



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

TOP RANKED

Ranked among the top 40 most influential private high schools in the U.S.
– Academic Influence

A

Overall grade, Niche.com

16

school, college and wellness counselors

1 OF 4

Catholic IB high schools in the state, only Catholic IB school in the county

228

Courses offered

16:1

student-teacher ratio; average class size of 23

62

performing and visual arts courses, plus an additional 44 courses within the TAPA Conservatory

40,602

hours of community service by students in one year with an economic impact over \$1.1 million.

*2024-2025 school year

88

CIF team championships and 259 league championships

TWELVE-TIME RECIPIENT

of the CIF-SS Commissioners Cup

91%

AP pass rate

AP HONOR ROLL

reflecting the school's commitment to advanced placement opportunities and student success.

2025-2026 SCHOOL PROFILE

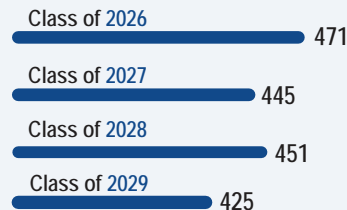
OVERVIEW

Founded in 1987 under the leadership of the Diocese of Orange, Santa Margarita Catholic High School offers a coeducational, college-preparatory education developing students who are people of faith, skilled lifelong learners, healthy individuals and involved citizens of the world. Santa Margarita provides a well-rounded educational experience known for the breadth and quality of its academic programs, innovative technology, student-centered classrooms, emphasis on service and social justice, nationally recognized athletic programs, award-winning arts programs and active student body. Centered in the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, students are called to live out the school's core principles of compassion, humility, justice and goodness.

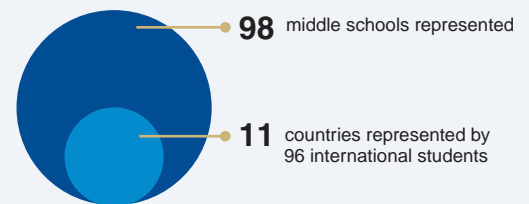
2025-2026 STUDENT BODY

- 46% Caucasian, 11% Asian/Pacific Islander, 8% Multiracial, 3% Hispanic/Latino, 1% Black/African American, 1% Native American/Alaskan Native, 30% Declined to state
- 49% male, 51% female
- 40% of Santa Margarita students receive tuition assistance/scholarships
- 95% U.S. citizen, 5% non-U.S. citizen

ENROLLMENT: 1,792



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



CURRICULUM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULE

- School year includes: 2 semesters comprised of approximately 18 weeks
- Modified Block Schedule: 75-minute periods four days a week and one all-periods day per week with 45-minute periods. Classes meet three times per week.
- All students must take seven courses per semester (9th-12th grade)

ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*Each semester class is 5 credits

Religion	4 years	40 credits
English	4 years	40 credits
Social Studies	3 years	30 credits
Science	3 years	30 credits
Mathematics	3 years	30 credits
World Languages	2 years	20 credits
Fine Arts	1 year	10 credits
Health	½ year	5 credits
Physical Education	1 year	10 credits
Electives	4 years	55 credits
TOTAL		270 credits

- Minimum GPA to graduate is 2.0
- First Honors: 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Second Honors: 3.5-3.99 (weighted)

GRADING SYSTEM

SMCHS is a non-ranking school

A 90-100 **C** 70-79 **F** 59 & below

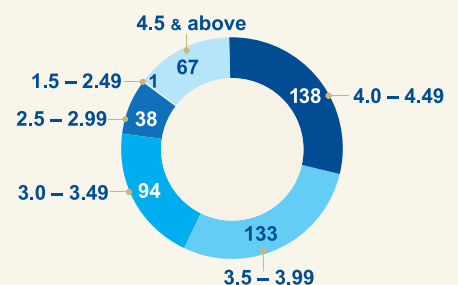
B 80-89 **D** 60-69

- Pluses and minuses do not affect GPA
- Honors/AP/IB receive an extra point for Cs and above
- Maximum number of credits for GPA calculation is 280
- All academic courses are counted on the transcripts with no exceptions
- Remediation is recommended for all Ds and required for all Fs
- SMCHS does not offer dual enrollment classes through online schools or community colleges. The transcript only includes courses taken at SMCHS or at other domestic high schools for transfer students.

CUMULATIVE ACADEMIC GPA DISTRIBUTION

Class of 2026 (after three years)

Maximum GPA possible after junior year (six semesters) is a 4.82



TESTING DATA & ADVANCED COURSES

AP TESTING (2025)

All SM students enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the corresponding AP exam. Students are not allowed to self-study for an additional exam and take it at SM (must enroll at a different location).

