SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

History & Philosophy

Established in 1957, Dunn School is a grade 6-12, co-educational, independent school for boarding and day students, located in rural Santa Barbara County on California's Central Coast. The school is characterized by seminar-style classes that encourage curiosity and open inquiry, responsiveness to a range of learning styles, and a close community of educators who value both intellectual and personal growth.

We are STARS

Dunn School is located in a rural area of Northern Santa Barbara County, on the Central Coast of California. We are fortunate to partner with the STARS (Small Town and Rural Students) program as we prepare students for college.

We are Global

Our globally diverse campus (our students come from 16 countries around the world) is enhanced by our partnership with the Round Square global exchange network. Round Square is an international network of more than 250 schools in 50 countries on six continents that connect and collaborate to offer world-class programs and experiences, developing global competence, character and confidence in students. Many of our students take advantage of opportunities to go abroad through Round Square, and we also host students from around the world on our campus throughout the year. Coupled with our Winter Term trips abroad, our students gain cultural competency that prepares them well for life beyond Dunn.

Mission & Values

The Dunn community educates the whole student to their fullest potential in preparation for a life of learning and responsible leadership in society. We strive toward the balanced education of the whole person. Our curriculum, both in the classroom and beyond, is designed around five core values: Emotional Wellness, Physical Readiness, Intellectual Growth, Social Responsibility, and Moral Courage.

Students & Setting

The 40 members of the Class of 2026 have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways. Several have been recognized by the National Merit program as Commended Scholars, Hispanic Scholars and Rural Scholars.

The class includes a variety of talented artists, academics, and athletes. Many students (both boarding and day) also work part-time jobs in the local community.

The Students in the Class of 2026 are from 7 countries (Brazil, Columbia, Italy, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vietnam) and 2 US States (California and Washington). Thirty-five percent are students of color.

40 Class of 2026	**40%** Upper School Students Receiving Financial Aid	**27%** International Students
179 Upper School Enrollment	**100%** Class of 2025 4-year College Admission	**19** Nations of Origin
52/48% Boarding/Day	**16%** Domestic Students of Color	**5:1** Student-to-Faculty Ratio
55 Acre Rural Campus		**12** Average Class Size

CONTACTS

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KALYAN BALAVEN
Head of School

SIMON SWEENEY
Associate Head of School

School Memberships:
NACAC, WACAC, ACCIS, NAIS, CAIS, TABS, COLLEGE BOARD

Academics & Grading System

ACADEMICS

Dunn's academic curriculum encourages intellectual growth and skill mastery. Our supportive and accessible faculty promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. This balanced approach allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose driven approach to their academic life.

Advanced Curriculum

Dunn does not offer AP courses but instead provides Advanced curricular offerings that are responsive to the interests, abilities and aspirations of our students, and the unique strengths of our faculty. In addition to high intellectual standards, Advanced courses place a greater emphasis on creative thought, evidence-based arguments, and intellectual risk - emphasizing skill mastery through multiple modes of assessment. Students in these courses engage with more sophisticated materials across all disciplines and are held to a higher standard of participation. Due to the rigor of these courses, students are encouraged to take only 2-3 advanced courses each year. Students who are significantly advanced in academic areas may be asked to participate in an independent study and serve as a TA (Teacher's Assistant) for a class. The course selection process, including placement in advanced courses, includes oversight by the Academic Dean, Director of College Counseling, and faculty advisors, to ensure appropriate rigor and balance. Advanced courses receive one additional point in the GPA calculation.

Experiential & Enrichment Curriculum

Central to our whole student philosophy, we dedicate over 100 hours each year to experiential-based learning. Our week-long wilderness trips focus on character development and community mindedness. Our three-week Winter Term encourages students to follow their curiosity and pursue areas of interest along with faculty leaders, and our membership in RoundSquare allows students to connect with like-minded learners around the world through classes and exchange programs.

Learning Strategies

Dunn School offers a unique Learning Strategies program that provides highly personalized academic support designed to meet the needs of students with mild learning differences.

Discipline Policy

Dunn reports discipline in accordance with application requirements. Students are counseled to truthfully answer all questions regarding disciplinary actions rendered through their Dunn tenure.

