



Think.
Question.
Create.

2025-2026 SCHOOL PROFILE

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ABOUT MARIN ACADEMY

Marin Academy is an independent, co-educational day school in San Rafael, California, just north of San Francisco, serving 450 students in grades 9–12. Founded in 1971 and guided by its mission, MA challenges students to think, question, and create with purpose in an environment of encouragement, compassion, and democratic values. Our college-preparatory program blends academic rigor with experiential learning, emphasizing inquiry, critical thinking, and self-discovery. We are committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community where students engage deeply—both in and beyond the classroom.

CURRICULUM & GRADING

At Marin Academy, students develop the intellectual and creative toolkit to live life fully and intentionally. Profound changes in the workplace and global society demand fluency in problem solving, collaboration, and citizenship. MA has identified five core competencies—grounded in research and real-world relevance—that guide teaching and learning across disciplines and experiences. Every facet of an MA education is designed to cultivate these skills, from the classroom to the community and beyond.

These school-wide competencies are:



INTELLECTUAL FLEXIBILITY



COMPELLING EXPRESSION



DEMONSTRATED EMPATHY



STRATEGIC BOLDNESS



IMAGINATIVE CURIOSITY

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

Access to standardized testing has been a challenge for students in the Bay Area in recent years. While Marin Academy now offers the SAT and ACT on campus for students who choose to test, we do not require or emphasize testing in the college process. Many students apply without scores, and we fully support test-optional pathways.

AP courses were discontinued in 2016 in favor of a curriculum designed to reflect MA's progressive educational philosophy.

Grading follows an unweighted A–F / 4.0 scale (no A+).

We do not rank students, weight grades, or offer academic awards.

Only courses taken at Marin Academy appear on the transcript and are included in the GPA.

Ninth graders begin with a gradeless first semester to support their transition to MA. During this period, they develop foundational skills aligned with the school's core competencies and receive strength based, growth-oriented feedback.

APPROACH TO COLLEGE COUNSELING

Marin Academy approaches the college process as an extension of each student's academic and personal journey. Grounded in ethical and student-centered practice, we support students through a reflective, inquiry-based process that prioritizes fit, well-being, and self-awareness. Beginning in 9th grade, we build relationships and offer developmentally appropriate programming to guide students and families through the evolving landscape of college admissions.

