



SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

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San Mateo is a city of approximately 104,000 located 20 miles south of San Francisco. It is an extremely diverse community, crossing all socioeconomic and ethnic lines. San Mateo High School is one of seven schools in the San Mateo Union High School District. Current enrollment in grades 9-12 is approximately 1,560, with the class of 2026 at approximately 357. SMHS is one of six comprehensive high schools in San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHS), and the most ethnically and socio-economically diverse of the SMUHS schools. SMHS's ethnic distribution in 2025-2026 is as follows:

Hispanic/Latinx	755	48.4%	Filipino	63	4.0%	Native American	6	0.4%
Asian-American	393	25.2%	Pacific Islander	35	2.2%	Not Declared	18	1.2%
Caucasian	261	16.7%	African American	24	1.5%			

San Mateo High School is dedicated to combining academic excellence, community service and hands-on learning to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded college and career preparatory program for all its students. School and community pride are an integral part of the school environment, where families and alumni spend countless volunteer hours on campus. In addition, the SMHS SPED program contains 179 students.

Curriculum

SMHS students participate in a rigorous, standards-based curriculum as part of an academically challenging, college preparatory program. SMHS recommends students enroll in a 6-period day; however, students have the opportunity to take advantage of a 7- period day for support and enrichment courses. The class of 2026 graduation requirements are:

English	40 credits	Physical Education	20 credits	Health	5 credits
Social Science	35 credits	Career Tech. Ed.	10 credits	Electives	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits	World Language	10 credits		
Science	20 credits	VAPA	10 credits	Total	220 credits

The academic calendar is two semesters, 18 weeks each. SMUHS does not rank its students. The **Academic GPA** covers Grades 9-12 and is cumulative of all courses taken. This GPA is **weighted** according to the California Public University system (an additional point is added for University-certified AP and Honors courses; e.g. A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0). Mid-year reports include the 7th semester. The **Total GPA** is **unweighted** for Grades 9-12 and covers the same coursework.

Advanced Placement, Honors & Advanced Standing Courses

AP Biology	English 1 & 2 AS	AP Psychology
AP Calculus AB	AP Eng. Lang. & Composition	AP Spanish Lang. & Culture
AP Calculus BC	AP Eng. Lit. & Composition	AP Statistics
AP Chemistry	AP Environmental Science	AP Studio Art-Drawing, 2D & 3D
AP Chinese Language & Culture	AP French Lang. & Culture	AP U.S. Gov. & Politics
Chinese 4H, French 4H, Spanish 4H	AP Macroeconomics	AP U.S. History
AP Computer Science A	AP Physics	AP World History: Modern

AP/Honors Progression

In a typical course progression, SMHS students will have limited AP/Honors/AS access in 9th and 10th grade, with most courses available starting in 11th grade. SMHS encourages students to challenge themselves with rigorous courses to prepare for future interests and goals. For students aiming for the highest rigor, we recommend:

Freshman year – Maximum one AS class recommended in most situations
 Sophomore year – Maximum of 2 AS/Honors/AP classes recommended in most situations
 Junior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes
 Senior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes