation and/or sessions)

Occupational therapy
Speech therapy

*unless otherwise noted

Financial Assistance Statistics

Students Receiving Assistance

Distribution of financial assistance received among the 195 recipients in 2025-26:

Average Financial Assistance Grant*

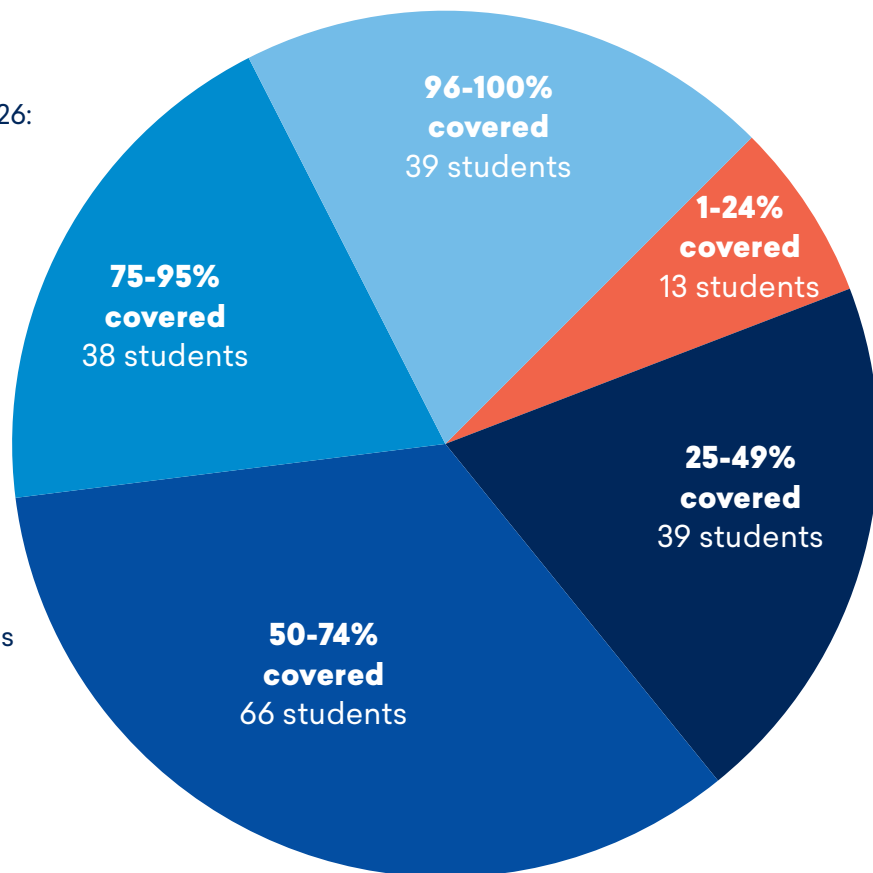
\$25,425 Lower School

\$45,500 Middle School

\$47,050 Upper School

*This does not include assistance granted for expenses outside of the cost of tuition.

Nueva has a **Financial Assistance & Family Support Coordinator** who supports families receiving FA throughout their time at the school—ensuring access to all aspects of Nueva life.



How to Apply for Financial Assistance

Create an account with Clarity, our online financial assistance application platform. After you complete and submit your application, please remember to upload your tax documentation to your Clarity dashboard:

- 2024 federal tax documents (Clarity will pull these documents directly from the IRS)
- 2025 November and December paystub for each wage-earning parent or guardian
- All 2025 W-2 and 1099 forms

More details about the application process can be found at nuevaschool.org/financial-assistance

Key Dates and Deadlines

November 3, 2025: Admissions Application Guarantee Deadline for Kindergarten, Middle School, and Upper School applicants; Ensures an opportunity for an on-campus Activity Session

January 8, 2026:
Final deadline for Ravenna admissions application and all required documents

February 3, 2026:
Financial Assistance application and all supporting documents due in Clarity

March 20, 2026:
Admissions and Financial Assistance decisions released

March 27, 2026:
Admissions decision reply and enrollment deposit due





The Nueva School
inspires a passion
for lifelong learning,
fosters social and
emotional acuity, and
develops the student's
imaginative mind.

Please visit our website for the most recent information
regarding Nueva's Middle School.

Thank you for your interest in The Nueva School!

THE NUEVA SCHOOL

Hillsborough Campus
Grades PreK-8
6565 Skyline Boulevard
Hillsborough, CA 94010
650-350-4600

San Mateo Campus
Grades 9-12
131 East 28th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
650-235-7100

nuevaschool.org | admissions@nuevaschool.org