STUDENT BODY DEMOGRAPHICS

39%

Students of Color



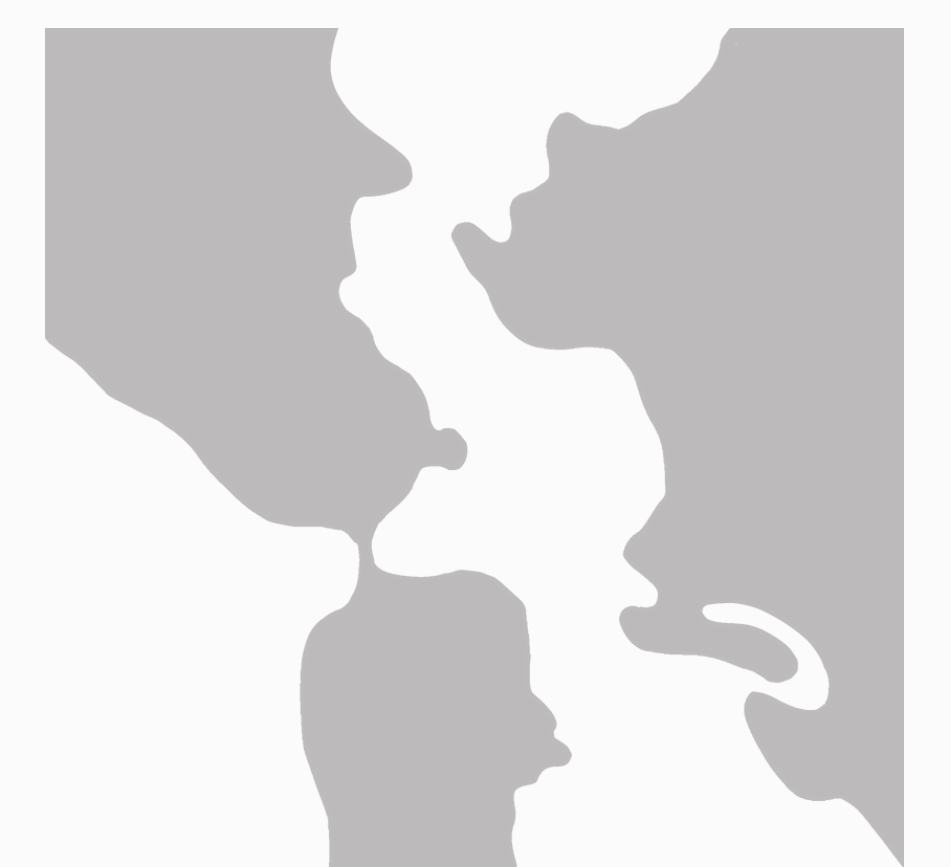
ADMISSION



3.71 - 3.95
Middle 50% GPA Range

21%

Receive Tuition Assistance



56 Zip Codes
88 Middle Schools

Marin Academy enrolls 450 students in grades 9–12 from across the Bay Area. Our community reflects a range of identities, experiences, and educational backgrounds.

2025-2026 COURSE OFFERINGS, PROGRESSION, AND REQUIREMENTS

A total of 23 credits are required for graduation. Of these, 19.5 credits must be earned through required courses or designated departmental electives; the remaining 3.5 credits may be chosen from any area. One credit is awarded for a year-long course that meets three times per six-day rotation.

English

Four years required. Students must be enrolled in an English course every semester. Required courses include English I (9th), English II (10th), and English III Honors (11th). Seniors take two semester-long upper-level English electives.

History

Three years required, including Modern World History I (9th), Modern World History II (10th), and United States History Honors (11th).

Language

Either three years of the same language to at least Level 3 or two years each of two different languages (four years total).

Advanced Courses



- All upper level (H) English electives
- All upper level (H) History electives

- (H) Spanish IV, V, VI
- (H) French IV, V, VI
- (H) Mandarin V
- (H) Spanish for Heritage Speakers V, IV

Advanced Courses



- (H) Advanced Calculus,
- (H) Multivariable Calculus
- (H) Data Science & Experimental Statistics
- (H) Advanced Chemistry
- (H) Advanced Biology
- (H) Advanced Physics with Calculus
- (H) MARC: Independent STEM Research I and II
- (H) MARC: Applied Genetics Research

Mathematics

Three years and completion of Algebra II required.

Science

Three years of lab science required, including Biology (9th), Chemistry (10th), and one year of Physics (Physics, Advanced Physics with Calculus, Astrophysics, or Electrical Engineering & Computer Science). Physics may be taken in 11th or 12th grade.

Ethnic Studies

One semester of Introduction to Ethnic Studies is required in the spring of 9th grade.

Human Development

Two semesters required—fall of 9th grade and spring of 10th grade

Physical Education

Students must earn at least 3.5 PE “points” by senior year. Points may be earned through athletics, outings, electives, Minicourse, independent study, or a combination of approved activities.

Visual & Performing Arts

Two years required

Advanced Courses:

Performing Arts: Advanced Bands, Dance IV, Theater Company

Visual Arts: All level IV classes (Drawing & Painting, Photography, Ceramics)

Signature Programs



Marin Academy Research Collaborative (MARC): A hands-on science research program with two tracks: a team-based genetics project and a two-year independent STEM investigation. Students work with scientists, engage in original inquiry, and may publish or present their work.

Transdisciplinary Leadership Program (TLP): A year-long senior course and practicum where students explore a complex social issue, collaborate with community partners, and design equity-centered solutions. The program builds leadership, empathy, and applied interdisciplinary skills through real-world engagement.

Advanced Bands: Student ensembles that compose and perform original music each semester.

Human Development TA: Juniors and seniors co-lead peer discussions on identity, relationships, and well-being.

BlendEd Consortium: Cross-campus electives offered through a Bay Area independent school partnership.

MORE PROGRAMS

Conference on Democracy

This annual, student-led event features speakers, panels, and workshops focused on civic engagement and democratic responsibility. It is rooted in MA's mission to challenge students to take ownership of their role in society.