- 1,388 total exams were administered
306 exams received a score of 5 (26%)
550 exams received a score of 4 (40%)
366 exams received a score of 3 (22%)
- 305 AP Scholars (2025) – must earn a 3 or higher on at least 3 exams (10% nationwide receive this distinction)
- Total AP Courses Offered – 24 courses
- Total AP Enrollment – 694 students
- 51% of students in 10th-12th took at least one AP class in 2024-25

91% of exams taken received a 3 or higher

PASS RATE BY SUBJECT (2025)

SUBJECT	PASS RATE	STUDENTS
2-D Art & Design	100%	13
Art History	80%	10
Biology	89%	112
Calculus AB	78%	49
Calculus BC	94%	34
Chinese Lang/Culture	100%	21
Computer Science A	94%	17
Drawing	100%	8
English Lang & Comp	98%	166
English Lit & Comp	91%	105
Environmental Science	94%	139
European History	91%	63
French Language	100%	4
Macroeconomics	67%	94
Microeconomics	75%	56
Music Theory	40%	5
Physics 1	85%	67
Physics C	78%	9
Psychology	82%	142
Spanish Language	75%	32
Statistics	79%	38
US Government	100%	33
US History	97%	68
World History	92%	87

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	TOTAL
w/Distinction	96	91	69	63	319
w/Honors	85	64	61	40	250
Scholars	124	96	93	94	407

ACT SCORES – 97 students tested (23% of the Class of 2025)

CLASS OF 2025	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	** 1 perfect score, 6 perfect English scores, 2 perfect math scores, 14 perfect reading scores, and 3 perfect science scores
COMPOSITE	27*	26.6	19.4	

* 86th percentile nationally. 56% earned an ACT score in the 90th percentile.

SAT SCORES – 202 students tested (48% of the Class of 2025)

CLASS OF 2025	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	** 1 perfect score, 1 perfect English score, 5 perfect math scores
COMPOSITE	1266*	1086	1024	

* 85th percentile nationally. 47% earned a SAT score in the 90th percentile.

ADVANCED COURSES

- 115 higher-level courses offered – twice the number of any Catholic school in Orange County
- Enrollment contingent upon department approval, placement exams, grades and teacher recommendations
- All students enrolled must take the AP and IB Exam.
- 9th graders may not take any AP or IB classes
- 10th graders may only take AP World, AP Euro, AP Art History (no IB classes)
- 11th/12th graders are permitted to take IB and AP classes. The full IB Programme starts junior year.

ENGLISH (10 classes)

English 1 & 2H
English IB HL1 & HL2
AP English Language and Composition
AP Literature and Composition
Advanced Debate/Argumentation H
Journalism 1 H
Advanced Journalism H
Theory of Knowledge IB
(Two year class - offered only to Full IB Diploma students. For 11th grade, class is offered as 8th period. For 12th, 8th period option due to scheduling conflicts only.)

MATHEMATICS (13 classes)

Algebra 1 & 2 H
Geometry H
Precalculus H
Precalculus H AI IB
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Computer Science A
Math AI IB HL2
Mathematics IB AA SL
Mathematics IB AA HL1 & HL2

SCIENCE (14 classes)

Biology H
Chemistry H
AP Biology
AP Environmental Science

Science cont.

AP Physics 1
AP Physics C
Biology IB HL1 & HL2
Chemistry IB SL, HL1 & HL2*
Physics IB HL1 & HL2
Design Tech IB SL

SOCIAL STUDIES (18 classes)

Cultural Geography MUN H
World History MUN H
United States History MUN H
United States Government MUN H
Economics MUN H
AP European History
AP World History
AP U.S. History
AP Government/U.S. Politics
**AP Macroeconomics
**AP Microeconomics
Economics IB SL
Global Political IB SL MUN (only offered to Full IB seniors)
Business Mgmt IB HL 1 & 2
AP Psychology
AP Art History
Modern & Contemporary Art H
(*Each class is one semester. Students are required to take one AP exam but may choose to take both.)

WORLD LANGUAGES (30 Classes)

Spanish 1, 2, & 3H
AP Spanish Language
Spanish IB SL, HL1 & HL2
French 1, 2, 3, 4 H
AP French
French IB SL, HL1 & HL2
Latin 1, 2, & 3 H
Latin IB SL, HL1 & HL2
Ancient Greek 1, 2, & 3 H

World Languages cont.

