



The Grauer School Profile

2025-2026



WHO WE ARE

The Grauer School, founded in 1991, is a grades 7-12 independent, relationship-driven, college preparatory day school with approximately 160 students in attendance. Nestled on six green acres in the coastal community of Encinitas just five miles north of the San Diego city limit, Grauer serves students from surrounding communities as well as international students. The Grauer Foundation for Education is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Trustees.

MISSION

We redefine what an independent school looks and feels like. As one of San Diego's leading life preparatory schools, The Grauer School's purpose is unique, research-driven, and simple – to teach and encourage students to become resourceful, intellectually curious, intrinsically motivated, self-advocating, and accountable in a compassionate, college preparatory environment.

FACULTY

At The Grauer School, 86% of our teachers possess advanced degrees, and Cum Laude is the norm. We attract teachers who have graduated with distinction from their universities, have a strong commitment to humanitarian service, and have had sustained international and intercultural experiences. With 35 certified personnel, including the Head of School, Principal, and Director of Counseling, our teacher-to-student ratio is 1:7. This **small school advantage** enables the faculty to foster relationship-driven education and to cultivate an abiding intellectual curiosity in our students.

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Grauer is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The Grauer School is a member of professional organizations worldwide, including:

- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Small Schools Coalition (SSC) - Founder
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Independent School Management (ISM)
- UNESCO Associated Schools
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- California Association of School Counselors, Inc. (CASC)
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)

PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships have been fostered since Grauer's inception. Students work closely with the Surfrider Foundation and the Nature Collective on local coastal issues. Our sister school is Maui Preparatory Academy. We are an Associated School of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This designation establishes Grauer as one of 11 UNESCO Centers for Innovation in the United States and the only one in our region. The school campus has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold status. We are a proud member of the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, and the school taps deeply into our local community.

The Grauer School

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Principal

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Associated School



National Association
of Independent Schools



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Grauer School's graduation requirements follow the University of California track (a-g requirements) and exceed California State Standards. Moreover, 50 documented hours of community service, ecological and humanitarian expeditions, and a capstone Senior Graduation Defense are required of our graduates.

Honors

Honors is our most rigorous course of study; **Grauer does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes.** To promote a balanced, holistic educational experience, students can enroll in a **maximum of three Honors courses per year** (unless they have petitioned our Leadership Team to add an additional course). Honors coursework is offered in almost all academic areas and must be approved by the department chair and the student's counselor. An Honors course will result in an additional point towards the student's GPA.

Ranking

At The Grauer School, we do not rank our students.

Required Classes

English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units (4 units recommended)
Lab Science	3 units (4 units recommended)
Health	0.5 units
World Religions	0.5 units
World History & Geography	1 unit
U.S. History & Geography	1 unit
Economics & U.S. Government	1 unit
World Languages	2 units (3 units recommended)
Visual & Performing Arts	1 unit
College Prep Electives	1 unit
Physical Education	3 units

Grading Scale

Grade	Regular Courses	Honors Courses	Percentile
A	4 points	5 points	90-99
B	3 points	4 points	80-89
C	2 points	3 points	70-79
D, F, Incomplete	0 points	0 points	69 >

MASTERY LEARNING POLICY

The Grauer School employs a **Mastery Learning** policy. Honoring the traditions of **Socratic education**, students revise their work to ensure that they progress to the next level of complexity only when they have mastered the prior level to the degree of their own choosing. We recognize that students are individuals, and all are encouraged to maximize their talents and to persevere until they achieve success. Students may not revise summative assessments and comprehensive semester exams.

STANDARDIZED SCORE AVERAGES

	The Grauer School 2024/2025	National Average
SAT		
EBRW	685	520
Math	674	508
TOTAL	1358	1050
ACT *3-year average		
Reading	33.8	20.5
Math	29.8	19.4
TOTAL	31.3	19.9



SENIOR GRADUATION DEFENSE

To verify that our students have grown into resourceful, compassionate individuals, every Grauer senior develops a comprehensive **Senior Portfolio** and makes an original, in-depth presentation to a panel of teachers, parents, peers, and administrators. The students are expected to demonstrate a level of scholarship and also articulate the core values they have internalized as Grauer students. Seniors may choose from the following for their graduation defense: The Arts, Global and Humanitarian Studies, Science & Technology, Ecological Studies, Expeditionary Education, Leadership Studies, Liberal Arts, Personal Health and Athletics, Social Justice & Activism and Other (By Petition).

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Grauer was founded on a one-of-a-kind **Expeditionary Learning** program to enrich its college preparatory curriculum, in accordance with the school's motto "Learn by Discovery®." Rooted in the philosophy that real-world engagement is critical to an authentic education, the program transports students around the community and the globe to immerse themselves in unfamiliar languages, cultures, and ecosystems for two full weeks or more per year. These cultural and humanitarian experiences are life-altering. Community service, the arts, geography, physical challenge, social interaction, and student reflection are all a part of the process in this widely-emulated program.

CO-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

The Visual and Performing Arts department at The Grauer School allows students to discover their **passions and unique artistic talents**. With film studies & production, multimedia, music, photography, recording arts, studio art, theatre, and yearbook opportunities, a student's senses – and sense of accomplishment – can be awakened in a multitude of ways. 89% of Grauer students take advantage of our arts offerings.

