



1290 Blossom Hill Rd
 San José, CA 95118
 (408) 535-6310
pioneer.sjUSD.org
 CEEB: 053096



Our Mission

Uniting as one community, we elevate opportunities for all.

Our Vision

Preparing today's students to be the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow.

Our Community

Eight miles south of downtown San José and 55 miles south of San Francisco, Pioneer's immediate community consists of the Blossom Hill and Almaden Valley neighborhoods. Much like the larger Silicon Valley region, the community is economically and culturally diverse, mixing single-family homes, high-density residential units, and low-income housing developments.

Our School

Founded in 1960, Pioneer is a comprehensive, 4-year high school with an interdisciplinary focus on service learning. Pioneer is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and a member of the College Board.

Principal
 Tim Gavello

Assistant Principals
 Erin Cahill

Daisy Kruckenber
 Barbara Keesaw (interim)
 Kristin Luz (interim)

School Counselors

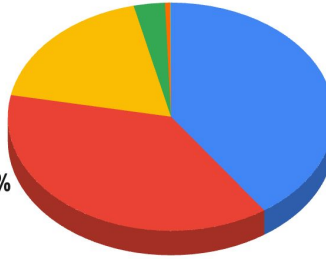
Judy Pataky-Hannon (A-E)
 Chad Luna (F-La)
 Eunice Esquivel (Le-Q)
 Nicole Pearson (R-Z)

Pioneer High School

SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

2025-2026 STUDENT BODY

- Hispanic - 40.3%
- White - 37.8%
- Asian/Pacific Islander - 18.2%
- Black - 3.1%
- Am. Indian or Alaskan Native - 0.5%
- Decline to State - 0.1%



1,357

2025 Total Enrollment

- 33% First-generation college students
- 30% Economically disadvantaged
- 15% Students with disabilities
- 9% English Language Learners

*First-generation college student is defined as a student where neither parent nor guardian have earned a four-year college degree.
 -University of California

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students in San José Unified School District (SJUSD) are required to complete: **220 credits, Algebra Certificate, Community Service hours.**

- 12th grade students are required to take a minimum of four (4) classes.
- 11th grade students are required to take a minimum of five (5) classes.
- 9th & 10th grade students are required take a total of six (6) classes.
- Students can take up to seven (7) classes max, if space allows, O period offered.
- Although AP classes are not required nor is there a limit, students must seek additional consultation and approval to take more than 3 AP courses in a year.
- Course selection options not always guaranteed due to spacing and availability.

C/O 2026 - 30 hours
C/O 2027 onward- 40 hours

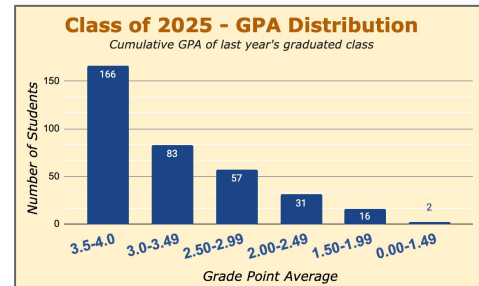
Subjects	Credits
English	40
Am Gov/Econ	10
US History	10
World History	10
Math	30
Science	30
LOTE	20
Visual/Perf Arts	20
PE	20
Electives	30
Total	220

GRADING

Grading System	
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

- GPA calculated on an **unweighted 4.0 scale.**
- PHS does not report individual class rank.
- **Cumulative GPA** is calculated using all courses, including non-college preparatory courses.

+/- grades are not included in GPA calculation.



STANDARDIZED TESTING

SAT School Day: SJUSD provides the SAT Exam free of charge to all 11th graders each year. For the Class of 2026, 318 students took the SAT with a mean total score of 1062.

National Merit Scholars: Class of 2026 has 2 National Merit Semi-Finalists.

PHS does not report test scores on transcripts.

AP Exams: In 2025, we had 568 students take a total of 1196 AP exams with **78%** earning a score 3 or higher. 26 different subjects were given to our students.