Greek IB SL
Mandarin Chinese 1, 2, & 3 H
Mandarin Chinese IB SL
AP Chinese

THEOLOGY (2 classes)

Philosophy IB HL1 & HL2

VISUAL ARTS (10 classes)

Broadcast Journalism H
Screenwriting H
Advanced Painting H
Advanced Drawing H
AP Drawing
AP 2D Art & Design
Film IB HL1 & HL2
Visual Arts IB HL1 & HL2

PERFORMING ARTS (17 classes)

AP Music Theory (8th period class)
Advanced Women's Chorus H
Chamber Singers H
Dance Production H
Advanced Dance H
Dance IB HL1 & HL2
Steel Drum/Percussion Ensemble H
String Orchestra H
Wind Ensemble H
Music Group Performance IB SL
Music IB HL1 & HL2
Advanced Theater H
Theatre Arts IB, SL HL1 & HL2

OTHER

ASB Leadership H
(Class is required for the elected executive council, class representatives and appointed commissioners.)

NO LONGER OFFERING IN 2025-26

Bio IB SL
Math AI IB HL1
Environmentl Systems & Societies IB SL

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Finalists	TBD	2	2	5	3
Semifinalists	4	2	2	5	3
Commended	25	18	30	26	17

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

SMCHS is one of the four Catholic high schools in California to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP). The IB Diploma Program is a two-year academic program for 11th and 12th graders that attracts a diverse group of learners committed to challenging themselves with a highly rigorous curriculum that focuses on in-depth critical thinking, balanced perspectives, global-mindedness, and acquisition of knowledge to prepare them for their current and future learning. IB Diploma students may qualify for advanced standing and/or earn credits at many colleges and universities. IB Diploma and anticipated candidates (11th and 12th grade), in addition to their coursework of six IB classes, complete the core requirements:



- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** – a seminar course to apply thinking and inquiry across all subject areas to address the ideas of how we acquire knowledge and know what we know
- **Extended Essay (EE)** – a 4,000-word research paper based on a student chosen IB subject/topic centered on a student-generated inquiry/research question
- **Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)** – student chosen experiences on and off campus meant to encourage personal growth, engagement in the community, and self-reflection

UNIQUE IB PROGRAMME FEATURES AT SMCHS INCLUDE:

- IB students are often co-enrolled in AP courses and sit for both the IB and AP exams
- Non-IB students can take IB classes as Course Candidates
- IB Philosophy replaces the SMCHS requirement for Religion 3 and 4

SMCHS International Baccalaureate Programme

- 33 – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2025 (8% of the Class)
- 20 – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2026 (4% of the class)
- 194 – IB Course Candidates, Classes of 2025 and 2026

Spring 2025 Testing Statistics and Results:

Class of 2025 and 2026:

- 33 – IB Diploma Candidates (94%) earned an IB Diploma (*world average 81.3%*)
- 30 – Points (out of 45) was the average score with the overall average grade of 4.3 (out of 7) for each exam.

- 597 – Total Exams Taken
- 250 – Students Tested
- 80% – Pass Rate Across All Subject Areas

SUBJECT	STUDENTS	PASS RATE
English HL	55	98%
Chinese SL	8	88%
French SL	10	60%
Latin SL	8	63%
Spanish HL	2	100%
Spanish SL	24	92%
Business Management HL	79	66%
Economics SL	17	65%
Global Politics SL	26	92%
Philosophy HL	144	82%
Enviro Sys & Soc SL	2	100%
Biology HL	11	91%
Biology SL	9	79%
Chemistry SL	39	67%
Design Tech SL	20	30%
Physics HL	11	91%
Math AA HL	14	100%
Math AA SL	11	82%
Math AI HL	15	40%
Math AI SL	2	50%
Dance HL	3	100%
Film HL	9	56%
Theater HL	5	80%
Theater SL	3	67%
Extended Essay	35	97%
Theory of Knowledge	35	100%

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



SERVICE LEARNING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

In the living out the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, SMCHS Campus Ministry offers its students a robust service learning program throughout all four years. Freshmen and sophomores participate in class service projects, uniquely designed within the theology curriculum to serve an underserved or vulnerable population. Sophomores partner with Second Harvest Food Bank and serve in a variety of capacities to the Orange County community. Juniors and seniors are given the freedom to complete their projects by participating in direct service work with a number of approved nonprofits in areas and issues they are interested in. Christian Service at SMCHS is integral in forming young women and men in our school's charism. Completion of grade-level service projects is a graduation requirement.



