Kirby School Profile

Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School
425 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 423-0658

2025
2026

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Kirby is an intentionally small, courageously different 6–12 grade independent school in Santa Cruz, California. We serve intellectually curious students who crave meaning, ask big questions, and thrive in learning environments grounded in trust.

At Kirby, rigor and belonging are not opposites—they are partners in growth. Students are challenged with purpose, supported with care, and known not just by their names, but by their hearts.

MISSION STATEMENT

Kirby empowers students to shape their futures with confidence. Students in our diverse community learn to think critically, develop their creativity, and achieve with thoughtfulness and respect.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Kirby offers a college-preparatory curriculum rooted in academic depth, creative inquiry, and relational teaching. Students engage in discussion-rich seminars, interdisciplinary projects, and advanced coursework in the humanities, STEM, arts, and world languages.

- Honors and AP courses are available across disciplines.
- A range of electives and advanced seminars deepen inquiry and stretch students intellectually.
- Arts and athletics are integrated into the student experience, supporting whole-person growth.

CEEB Code: 053290

Accreditation:
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Founded: 1994

Grades: 6–12

Enrollment (2025–26): 119
Middle School: 34
High School: 85

Average Class Size: 12

Student–Faculty Ratio: 7:1

Tuition Assistance:
50% of students receive assistance totaling $1.6 million

Christy Hutton
Head of School
chutton@kirby.org

Dot Kowal
College Counselor
dkowal@kirby.org

Rick Fitzgerald
Academic Dean
rfitzgerald@kirby.org

KIRBY
SCHOOL

Pathways

Kirby offers four elective Intensive Paths for high school students to pursue in-depth study in a specific field. Each student receives ongoing mentorship from a faculty advisor. Students design, complete and present a final capstone project. Students can combine portions of two paths for an individualized area of deeper inquisition. Intensive Path units must be completed at Kirby.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE PATH (STIP)

STIP provides a program in intensive study of science, math, and/or computer sciences. STIP students' coursework includes four years of laboratory science, four years of mathematics, and a research project or internship.

HUMANITIES INTENSIVE PATH (HIP)

HIP enables students who are passionate about history, writing, and/or literature to explore those areas in depth. HIP coursework includes five years of history or English and culminates in a focused senior project.

LANGUAGES INTENSIVE PATH (LIP)

LIP offers students intensive study of world languages and cultures. LIP students use their elective options for focused study in world cultures, including four years of one world language and two additional years in a second language.

ARTS INTENSIVE PATH (AIP)

AIP emphasizes the study of fine or performing arts. AIP students choose a general arts program or concentrated study in a specific discipline, culminating in project preformed senior year.

KIRBY COURSE OFFERINGS:

ENGLISH

English 9, English 10
English 11 (22–23, 23–24)
English 12 (22–23, 23–24)
Banned Books (24–25)
Creative Writing (24–25)
Fear Itself (25–26)
Hist/Lit/Art: Latin America (24–25)
Hist/Lit/Art: South Africa (25–26)
Personal Narratives (25–26)
Queer Voices in Literature (25–26)
AP English Literature & Composition

HISTORY

History 9, History 10
Honors History 10
US History
Honors US History Practicum (22–23, 23–24, 24–25)
Government Cabinet
Macroeconomics (22–23)
AP Comparative Government (22–23, 24–25)
AP US Government (23–24, 25–26)

SCIENCE

Biology
Chemistry
Human Biology (23–24, 25–26)
Marine Biology (23–24, 25–26)
Physics (22–23, 24–25)
Honors Advanced Biology (22–23, 23–24, 25–26)
Honors Advanced Chemistry (22–23, 24–25)
Honors Environmental Science (22–23, 24–25)
Honors Physics (22–23, 23–24, 24–25)
AP Physics (22–23, 23–24, 25–26)

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Data and Computer Science (25–26)
Engineering & Design Thinking (23–24, 24–25)
Intro to Programming (22–23)
Introduction to Quantum Computation (22–23)
Introduction to Robotics (24–25, 25–26)
Music Technology: Recording (22–23)
Music Technology: Mixing (22–23)
Yearbook
AP Computer Science Principles (23–24, 24–25)

MATH

Algebra 1, Algebra 2
Geometry
Pre-Calculus (22–23, 23–24, 24–25)
Financial Mathematics (22–23, 23–24, 24–25)
Number Theory (24–25)
Honors Pre-Calculus (25–26)
Honors Calculus (25–26)
Honors Linear Algebra (22–23, 23–24, 25–26)
Honors Differential Equations (22–23, 25–26)
Honors Multivariable Calculus (24–25)
AP Calculus BC (22–23, 23–24, 24–25)
AP Statistics (22–23, 23–24, 25–26)

ADVANCED COURSES OFFERED INCLUDE:

AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, AP U.S. Government, AP Comparative Government, AP Music Theory, AP Computer Science, Honors: Biology, Chemistry, Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, Environmental Science, Literature and Art of South Africa, History Research Practicum

GRADING SYSTEM

GPA Scale & Weighting

Grades are calculated on a 4.0 scale. The weighted GPA includes an addition point (1.0) for each credit eared in an Honors or AP course. In keeping with our educational mission and values, we do not calculate 9th grade grades in the cumulative GPA. Courses taken outside of Kirby are not calculated into a student's cumulative GPA.