AP Scholars: We had a total of 236 AP Scholar Awards: 93 Scholars, 44 with Honors, 72 with Distinction, 19 AP Seminar and Research Certificates, and 8 AP Capstone Diplomas.

ADVANCED & SPECIALITY COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- European History
- Government & Politics
- U.S. History
- World History**
- English Language
- English Literature
- Seminar
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Computer Science A
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics 1
- Spanish Language
- Studio Art 2D
- Studio Art 3D
- Macroeconomics
- Psychology
- Research

**New Course for 2024
 *New Course for 2023

Honors Courses

- Ethnic Studies Literature
- Pre-Calculus
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Chamber Orchestra
- Jazz Band*
- Wind Ensemble
- Accelerated Courses**
- Algebra 2
- World History

Speciality Courses:

Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) offers 24 hands-on STEAM courses, 21 of which are a-g approved. Open to 11th and 12th grade students.

Community College Dual Enrollment
 American Sign Language 1A/1B^, Mexican American Studies^, Japanese 1A/1B, 2A/2B. Multivariable Calculus.
 ^ section offered exclusively for Pioneer students.

Ethnic Studies Courses
 9th: Intro to Ethnic Studies (Elective)
 10th: Ethnic Studies Literature (English Honors),
 11th: US History Ethnic Studies (Social Science),
 12th: Latino Literature (English)

of Students taking ≥ 1 Advanced Course

All Grades: 53%	
9th Grade: 24%	11th Grade: 61%
10th grade: 52%	12th Grade: 69%

21 AP | 8 Honors | 2 Accelerated | 4 Community College | 24 CTE

Specialty Program Highlights

Man in the California Environment (Man/Cal Env): Students teach field ecology to 3 local elementary schools and lead teams of 4th graders in weekly field expeditions through a local watershed preserve.

Exploring Computer Science: Students complete a National Science Foundation (NSF)-designed curriculum that includes introduction to human computer interaction, problem solving, web design, programming, data analysis, and robotics.

American Justice System: Mock Trial course that teaches the impact of law, and dynamics of a courtroom.

Leadership: We offer two unique courses: **Service Learning Leadership** organizes and implements community service projects and **ASB Leadership** organizes and implements school-wide student events.

Yearbook: Documents and designs for annual yearbook.

Journalism: Publishes monthly newspaper.

Broadcasting: Records weekly video announcements.

Destination College Advising Corps (DCAC): Program funded by UC Berkeley's Center for Educational Partnerships; aims to increase college access for low-income, first-gen, and historically underrepresented students.

Credit Recovery: We offer A-G approved online courses through Edgenuity. In-person courses are also offered in English, Math, and Science; these count towards fulfilling graduation requirements but not A-G approved.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars

Robotics

Winner at Arizona East Regional Comp ('23)
 Finalist Monterey Bay Regional Award ('23)
 Finalist Silicon Valley Regional ('25)
 Team Sustainability Award ('25)

Performing and Fine Arts

Jazz Band - #2 at Santa Cruz Jazz Festival ('24), Silver at Forum Music Festival ('25)
Symphony Orchestra - Gold at Forum Music Festival ('25)

Manilow Music Project Award Recipient – Lara Levy and the Pioneer Music Program

Athletics Highlights

League Champions - Blossom Valley A.L.:

Boys Basketball ('22-'24)
 Boys Golf ('22-'24)
 Girls Volleyball ('24)
 Boys Volleyball ('25)

CCS Champions - Blossom Valley A.L.:

Girls Soccer ('22)
 Traditional Competitive cheer ('23, '25)

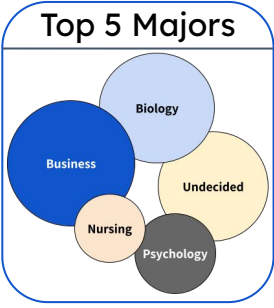
- Badminton Lacrosse
- Baseball (M) Soccer
- Basketball Softball (W)
- Comp Cheer Swimming/Diving
- Comp Sport Cheer Tennis
- Sideline Cheer Track & Field
- Cross Country Volleyball
- Flag Football (W) Water Polo
- Football Wrestling
- Golf