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Over 90% of SMCHS students participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities, giving ample opportunities to develop leadership and management skills. Leadership roles include Peer Ministry, Associated Student Body, Link Crew, Student Ambassadors and team managers.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS Santa Margarita's award-winning Model United Nations program combines rigorous academics with high-level competition, preparing students to think critically, speak persuasively, and lead with confidence on a global stage. Integrated into our honors social studies curriculum and expanded through international conferences, MUN develops advanced skills in diplomacy, negotiation and collaboration. Since 2000, our delegates have earned 11,144 individual awards and 117 delegation awards, reflecting a legacy of excellence and leadership in global affairs.



ROBOTICS/ENGINEERING The school's award-winning robotics teams "SMbly Required" and "SMbled" function like a startup with students learning problem-solving, CAD modeling, CAM, marketing and project management. Students design, build, program, test and compete with competition-ready robots in the FIRST Robotics Competition program.



ARTS Visual and performing arts classes provide diverse opportunities for students to learn and express their artistic talents. Through regional and national competitions, international performances, and award-winning productions, SMCHS students share their talents with the community. The Talon Academy of Performing Arts offers an after school conservatory program.



ATHLETICS Since the school opened over 36 years ago, SMCHS has earned more championships than any other school in Southern California with 16 state championships, 88 CIF championships, and 259 league championships. SMCHS offers 26 CIF and 7 club programs.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY As one of 34 Microsoft Showcase Schools in the nation, SMCHS is a leader in utilizing technology to create collaborative, student-centered classrooms to improve learning outcomes. Building on this, our AI and media-literacy program pairs an updated, values-aligned AI policy with classroom tools designed for privacy and safety, preparing students to use AI responsibly for learning, creativity, and real-world problem solving.



AUXILIARY STUDIES PROGRAM The school's ASP department offers a comprehensive fee-based support program giving students with diagnosed learning differences the tools to succeed alongside their non-learning disabled peers.



EAGLE ONLINE ACADEMY SMCHS offers a fully asynchronous online school with over 70 UC Approved classes created and taught by Santa Margarita teachers. Online students have the opportunity to participate in all school activities such as athletics, theater, campus ministry and student government with access to SMCHS support services.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NHS membership at SMCHS is highly selective. Juniors and seniors must demonstrate how their actions meet the four NHS pillars of scholarship, character, service and leadership along with a GPA requirement of 3.5. Only 15% of each class earns this distinction.



MEDIA Students produce a daily news broadcast show (Eagle Television), a news website (SMCHSEagleEye.com), and the award-winning Eagle Eye student newspaper. Using state-of-the-art production equipment, ETV students edit, film, write and produce content. Eagle Eye students have the opportunity to attend national journalism conferences.



WELLNESS SMCHS offers a comprehensive student support program comprised of mental health education, training, resources, and referrals to meet the challenges of adolescence. Four wellness counselors offer on-campus resources.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST - CLASS OF 2025

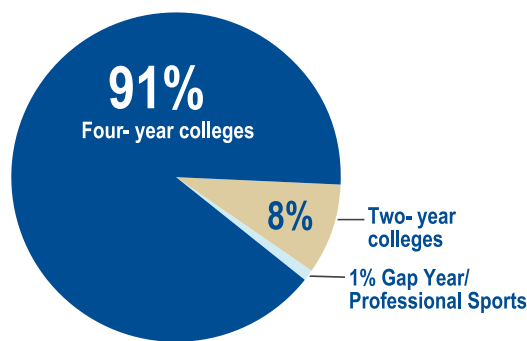
This is the complete matriculation list, with the number of students attending for the class of 2025. For our complete list of college acceptances and matriculation for the past 5 years, please visit: www.smhs.org/collegeplacement or scan the QR code.



