SAN DOMENICO
MIDDLE SCHOOL

LEADING WITH **COURAGE**

SAN DOMENICO
Founded 1850

Facts at a Glance

175 years of excellence — continually evolving to meet the needs of today's learners

515-acre campus — garden, hiking and biking trails, and room to explore

2 world languages — Mandarin and Spanish taught to all Lower School students

35 after-school enrichment classes offered each year

Zero additional fees for bus transportation and lunch — included in tuition for every student

Hot Chocolate **Fridays** — a beloved weekly tradition

5,000+ Head of School high-fives shared annually at morning bus drop-off

Countless bowls of homemade soup served each week

680 K-12 students (150 in Middle School)

95% of our energy costs offset by our 2,358 solar panels (largest school installation in Marin)

38 species of friendly animals spotted by students on campus

1-acre organic garden with outdoor kitchen, classroom, greenhouse, and performance space

SAN DOMENICO
Rooted for the Future

Celebrating Generations of

Purpose-Driven Excellence

Since 1850, San Domenico has provided students with an education that roots them for their future, whatever that might be. Holding a unique distinction as California's longest-standing independent school, we celebrate our rich 175-year history while continually evolving to prepare students for an ever-changing world.

We achieve this by celebrating innovation in the classroom, ensuring that our academic and extracurricular programs meet the needs of all our students. At the same time, we believe certain enduring principles—integrity, kindness, ethical decision-making, and treating people with dignity and respect—remain permanently relevant in an otherwise changing world.

Our culture of excellence pairs academic achievement with finding joy in helping others. When students connect deep thinking and learning with a desire to engage meaningfully with the world around them—striving not only for greatness, but also for goodness—they begin to realize their fullest potential as the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Core Values

For nearly two centuries, our timeless values have remained embedded in every aspect of the SD student journey—empowering generations with a framework for navigating challenges and a deeper awareness of the world beyond themselves.

STUDY:
Pursuing deep understanding through curiosity, thoughtful inquiry, and engagement with diverse perspectives.

REFLECTION:
Taking time to think—learning from experience and discerning what is true, valuable, and worth pursuing.

COMMUNITY:
Fostering an inclusive, supportive environment where everyone feels respected, valued, and a joyful sense of belonging.

SERVICE:
Acting with purpose to uplift others, advance justice, and improve the world beyond ourselves.

Guided by these values, we create an environment where students learn to try new things, to spread their wings and stretch their limits, to live with purpose—rooted for the future.

The K-12 Advantage

Consistent Values and Confidence

San Domenico's sequential K-12 structure provides a supportive, values-driven environment where students develop confidence, feel known and valued by the community, and are encouraged to take healthy risks as they grow academically and personally.

Leadership and Mentorship Opportunities

Bringing students of all ages together on one joyful campus creates natural mentorship opportunities. Older students gain leadership skills and empathy by guiding younger peers, while younger students draw inspiration from their role models.

Seamless Transitions and Personal Growth

Eliminating stressful school transitions allows students to confidently explore expanding opportunities. They thrive within a familiar, supportive environment, seamlessly accessing enhanced programs and experiences at each stage of their educational journey.

A Lifelong Sense of Community

The shared K-12 journey cultivates a deep sense of belonging. Students graduate equipped with strong community ties, integrity, kindness, and a lasting commitment to service, preparing them to positively impact the world.

A Campus Designed to Inspire

Set on 515 picturesque acres of open space, San Domenico's campus offers a college-like atmosphere, blending state-of-the-art facilities with expansive natural beauty, including miles of hiking and biking trails, lush woodlands, and stunning ridgetop vistas. Distractions fade as students settle into a peaceful environment that invites them to stop, think, and immerse themselves deeply in their studies.

From high school science labs analyzing creek water samples to seventh graders tending vegetables in the Garden of Hope to fourth graders hiking through the woods to refresh their minds and bodies, our campus provides unmatched opportunities for experiential learning.

This environment nurtures curiosity, promotes well-being, and strengthens each student's connection to nature and community.

Academics

Middle School is a time of transformation—and at San Domenico, we embrace it. Our program is built around the belief that adolescence is not something to get through, but a time to grow into who you are becoming. We design every learning experience to meet students where they are, challenge them with purpose, and support them as they stretch, question, and discover. With a focus on curiosity, connection, and confidence, our students are equipped with the skills and mindset to thrive in high school and in life.