Minicourse

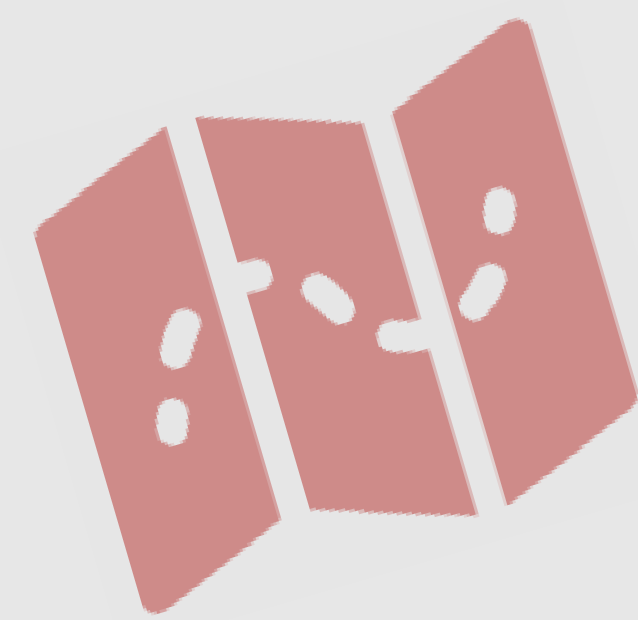
A spring week of immersive, off-campus learning that includes environmental education, service, creative projects, and hands-on exploration. Students gain perspective and skills through collaborative, real-world experiences.

Identity & Equity (IDEQ)

Student-led affinity and alliance groups that foster belonging, dialogue, and social justice work on campus. Leaders apply, train, and facilitate programming in partnership with faculty advisors.

Outings

Since 1972, MA students have engaged in outdoor education through trips like backpacking, kayaking, and snow camping. Outings promote ecological literacy, personal growth, and a sense of stewardship in California's natural landscapes.



This Profile was Designed By:

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COLLEGE MATRICULATION CLASSES OF 2023–2025

American University (3)
Bard College (1)
Barnard College (4)
Bates College (1)
Berklee College of Music (1)
Boston College (11)
Boston University (4)
Brown University (6)
Cal Poly - Pomona (1)
Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo (18)
Carnegie Mellon University (2)
Case Western Reserve University (3)
Chapman University (4)
Claremont McKenna College (1)
Colby College (3)
Colgate University (8)
College of Marin (1)
Colorado College (9)
Colorado School of Mines (1)
Columbia University (1)
Cornell University (2)
Cuesta College (1)
Dartmouth College (4)
Diablo Valley College (1)
Duke University (4)
Emory University (1)
Fordham University (1)
Georgetown University (4)
Hamilton College (2)
Indiana University (1)
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Kenyon College (2)
Lafayette College (1)

Lehigh University (1)
Loyola Marymount University (1)
Macalester College (2)
Middlebury College (7)
Montana State University (1)
New York University (8)
New York University - Shanghai (1)
Northeastern University (5)
Northwestern University (3)
Occidental College (3)
Oregon State University (2)
Pitzer College (2)
Polimoda (Italy) (1)
Pomona College (3)
Providence College (1)
Purdue University (1)
Rice University (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
San Diego State University (2)
San Francisco State University (1)
Santa Clara University (2)
Scripps College (4)
Smith College (1)
Southern Methodist University (1)
Stanford University (4)
Syracuse University (1)
Tufts University (7)
Tulane University (9)
University of British Columbia (3)
University of California - Berkeley (6)
University of California - Irvine (1)
University of California - Los Angeles (7)
University of California - Merced (1)

University of California - Riverside (1)
University of California - San Diego (2)
University of California - Santa Barbara (10)
University of California - Santa Cruz (3)
University of Chicago (4)
University of Colorado - Boulder (5)
University of Denver (3)
University of Hawaii - Manoa (1)
University of Miami (12)
University of Michigan (3)
University of Notre Dame (3)
University of Oregon (1)
University of Pennsylvania (2)
University of Puget Sound (1)
University of Richmond (1)
University of Rochester (1)
University of San Diego (1)
University of Southern California (16)
University of St. Andrews (Scotland) (2)
University of Virginia (2)
University of Washington (3)
University of Wisconsin (7)
Vanderbilt University (8)
Villanova University (4)
Wake Forest University (3)
Washington University in St. Louis (10)
Wesleyan University (4)
Wellesley College (2)
Western Washington University (1)
Whitman College (2)
Willamette University (1)
Williams College (2)
Yale University (1)