Arizona Christian University 1	Emory University 1	Santa Clara University 2	University of Idaho 1
Arizona State University 2	Florida Institute of Technology 1	Santa Monica College 1	University of Illinois at Chicago 1
Art Center College of Design 2	Florida International University 1	Seattle University 1	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1
Auburn University 1	Florida State University 1	Seton Hall University 2	University of Iowa 1
Babson College 1	George Washington University 1	Smith College 1	University of Kansas 1
Belmont University 1	Grand Canyon University 2	Southern Methodist University 8	University of Massachusetts-Amherst 1
Benedictine College 1	Harvard University 3	St. Mary's University 1	University of Michigan 3
Biola University 1	Hawai'i Pacific University 1	St. Edward's University 1	University of Mississippi 8
Boise State University 6	High Point University 1	St. George's University 1	University of Missouri 3
Boston College 1	Indiana University 7	Stanford University 2	University of Mount Olive 1
Boston University 7	Irvine Valley College 3	Swarthmore College 1	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1
Brandeis University 1	Johns Hopkins University 1	Syracuse University 2	University of Notre Dame 7
Brigham Young University 1	Lewis & Clark College 1	Texas A&M University 3	University of Oklahoma 5
Brown University 1	Loyola Marymount University 5	Texas Christian University 16	University of Oregon 3
Bucknell University 1	Loyola University Chicago 1	Texas State University 1	University of Pennsylvania 1
California Baptist University 1	Manhattan University 2	The Ohio State University 2	University of Pittsburgh 1
California Lutheran University 1	Michigan State University 1	The University of Alabama 6	University of Redlands 1
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 10	Molloy University 1	The University of Tennessee 3	University of Richmond 2
CSU Chico 2	Montana State University 1	The University of Texas at Austin 1	University of San Diego 9
CSU Dominguez Hills 1	New Mexico Military Institute 1	Trinity College Dublin 1	University of San Francisco 1
CSU Fullerton 5	New York University 5	United States Military Academy at West Point 1	University of South Carolina 2
CSU Long Beach 2	Northeastern University 2	United States Naval Academy 2	University of Southern California 7
CSU Monterey Bay 2	Northeastern University London 1	University College London 1	University of St. Andrews 2
CSU San Marcos 1	Northern Arizona University 1	University of Arizona 6	University of the Pacific 2
Carnegie Mellon University 1	Northwestern University 1	University of Arkansas 1	University of Utah 26
Central Michigan University 1	Orange Coast College 4	University of Austin 1	University of Washington 3
Chapman University 10	Oregon State University 2	UC Berkeley 8	University of Wisconsin 1
Claremont McKenna College 1	Otis College of Art and Design 1	UC Davis 5	University of Wisconsin-Stout 1
Clemson University 3	Penn State University 1	UC Irvine 5	Utah State University 1
Colorado School of Mines 1	Pepperdine University 1	UCLA 10	Vanguard University 1
Columbia University 2	Point Loma Nazarene University 2	UC Riverside 3	Villanova University 1
Concordia University 3	Pratt Institute 1	UC San Diego 5	Wake Forest University 1
Cornell University 1	Purdue University 2	UC Santa Barbara 3	Washington State University 1
Creighton University 1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 1	University of Central Florida 1	Wellesley College 1
Culinary Arts Academy Switzerland 1	Rutgers University 1	University of Chicago 1	Westminster University 1
Duquesne University 1	Saddleback College 31	University of Cincinnati 1	Westmont College 2
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach) 1	Salisbury University 1	University of Colorado Boulder 2	Whittier College 2
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott) 3	Samford University 1	University of Georgia 2	
	San Diego State University 8	University of Hawaii at Manoa 1	
	Santa Barbara City College 2		

COLLEGE STATISTICS: CLASS OF 2025

- 418 students in the class of 2025
- 99 percent attending college
- 167 colleges and universities attended
- 100 percent college acceptance for students applying
- 420 colleges and universities applied to
- 4,235 college applications
- 2,470 college acceptances
- 58 percent total acceptance rate
- 100 percent acceptance rate at 243 schools
- 3 students serving at a military academy
- 75 recruited college student-athletes



COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

37 U.S. states, 6 International countries



PUBLIC vs PRIVATE



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J. Andrew Sulick '91 Fr. Matthew Maxwell Cheri L. Wood
President Rector Principal

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT: (949) 766-6010

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Each student is assigned a college counselor during December of their junior year to guide and support each student through their college preparatory and application process.

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Mrs. Melissa Fosdick fosdickm@smhs.org

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

Mrs. Christa Crafts craftsc@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS OF COLLEGE COUNSELING:

Ms. Rachel Kim kimr@smhs.org
Ms. Megan Oliver olivorm@smhs.org
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS (Athletics)

Mr. Mike Hiserman hisermanm@smhs.org

COLLEGE ESSAY SPECIALIST/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McKenna Sulick sulickm@smhs.org

REGISTRAR

Mrs. Roza McCartan mccartanr@smhs.org

SCHOOL COUNSELING & WELLNESS:

Seven school counselors advise, support, and encourage our students academically and personally throughout their four years at SM. Our four wellness counselors provide additional support upon request as well as offer a robust educational program for families.