Academics:
English

In Middle School English, students grow into analytical, expressive, and purposeful communicators. Building on foundational reading and writing skills, they explore how authors use language—word choice, tone, structure—to convey meaning and emotion. They learn to read beyond the surface, uncovering nuance, purpose, and perspective. Writing instruction focuses on crafting clear, structured, and compelling narratives, arguments, and informational essays. With an emphasis on audience awareness and writing with intent, students learn to organize their ideas, refine their voice, and express themselves with clarity and confidence. The goal is preparation not only for high school English, but for a lifetime of thoughtful reading and powerful writing.

Academics:
Mathematics

San Domenico's Middle School math program nurtures confident, capable problem-solvers through a rigorous curriculum rooted in conceptual understanding. Beginning with Advanced Math 6 and progressing through Pre-Algebra and Algebra, students develop deep fluency in mathematical thinking. Students ready for additional challenges may advance into Geometry. Lessons emphasize real-world applications and STEM connections, helping students see the relevance of math in everyday life. Inspired by growth mindset principles and supported by innovative methods like Building Thinking Classrooms and Problem-Based Learning, our program encourages collaboration, curiosity, and persistence. By focusing on understanding rather than memorization, we foster a lifelong appreciation for math as a tool for exploration and critical thinking.

Academics:
Humanities
(Grade 6: Social Studies + English)

Our sixth-grade Humanities course integrates English and Social Studies into a rich, thematic exploration of what it means to be human in a global society. Students delve into ancient civilizations—examining enduring cultural legacies and the human characteristics that have shaped societies across time. As they read novels, write essays, and engage in discussion, students develop key literacy skills such as making inferences, supporting claims with evidence, and crafting complex sentences. By aligning literature with social studies content, the course fosters deeper connections and helps students see how history, culture, and storytelling intersect. The result is a holistic learning experience that builds empathy, critical thinking, and academic confidence.

History (Grades 7-8)

In Middle School History, students make meaningful connections between the past and their own lives. Through relevant projects, service learning, and immersive experiences, they explore how historical events have shaped—and continue to influence—our world. Seventh graders study global medieval history, investigating everything from Aztec agriculture to the linguistic impact of the Battle of Hastings. Eighth graders focus on U.S. History and civics, diving deep into the Constitution and its real-world implications. A yearlong service learning project encourages students to become engaged citizens, and the program culminates in a trip to Washington, D.C., where students see history come alive. Across all grades, history becomes a living subject—relevant, reflective, and empowering.

Academics:
Science

Science at San Domenico is rooted in relevance. Our issues-based curriculum encourages students to connect scientific concepts with real-world challenges that matter to them and their communities. Whether investigating climate systems, exploring genetics, or engineering biomedical solutions, students engage in hands-on experiments, collaborative projects, and inquiry-based learning. Courses are structured around anchoring phenomena that spark curiosity and provide context for deeper exploration. With topics ranging from Earth's weather systems to chemical reactions to the solar system, students build a broad foundation across life, Earth, and physical sciences. By learning to ask why—and discovering how to find answers—students develop both scientific literacy and a lifelong interest in understanding the world around them.

Academics:
Languages

Our Middle School language program immerses students in their choice of Spanish or Mandarin, guiding them through a dynamic, confidence-building progression. In sixth grade, students build foundational skills through engaging, interactive experiences—role-plays, songs, games, and cultural projects—that spark joy and curiosity. In seventh and eighth grade, they expand their communication skills through storytelling, presentations, and original written work. Throughout, students explore the people, traditions, and perspectives behind each language, fostering global awareness alongside language acquisition. Classes are taught primarily in the target language to build fluency and prepare students for authentic communication in real-world contexts.

Academics:

Philosophy, Ethics, and World Religions

In our Philosophy, Ethics, and World Religions (PEWR) course, students engage with the wisdom traditions of the world while developing their own beliefs, values, and sense of purpose. Through experiential learning—like tasting a Passover meal, building a Buddhist sand mandala, or taking a Taoist-inspired nature walk—students explore Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism. More than a comparative religion class, PEWR encourages students to reflect deeply on what they believe, how they find meaning, and how they want to live. This signature program builds empathy, curiosity, and thoughtful self-awareness.