Grading System

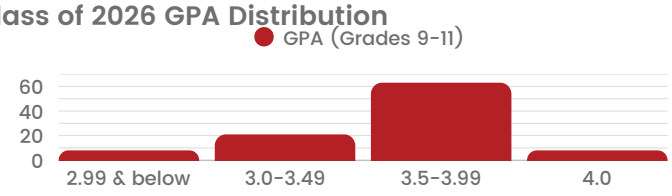
- 34 instructional weeks
- A trimester system began in the 2022-23 school year. Grades are issued three times per year
- 4.0 grading scale
- Advanced classes receive 1.0 bonus point
- Both weighted and unweighted GPAs are reported on the transcript
- Remediated classes taken at Dunn School replace previous grades earned in like classes
- Class rank is not computed nor reported

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92.99%	3.7
B+	87-89.99%	3.3
B	83-86.99%	3.0
B-	80-82.99%	2.7
C+	77-79.99%	2.3
C	73-76.99%	2.0
C-	70-72.99	1.7*
D+	67-69.99%	1.3
D	63-66.99%	1.0
D-	60-62.99%	-.7
F	0-59.99%	0.0

*minimum passing grade

Class of 2026 GPA Distribution



Standardized Testing

The majority of Dunn School students opted out of taking standardized tests in previous years. Our data is insufficient and could be misleading. In fairness to all students we cannot share testing averages.

Full Year Courses

English
English 9
English 10
Advanced English 10
English 11
Advanced English 11*
English 12
Advanced English 12*
Creative Writing
Speech and Debate

History
History 9
World History
Advanced World History*
U.S. History
Advanced U.S. History*
Adv. American Studies
Psychology
Advanced Micro/ Macro Economics*

Math
Integrated Math 1
Advanced Integrated Math 1
Integrated Math 2
Advanced Integrated Math 2
Integrated Math 3
Advanced Integrated Math 3
Integrated Math 4
Advanced Statistics*
Advanced Calculus (AB)*
Advanced Calculus (BC)*
Computer Science

Science
Conceptual Physics
Chemistry
Advanced Chemistry I
Advanced Chemistry II*
Biology
Advanced Biology I
Advanced Biology II*
Advanced Physics (11th-12th)
Anatomy and Physiology

Visual Arts
Studio Art 1
Studio Art 2
Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Development
Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Completion
Ceramics 1
Ceramics 2
Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Development
Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Completion
Digital Photo 1
Digital Photo 2
Videography

World Language
Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Advanced Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Advanced Spanish 3
Advanced Spanish 4*
Multi-Lingual Support (MLS)
French 1
French 2

Performing Arts
Applied Music Fundamentals
Ensemble 1
Ensemble 2
Ensemble 3
Vocal Ensemble
Acting

Interdisciplinary Electives
Jurgensen's Toolkit
Jurgensen's Pioneers (11th only)
Jurgensen's Investors and Philanthropists
Entrepreneurship
Adv. Economics (11 and 12)*

University Partnerships: Syracuse University & University of Delaware

The Robert W. Jurgensen Entrepreneurship Program at Dunn School is distinguished by its unique partnerships with Syracuse University and the University of Delaware, offering students unparalleled access to college-level entrepreneurship education. Through Syracuse University, students take Micro and Macro Economics courses on Dunn's campus, earning six college credits while gaining a solid foundation in economic theory. This hands-on learning experience is further enriched by Dunn's partnership with the University of Delaware, where students can concurrently enroll in Delaware's EntreX program alongside Dunn's own Economic Ideas and Issues course.

Dunn also hosts the regional finals of Delaware's prestigious Diamond Challenge, an international entrepreneurship pitch competition. Each year, over 30 schools participate, allowing Dunn students to compete against top young innovators from across the country as they pitch their business and social entrepreneurship ideas to a panel of judges.

These partnerships provide Dunn students with real-world entrepreneurial experience that goes beyond the classroom, combining rigorous academic coursework with practical applications. By integrating college-level economics and entrepreneurship training with hands-on experiences like the Diamond Challenge, the Jurgensen program gives students a significant head start as they prepare for their college studies and future careers.