An extraordinarily high percentage of Grauer students play sports and compete in inclusive athletic competitions. For our high school athletes, we partner with Horizon Prep in varsity and junior varsity sports sanctioned by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Divisions 3, 4, and 5. CIF sports offerings include basketball, cheer, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, track & field, and volleyball. Club sports also rotate throughout the year, including archery, sailing, surfing, dance, and more.

Grauer provides a full range of **college preparatory STEM options**, including robotics, computer science, engineering design, environmental science, graphic design, mathematical modeling and video game design. **Grauer's Shockwave Robotics team members have been world-champion contestants 5 times.** Our math and science classes incorporate technology and engineering through project-based learning and student projects, providing hands-on opportunities that expand upon what they have learned in the classroom. We also believe in turning STEM into STEAM, incorporating "A" for Arts through collaborations with our arts programs.

The Grauer School's mission is to develop **compassionate citizens** as we collaborate with students in helping in their community, in nature, and around the world. Students participate in at least 50 documented hours of community, humanitarian or ecological service as they move through high school.

Student-run clubs are in regular development by petitioning students. Club offerings vary each year, including academic, athletic, and leadership opportunities.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND BELONGING

In 2025, Grauer students participated in the Challenge Success Surveys of School Experiences along with thousands of other schools and students nationwide. The surveys measure student perceptions of school in the following areas (among others):

- Health & Stress
- Sleep
- Academic Integrity
- Support and Belonging
- Engagement

In each of these areas, Grauer students surpassed their peers from other independent/private schools.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The Grauer School is exceptionally proud of our alumni as they represent what is best about our school, worldwide. The talents, creativity, and passion of our graduates have been recognized and honored widely. Our many acceptances include the colleges and universities below.

Alabama, University of	Dartmouth College	Manhattan School of Music	Royal Agricultural University, UK
American University	Davidson College	Marquette University	St. Mary's College of California
American University of Paris	DePaul University, Chicago	Maryland, University of	San Diego State University
American Academy of the Dramatic Arts, New York	DePauw University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services	San Diego, University of
Amherst College	Denison College	Massachusetts, University of	San Francisco Art Institute
Arizona State University	Denver, University of	McGill University, Canada	San Francisco, University of
Arizona, University of	Dominican Univ. of California	Miami, University of	Santa Clara University
ArtCenter College of Design	Drexel University	Miami University of Ohio	Sarah Lawrence College
Auburn University	Duke University	Michigan State University	School of the Art Institute
Azusa Pacific University	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical	Minnesota, University of	Scripps College
Babson College	Emerson College	Montana, University of	Seattle University
Bard College	Emory University	Mount Holyoke College	Simmons College
Barnard College	ESMOD France	Naropa University	Skidmore College
Bates College	Evergreen State College	Nebraska, University of	Southern California, University of
Bennington College	Florida Institute of Technology	Nevada, University of	Southern Methodist University
Bentley College	Fordham University	New College of Florida	Southern Oregon University
Berklee College of Music	Fort Lewis College	New Mexico, University of	St. John's University
Biola University	Franklin Pierce University	New York University	Stonehill College
Boston College	Franklin University, Switzerland	North Carolina, University of	Suffolk University
Boston University	Georgetown University	North Dakota, University of	Swarthmore College
Bradley University	George Washington University	Northeastern University	Syracuse University
Brandeis University	Gonzaga University	Northern Arizona University	Temple University
British Columbia, University of	Grinnell College	Notre Dame, University of	Texas Christian University
Brown University	Hampshire College	Oberlin College	Texas, University of
Bryn Mawr College	Harvey Mudd College	Occidental College	The New School, New York
California College of the Arts	Haverford College	Ohio State University	Trinity College
California Lutheran University	Hawaii Pacific University	Oregon State University	Tufts University
California State University, All Campuses	Hawaii, University of, Manoa	Oregon, University of	Tulane University
Case Western Reserve Univ.	High Point University	Otis College of Art and Design	United States Air Force Academy
Central Florida, University of	Hofstra University	Pacific, University of the	University of California, All Campuses
Chapman University	Illinois, University of	Pacific Lutheran University	Utah, University of
Chicago, University of	Indiana University, Bloomington	Pennsylvania State University	Vanderbilt University
Clemson University	Iowa, University of	Pepperdine University	Vassar College
Colby College	Iteso University, Mexico	Pitzer College	Villanova University
Colby-Sawyer College	Ithaca College	Point Loma Nazarene University	Wake Forest University
College of Wooster	Johns Hopkins University	Portland, University of	Washington State University
Colorado College	Johnson and Wales University	Prescott College	Washington, University of
Colorado School of Mines	Kenyon College	Princeton University	Washington University, St. Louis
Colorado State University, Fort Collins	Laguna College of Art & Design	Puget Sound, University of	Wellesley College
Colorado, University of, Boulder	La Verne, University of	Purdue University	Western Washington University
Columbia College, Chicago	Lehigh University	Quinnipiac University	Westminster College
Columbia University	Les Roches School, Switzerland	Redlands, University of	Westmont College
Connecticut College	Lewis and Clark College	Reed College	Wheaton College
Cornell University	Linfield College	Regis College	Whitman College
Cornish College of the Arts	Long Island University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Whittier College
Creighton University	Loyola Marymount University	Rice University	Willamette University
	Loyola University, Chicago	Rochester Institute of Technology	Williams College
	Lynn University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Wisconsin, University of
	Macalester College		Xavier University
	Manchester Metropolitan		