Academics:
Character Development

Character Development is woven throughout Middle School life, reinforcing the social-emotional growth that supports academic success and personal well-being. Students meet weekly with the Middle School counselor and in advisory groups, where they build relationships with trusted faculty and peers, set goals, and develop executive functioning and time-management skills. Through dedicated social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons, students strengthen self-awareness, emotional regulation, communication, and decision-making. In eighth grade, small-group guidance sessions facilitated by our counselors offer space for honest conversations about issues relevant to students' lives. Together, these supports help students develop resilience, confidence, and a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

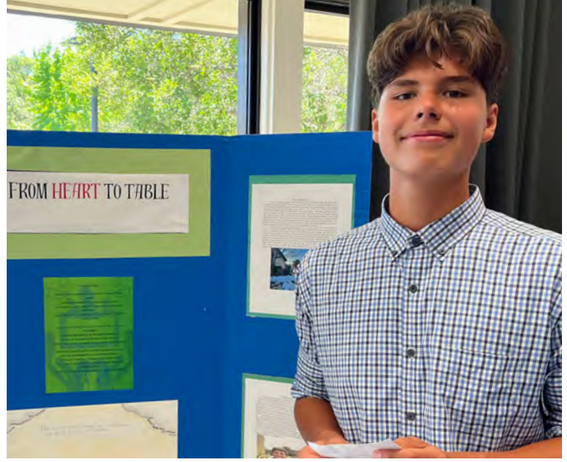
Academics:
Learning Support

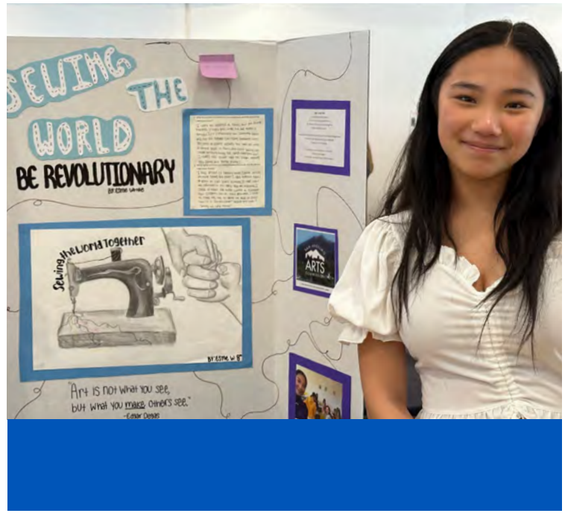
San Domenico's Learning Support program ensures that all students have the tools they need to thrive. Our learning specialist partners with teachers and families to provide tailored support, ranging from executive functioning strategies and metacognition coaching to small-group instruction in core subjects. Students learn how to self-advocate, manage their workload, and understand their own learning styles. When needed, the team also helps families navigate the evaluation process for learning differences. Whether a student needs short-term guidance or long-term support, our approach promotes confidence, independence, and academic growth.

Academics:
Capstone Program

The Eighth Grade Capstone Project is a yearlong exploration of service and learning that helps students develop research, writing, public speaking, and leadership skills. Each student identifies a real-world problem, investigates potential solutions, performs volunteer service, and presents their work to the school community.

Projects have ranged from trail maintenance and food distribution to senior citizen visits and animal rescue. Along the way, students gain insight into the impact of their actions and come to see service not as a requirement, but as a source of meaning and connection.





Academics:
Electives

Middle School students enjoy the opportunity to pursue their passions and try new things through a robust elective program. Students choose from a wide variety of semester and yearlong offerings designed to spark curiosity and build new skills—in areas such as ceramics, yearbook, journalism, cooking in the garden, digital music, or game design. Eco-Serve, one of our most popular elective courses, combines environmental learning with community action, encouraging students to think globally and act locally. No matter the subject, electives give students the chance to stretch creatively, explore new interests, and take ownership of their learning.

Arts

San Domenico's Middle School arts program offers every student the chance to explore, perform, and create across four dynamic disciplines: ***music***, ***dance***, ***theatre***, and ***visual arts***. Across all areas, students are encouraged to try new things, take creative risks, and share their voices with the world.

In music, students of all levels may participate in ensemble classes—chorus, band, guitar, or strings—building technical skills and confidence through collaboration and performance in our dedicated music conservatory space.

Our dance program, taught by professional dancers, blends styles like ballet, jazz, and hip-hop, culminating in annual show-cases and additional performance opportunities.

Theatre classes spark creativity through acting, improvisation, and behind-the-scenes tech work, with the Middle School musical serving as a beloved community highlight.

In visual arts, students explore diverse materials and global inspirations, connecting creativity with self-expression and interdisciplinary learning, and exhibit their work in an annual year-end showcase.