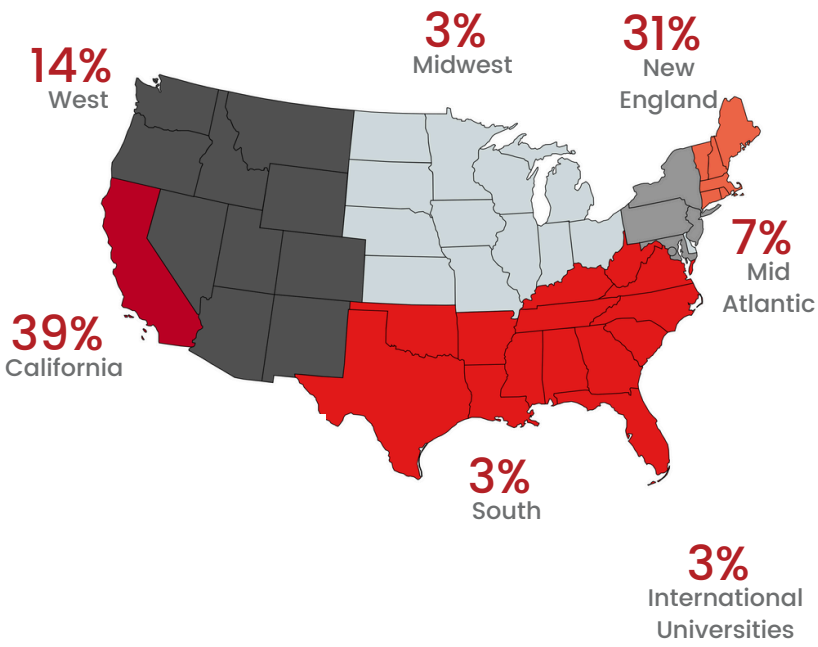
The Jurgensen Entrepreneurship Program at Dunn School provides students with over 750 hours of hands-on learning in business management, investment strategies, and marketing. Through managing student-run businesses and a $425,000 investment fund, students develop essential skills and confidence, preparing them to make a meaningful impact in their future endeavors.

*An asterisk next to the course name indicates that the class is comparable to the course that most prepares students for the AP exam. Advanced courses receive 1 bonus point when calculating weighted GPAs.

Educational Outcomes

The 28 members of the Class of 2025 received 142 offers of admission and will attend 23 different colleges in the US and abroad. Ninety-seven percent are attending four-year colleges, and three percent chose to attend a two-year college.

Five-Year College Matriculation
The graduates of the Classes of 2021-2025 attended the following four-year colleges and universities in 32 US States and the District of Columbia, and five countries abroad (Canada, France, Great Britain, Scotland, and Spain).



College Matriculation 2021-2025

American University
Arizona State University - 2
Babson College - 2
Belmont University
Berea College
Berklee College of Music - 2
Boise State University - 2
Boston University
Brown University
California Lutheran University - 2
California Poly San Luis Obispo - 9
California Poly University, Humboldt - 2
California State University-Chico
California State University-Los Angeles
California State University-Northridge
Carnegie Mellon University
Catholic University
Chapman University - 3
Chatham University
College of Charleston - 2
Colgate University
Colorado Mesa University
Columbia University, New York - 2
Connecticut College
Denison University
DePaul University
Duke University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - 2
Emerson College - 2
EU Business School - Spain
FIDM Design Institute, Los Angeles
Fort Lewis College
George Washington University
Goucher College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hollins University
Hult International Business School
Indiana University-Bloomington
JCA | London Fashion Academy (UK)
Lafayette College - 2
Lawrence University
Les Roches International School (Spain)
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield University
Loyola Marymount University - 7
Marist College
Montana State University - 2
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
Northeastern University - 5
Occidental College - 2
Oklahoma State University - 2
Pepperdine University - 2
Pratt College of Art and Design
Princeton University - 2
Purdue University - 3
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology - 3
Rollins College
Saint Mary's College of California
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art & Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Sciences Po (France)
Scripps College
Sewanee, Univ of the South
Skidmore College
Soka University
Stanford University - 2
Syracuse University
Texas Christian University
The New School
Trinity College
University at Buffalo
University of Arizona - 2
University of California-Berkeley
University of California - Davis
University of California-Irvine - 2
University of California-Los Angeles - 5
University of California-Riverside - 5
University of California-San Diego
University of California-Santa Barbara - 2
University of California-Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder - 2
University of Connecticut - 2
University of Denver
University of Hawaii at Manoa - 2
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon - 2
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California - 3
University of St Andrews (Scotland)
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Tulsa
University of Washington
University of Wyoming
Washington University in St Louis
Wesleyan University
Whitworth University
Willamette University
Xavier University