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Post-High School Breakdown	
4-Year University	61.1%
2-Year Community College	32.1%
Vocational Career	2.5%
Work	1.9%
Military	1.5%
Undecided	0.9%

Letters of Recommendation

As of 2024-25, SJUSD has decided to shift the responsibility of writing letters of recommendation from our school counselors to those staff members with a more direct and personal relationship with our students. This change is rooted in our belief that letters of rec should come from individuals who know the students well and can provide a more personalized and detailed account of their strengths, characteristics, and accomplishments; these individuals could be teachers, coaches, or other adult mentors. School counselors will be submitting the School Report and any supplementary documents on a student's behalf.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

- Berkeley*
 - Davis*
 - Irvine*
 - Los Angeles*
 - Merced
 - Riverside*
 - San Diego*
 - Santa Barbara*
 - Santa Cruz*
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**
- Bakersfield
 - Cal Poly, Humboldt
 - Cal Poly, Pomona
 - Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo*
 - Channel Islands
 - Chico*
 - Dominguez Hills
 - East Bay
 - Fresno
 - Fullerton*
 - Long Beach*
 - Los Angeles
 - Monterey Bay*
 - Northridge*
 - Sacramento
 - San Bernardino
 - San Marcos*
 - San Diego State University*
 - San Francisco State University*
 - San Jose State University*
 - Sonoma State University

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Butte College*
- Cuesta College*
- De Anza College*
- Evergreen Valley College*
- Foothill College*
- Gavilan College
- Mission College*
- San Jose City College*
- Santa Barbara City College*
- West Valley College*

CALIFORNIA PRIVATE

- Art Center College of Design*
- Azusa Pacific University
- Biola University
- Chapman University
- College of the Canyons*
- Jessup University
- Loyola Marymount University*
- Menlo College*
- Nightingale College*
- Occidental College
- Pepperdine University*
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Saint Mary's College of California*
- Santa Clara University*
- University of La Verne*
- University of San Francisco*
- University of San Diego
- University of Silicon Valley*
- University of Southern California
- University of the Pacific*
- Whittier University

OUT OF STATE

- Arizona State University*
- Auburn University
- Barton College*
- Baylor University
- Berklee College of Music
- Boise State University*
- Boston University
- Brigham Young University*
- Butler University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Clarke University
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- College of Southern Nevada*
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University-Fort Collins
- Dallas Baptist University*
- Drexel University
- East Tennessee State University*
- Emory University*
- Fisher College
- Fordham University
- George Fox University*
- George Washington University
- Georgia Institute of Technology*
- Gonzaga University
- Grand Canyon University*
- Greenville University*
- Hanover College
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Indiana University-Bloomington*
- Iowa State University
- Long Island University
- Louisiana State University
- Manhattan University
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Michigan State University
- Montana State University*
- New Jersey City University
- New York University*
- North Carolina State University
- Northeastern University*
- Northern Arizona University
- Ohio State University
- Olin College of Engineering
- Oregon State University
- Pace University
- Pacific University
- Parsons School of Design
- Pennsylvania State University*
- Portland State University
- Prairie View A&M University*
- Pratt Institute
- Purdue University*
- Reed College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- Seattle University
- St. Mary's University
- SUNY Buffalo State
- Syracuse University

OUT OF STATE (CONT'D)

- Temple University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University*
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Oklahoma
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- Tulane University
- University of Arizona*
- University of Arkansas
- University of Colorado Boulder*
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Hawaii at Manoa*
- University of Hartford
- University of Idaho*
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maryland*
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Miami*
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota Morris
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of Mississippi*
- University of Montana
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno*
- University of New Hampshire
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Dakota
- University of Oregon*
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Portland
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Rochester
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tampa
- University of Tennessee
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Utah*
- University of Vermont
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Utah State University
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Willamette University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

- McGill University
- University of British Columbia*
- University of Guelph*
- University of Toronto
- Wilfrid Laurier University

*Indicates schools students are attending

