



SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

506 North Delaware Street
San Mateo, CA 94401

Phone: 650-558-2399

Fax: 650-558-2352

<http://smhs.smuhsd.org>

CEEB Code: 053175

Yvonne Shiu
Principal

Michael Holtz
Assistant Principal

Gary Hong
Assistant Principal

Lauren Ponti
Assistant Principal

Michelle Torres
Dean of Students

Evestella Hanson
College and Financial
Aid Advisor
(650) 558-2318
ehanson@smuhsd.org

Hye Chang
Career Coordinator
hchang@smuhsd.org

**School Counselors &
Grade Level:**

Crystal Beltran – 9th
cbeltran@smuhsd.org

Nicole Chan – 11th
nellis@smuhsd.org

Veronica Gasco – 10th
vgasco@smuhsd.org

Jonathan Lopez – ML
jlopez@smuhsd.org

Jane Zimmerman – 12th
jzimmerman@smuhsd.org

San Mateo is a city of approximately 104,000 located 20 miles south of San Francisco. It is an extremely diverse community, crossing all socioeconomic and ethnic lines. San Mateo High School is one of seven schools in the San Mateo Union High School District. Current enrollment in grades 9-12 is approximately 1,560, with the class of 2026 at approximately 357. SMHS is one of six comprehensive high schools in San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHS), and the most ethnically and socio-economically diverse of the SMUHS schools. SMHS's ethnic distribution in 2025-2026 is as follows:

Hispanic/Latinx	755	48.4%	Filipino	63	4.0%	Native American	6	0.4%
Asian-American	393	25.2%	Pacific Islander	35	2.2%	Not Declared	18	1.2%
Caucasian	261	16.7%	African American	24	1.5%			

San Mateo High School is dedicated to combining academic excellence, community service and hands-on learning to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded college and career preparatory program for all its students. School and community pride are an integral part of the school environment, where families and alumni spend countless volunteer hours on campus. In addition, the SMHS SPED program contains 179 students.

Curriculum

SMHS students participate in a rigorous, standards-based curriculum as part of an academically challenging, college preparatory program. SMHS recommends students enroll in a 6-period day; however, students have the opportunity to take advantage of a 7- period day for support and enrichment courses. The class of 2026 graduation requirements are:

English	40 credits	Physical Education	20 credits	Health	5 credits
Social Science	35 credits	Career Tech. Ed.	10 credits	Electives	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits	World Language	10 credits		
Science	20 credits	VAPA	10 credits	Total	220 credits

The academic calendar is two semesters, 18 weeks each. SMUHS does not rank its students. The **Academic GPA** covers Grades 9-12 and is cumulative of all courses taken. This GPA is **weighted** according to the California Public University system (an additional point is added for University-certified AP and Honors courses; e.g. A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0). Mid-year reports include the 7th semester. The **Total GPA** is **unweighted** for Grades 9-12 and covers the same coursework.

Advanced Placement, Honors & Advanced Standing Courses

AP Biology	English 1 & 2 AS	AP Psychology
AP Calculus AB	AP Eng. Lang. & Composition	AP Spanish Lang. & Culture
AP Calculus BC	AP Eng. Lit. & Composition	AP Statistics
AP Chemistry	AP Environmental Science	AP Studio Art-Drawing, 2D & 3D
AP Chinese Language & Culture	AP French Lang. & Culture	AP U.S. Gov. & Politics
Chinese 4H, French 4H, Spanish 4H	AP Macroeconomics	AP U.S. History
AP Computer Science A	AP Physics	AP World History: Modern

AP/Honors Progression

In a typical course progression SMHS students will be limited in the number of AP/Honors/AS courses one can take in 9th & 10th grades, before working with their counselor to increase course rigor in 11th & 12th grades upon past preparation, personal interests, and goals:

- Freshman year – Maximum one AS class recommended in most situations
- Sophomore year – Maximum of 2 AS/Honors/AP classes recommended in most situations
- Junior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes
- Senior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes

Class of 2025 College Destinations

Private/Out of State

Academy of Art
 Arizona State
 Baylor University
 Belmont University
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Brown University
 BYU
 CA Inst. of Tech.
 CA Inst. of Arts
 Chapman University
 Cornell University
 Embry-Riddle
 Emory University
 George Washington
 Harvard University
 Harvey Mudd Coll.
 Indiana University
 Ithaca College
 Loyola Marymount
 Northeastern U.
 NY Inst. of Tech.
 NYU
 Occidental College
 Penn State
 Pitzer College
 Pomona College

Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Rice University
 Ringling College
 RPI
 Rutgers University
 Santa Clara University
 Smith College
 Southern Methodist U.
 St. Mary's Coll. of CA
 Stanford University
 The New School
 U. of Colorado Boulder
 U. of Florida
 U. of Michigan
 U. of Nevada – LV
 U. of Oregon
 U. of Puget Sound
 U. of San Francisco
 U. of Southern CA.
 U. of Texas Austin
 U. of the Pacific
 U. of Utah
 U. of Washington
 U. of WI Madison
 Vanderbilt University
 Washington State

UC Schools

Berkeley
 Davis
 Irvine
 Los Angeles
 Merced
 Riverside
 San Diego
 Santa Barbara
 Santa Cruz
CSU Schools
 East Bay
 Fullerton
 Long Beach
 Los Angeles
 Cal Poly Pomona
 San Diego
 San Francisco
 San Jose

Special Programs

Leadership: An award-winning student-run program

Renaissance Leadership: Teaching students the philosophies and strategies of the Renaissance system

Athletic Leadership: Teaching students leadership skills within the diverse realm of athletics.

Biotechnology: Nationally recognized two-year pathway program, including an industry internship

Performing Arts: Full offerings include a vocal program, dance program, musical theater, marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, and orchestra

AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

DE: Dual Enrollment Program

ML: Multilingual Learners Program

GATE: Gifted and Talented Education

Recognitions

Niche: 2025 Best Public High Schools in America - #68 in California

Niche: 2025 Best Public High Schools in America – Top 1.7 Percentile Nationally

Advanced Placement Exams

	2023	2024	2025
AP Scholars	66	43	69
AP Scholars with Honor	30	47	47
AP Scholars with Distinction	121	127	118
National AP Scholars	N/A	N/A	N/A
AP International Diploma	N/A	N/A	N/A

In 2025, 445 SMHS students took 1,138 AP exams. 92.1% of students who took an AP exam earned at least one three or higher on their exams, with a school average score of 3.95.

2025 National Merit Recognition

National Merit Finalists	6
National Merit Commended Scholars	20

Class of 2025 College Placement: 49.0% attended a 4-year college. 48.1% attended a 2-year college.

California Assessment of Student Performance & Progress Results

ELA – 44.9% of Class of 2026 students met or exceeded state standards.

Math – 44.8% of Class of 2026 students met or exceeded state standards.

Additional Student Data

Free & Reduced Lunch – 38.1%

First Generation – 40.6%