Physical Education and Athletics

Our Middle School PE program promotes wellness, teamwork, and a lifelong love of movement. Students participate multiple times per week in a diverse range of activities—from tennis, swimming, and dance to trail hikes, fitness games, and relay races. The curriculum emphasizes skill-building, resilience, and joyful participation, creating an inclusive environment where every student can grow. This comprehensive PE program also perfectly complements our after-school athletics program, which includes cross-country, volleyball, basketball, tennis, soccer, and track and field. Whether on the court or in the pool, students are encouraged to challenge themselves, support one another, and have fun.

After-School

San Domenico's after-school programs offer students an extensive mix of enrichment, creativity, and connection. Athletic teams like cross-country, volleyball, basketball, swimming, and track and field give students the opportunity to stay active, build skills, and grow as teammates. Panther After School Enrichment (PASE) expands the fun with offerings like cooking, ceramics, mock trial, robotics, role-playing games, and more—encouraging students to explore new interests or dive deeper into existing passions. Additional opportunities, such as theatre productions, math lab, and private music lessons, support academic growth and creative expression. Whether on the court, on the stage, or in the studio, students discover joy in learning beyond the classroom.

Day in the Life

At San Domenico, no two days are exactly the same—and that's by design. Our Middle School uses a rotating schedule to promote balance, engagement, and deeper learning by varying when each class meets throughout the week. This also helps students build strong relationships with teachers and develop the time management skills they'll need in high school and beyond.

8:10 am – Welcome!

After arriving on any of our eight bus routes (included in tuition), your day starts with Morning Meeting or Advisory—a quick check-in to ground yourself, connect with your classmates, and set a positive tone for the day ahead.

8:15 am

Deep Work, Big Ideas

First class of the day. Maybe it's Algebra, where you're learning how to solve real-world problems. Or maybe it's English, where a lively discussion about your latest novel is already underway.

9:08 am

Try Something New

Next up: an elective or arts class. Head to the ceramics studio to finish your coil pot, dive into guitar practice with your bandmates, or stretch it out in dance class. These are the moments where you explore, create, and try something outside your comfort zone.

9:58 am – Soup Break!

Time to refuel with an SD tradition. Today's soup might be tomato basil, miso, or a surprise favorite. Grab a bowl, hang out with friends, and enjoy this delicious break built right into your day.

10:12 am

Move Your Body

Now it's time for PE. You might be swimming laps, running relays on Kesterson Field, or learning new footwork on the basketball court. No matter what, you'll get your heart pumping and your energy flowing.

11:05 am

Think and Reflect

Back in the classroom for a session that could be Science, History, or World Religions. Whether you're designing a lab investigation or discussing global belief systems, you're learning how to ask questions and think deeply.

11:55 am

Lunch with a View

Enjoy a fresh, healthy lunch (included in tuition!) with options for all appetites—including vegetarians. Sit outside with friends or catch up with a teacher—lunch is as social as it is satisfying.

12:34 pm

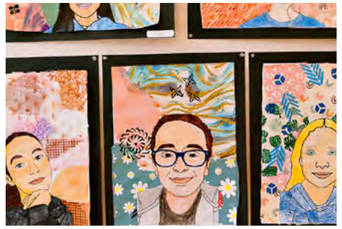
Expand Your Skills

After lunch, you might be in a language class practicing Spanish conversation, or in Study Hall working with a teacher one-on-one. Afternoons are varied, focused, and built around helping you grow.

1:27 pm

Create and Collaborate

Enhance your day with a hands-on project, group work, or a class discussion. This might be Science, Visual Arts, or even ballroom/partner dancing (yes, really). No two afternoons are ever quite the same.



2:20 pm

End on a High Note

Your last class of the day could be anything from math to advisory to a community gathering. Whether you're learning something new or coming together with classmates, it's a chance to finish your day with connection, creativity, and purpose.

After-School Fun

Your day doesn't stop at dismissal. Head to theatre rehearsal, compete with your team in cross- country or volleyball, stay for Math Lab, or take a music lesson. After-school programs align with our late bus schedule, so exploring your passions is always within reach.

High School Bound

By the time they complete eighth grade, San Domenico students are ready for new challenges. They've developed strong academic skills, including analytical thinking, quantitative reasoning, confident writing, and thoughtful communication. Just as important, they've grown into independent learners and self-advocates, eager to take on leadership roles and explore their sense of purpose.