GRADE	RANGE	NUMERIC EQUIV.	GPA EQUIV 1	WT'D AP/ HONORS	GPA EQUIV 2
A+	96.5-100	97	4.3	5.3	4
A	92.5-96.49	93	4	5	4
A-	89.5-92.49	90	3.7	4.7	3.7
B+	86.5-89.49	87	3.3	4.3	3.3
B	82.5-86.49	83	3	4	3
B-	79.5-82.49	80	2.7	3.7	2.7
C+	76.5-79.49	77	2.3	3.3	2.3
C	72.5-76.49	73	2	3	2
C-	69.5-72.49	70	1.7	2.7	1.7
D+	66.5-69.49	67	1.3	2.3	1.3
D	59.5-66.49	60	1	2	1
F	0.1-59.49	0	0	0	0

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Kirby graduates are intellectually diverse, emotionally grounded, and uniquely prepared. They enroll in a wide range of institutions that match their interests, strengths, and aspirations.

COURSE OFFERINGS CONT.:

LANGUAGES

American Sign Language 1
American Sign Language 2
American Sign Language 3
American Sign Language 4
Spanish 1 (22-23, 24-25, 25-26)
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Honors Spanish: Advanced Conversation & Literature (23-24, 25-26)
Honors Spanish: Latin American Film and Culture (22-23, 24-25)
Latin 1
Latin 2
Latin 3 (22-23, 23-24, 24-25)
Ancient Greek (22-23)
Honors Advanced Latin Literature (24-25)
Honors Latin: Vergil's Aeneid (23-24, 25-26)

VISUAL ARTS

Art 1: Foundation
Art 2: Intermediate 2-D Art
Art 3: Portfolio Preparation
Art 4: Portfolio Preparation (23-24)
Book Arts 1 (22-23, 24-25)
Digital Photography (24-25, 25-26)
Darkroom Photography (24-25, 25-26)
Photography 1 (22-23, 23-24)
Honors Art History (25-26)
Honors Studio Art (25-26)

PERFORMING ARTS

Intro to Drama
Advanced Drama
Theater Tech A (24-25)
Theater Tech B (24-25)
Dance Company (22-23)
String Methods
Chamber Orchestra (24-25, 25-26)
Instrument Ensemble (23-24)
Orchestra (22-23)
Jazz Ensemble
Concert Choir (22-23)
Chamber Choir
Digital Music Production: Mixing (23-24, 25-26)
Digital Music Production: Recording (23-24, 25-26)
Jazz Choir
Music Theory (22-23)
AP Music Theory (23-24, 24-25)

FITNESS, WELLNESS & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Health & Wellness A (22-23)
Health & Wellness B (22-23)
Health & Wellness (23-24, 24-25, 25-26)
High School Fitness
Contract Fitness
Psychology (22-23, 23-24)

Kirby graduates have been accepted to the following colleges in the past 6 years:

KIRBY SCHOOL

American University
Arizona State University
Art Center College of Design
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Beloit College
Bennington College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Cabrillo College (Honors)
California College of the Arts
Cal Poly, Humboldt
Cal Poly, Pomona
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Cal State Chico
Cal State East Bay
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State Monterey Bay
Cal State Sacramento
Cal State San Jose
Cal State Sonoma
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clark University
Champlain College
Chapman College
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Clarkson College
Colby College
Colgate University
College of the Atlantic
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Cornell University
Delft University of Technology
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Durhan University
Earlham College
Emerson College
Evergreen State College
Fordham University
Georgia Institute of Technology
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Hampshire College
Harvey Mudd College
Hawaii Pacific University
Ithaca Colllege
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
Kenyon College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Long Beach State University
Long Island University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Manhattan College
Marist College
McGill University
Menlo College
Miami of Ohio University
Michigan State University
Mills College
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
NHL Stenden, Netherlands
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art & Design
Pace University
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Parsons School of Design
Penn State University
Pitzer College
Portland State (Honors)
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University
Queensland College, Australia
Reed College
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Royal Veterinary College, England
Rutgers University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Arts and Design
School of Visual Arts
Scripps College
Seattle University
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Southern Oregon University
St. Olaf College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stanford University
SUNY at Albany
SUNY at Geneseo
SUNY at Purchase
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The New School
The Ohio State University
Trinity College, Ireland
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia, Canada
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh, Scotland
University of Exeter
University of Hawaii, Manoa
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada
University of Nottingham
University of Oregon (Honors)
University of the Pacific
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Wales
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews, Scotland
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Victoria, Canada
University of Washington, Seattle
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Wagner College
Warren Wilson College
Warrick University
Washington University, St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
William & Mary
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
Virginia Tech