



SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

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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 have limited AP/Honors/AS access in 9th and 10th grade, with most courses available starting in 11th grade. SMHS encourages students to challenge themselves with rigorous courses to prepare for future interests and goals. For students aiming for the highest rigor, we recommend:

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 four-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

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%