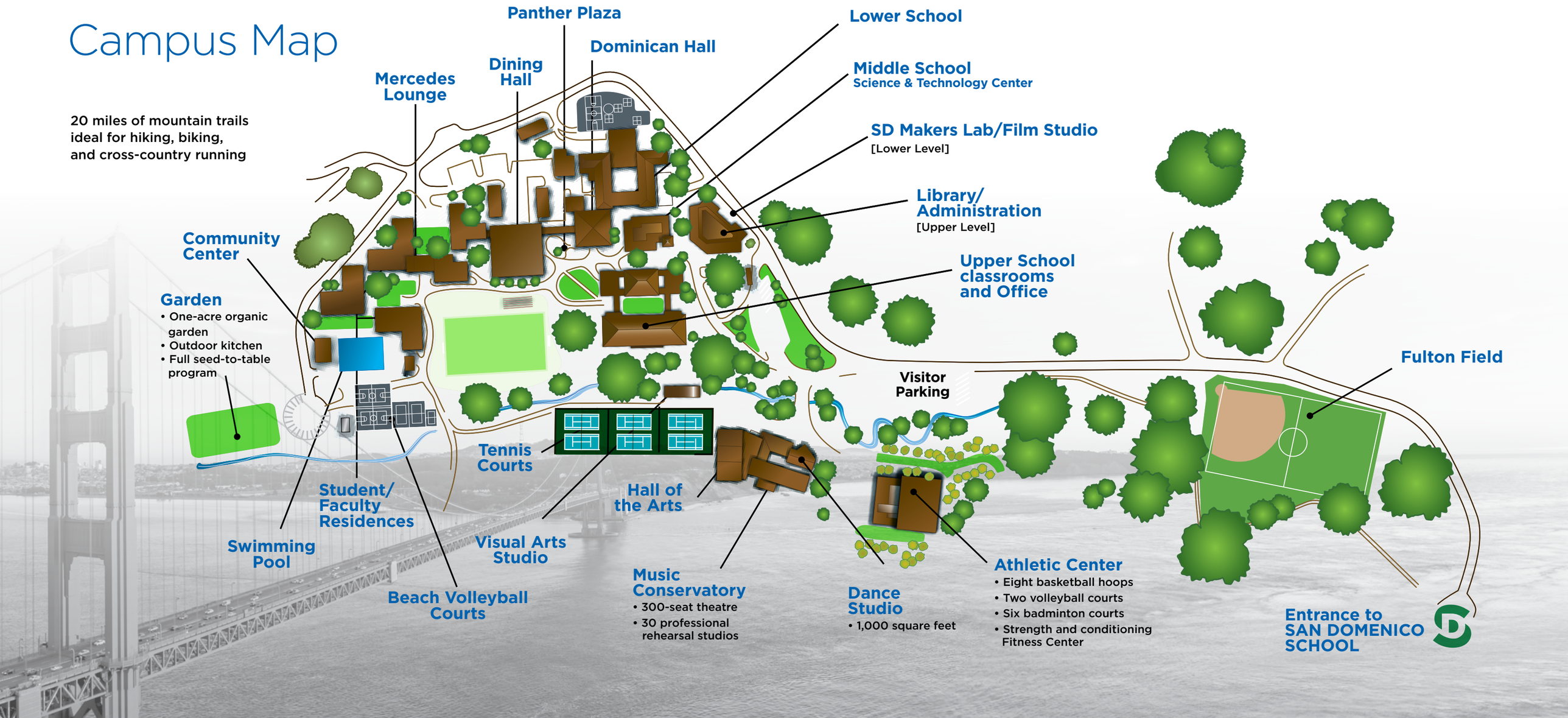
Our Upper School builds on that foundation with advanced coursework (including Advanced Placement courses), distinctive interdisciplinary programs, and a diverse, global student body representing more than 20 passport nationalities. It's a place where students are challenged, supported, and inspired to grow.

As students move through high school, they're assisted by a personalized, relationship-based college counseling program that begins with reflection and grows into intentional planning. We believe the best college fit is where each student can thrive—academically, socially, and personally. Each year, our students are admitted to exceptional colleges and universities, including highly selective programs in biomedical engineering, film, public policy, fine arts, and computer science. Success is not about name recognition, but about alignment with purpose.

With the foundation built in Middle School—academically, socially, and emotionally—San Domenico students rise into high school ready to define their goals, pursue their interests, and make a meaningful impact.

Campus Map

20 miles of mountain trails
ideal for hiking, biking,
and cross-country running



SAN DOMENICO SCHOOL
1500 Butterfield Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960
Exceptional Education and a Sense of Purpose
sandomenico.org

San Domenico school admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.