



El Diamante High School Profile

Niels Burgess (Principal), 5100 W. Whitendale Avenue, Visalia CA 93277, (559) 735-3501

CEEB code: 053699 / <https://eldiamante.vusd.org/> / A-G List <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/2483>

Assistant Principals

- Cuca Atherton —Assistant Principal of Student Supervision & Attendance
- Melissa Garcia — Assistant Principal of Student Services
- Nancy Nauman —Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction
- Tim Elms — Assistant Principal of Student Intervention
- Morgan Taylor —Assistant Principal of Student Engagement

Mission- Every student engaged every day in high quality, challenging, and meaningful learning experiences in a safe, supportive, and connected environment.

Vision- El Diamante High School guarantees that every student will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to excel and be empowered to pursue a limitless future, elevating our community.

Student Services Staff

- **Melissa Garcia** – Assistant Principal, Student Services, (559)735-3518 mgarcia02@vusd.org
- **Lydia Borquez**- 12th Grade Counselor (last names G-Z), (559)735-3502 lbtorquez@vusd.org
- **Jennifer Kirkman** – 12th Grade Counselor (last names A-F), 11th grade (last names Q-Z), (559)735-3503, jkirkman@vusd.org
- **Irene Davis**- 11th Grade Counselor (last names A-P), (559)735-3513 idavis@vusd.org
- **Vianna Flores**- 10th Grade Counselor (last names N-Z), 9th Grade (last names Q-Z) (559)735-3509, vflores01@vusd.org
- **Emily Koop**- 9th Grade Counselor (last name A-P), (559)735-3567 ekoop01@vusd.org
- **DeShonda Williams**- 10th Grade Counselor (last name A-P), (559)622-3228 dwilliams04@vusd.org
- **Shana Flores** - Registrar (559)735-3514 sflores@vusd.org
- **Tanisha Baldwin** - Administrative Assistant, (559)735-3532, tbaldwin@vusd.org
- **Zulema Velazquez** - Counseling Assistant, (559)735-3523, zvelazquez@vusd.org

List of Awards/Recognitions

- Silver Medalist (2022) – U.S. News & World Report: The school earned a Silver Medal in the 2022 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, reflecting its commitment to academic excellence
- California Distinguished School (2013): El Diamante High School was recognized as a California Distinguished School in 2013, highlighting its exemplary educational programs and practices.
- State Championship in Esports (2023): El Diamante's Esports team secured the Smash Bros. Ultimate State Championship, showcasing the school's strength in competitive gaming.
- Advancement Via Individual Determination Schoolwide Site of Distinction (2025)- The AVID program earned this statewide certification due to its full implementation of the AVID program with high fidelity and its demonstration of its schoolwide impact.
- State Champion in Wrestling (2024): Chris Creason was crowned State Champion in wrestling, highlighting the school's prowess in the sport.
- Cheerleading Recognition(2023 and 2024): In 2023, they secured the Central Section Division III traditional competitive cheerleading championship. Their excellence continued in 2024, when they repeated as champions in the same category
- National Student Production Awards(2023): Students from the Media Arts Academy have been recognized by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for outstanding achievement in video production, showcasing excellence in media arts.
- Publications and Digital Media Excellence(2023): The school's publications and digital media programs have received accolades, including the 2023 Award of Excellence and Honorable Mention in various categories, underscoring the quality of student-produced content.
- Academic Decathlon Champions (2018-2021): El Diamante High School secured the Academic Decathlon Championship for three consecutive years, showcasing its students' prowess in a wide range of academic subjects.
- California Scholarship Federation, Seymour Award Recipient (2025): Jillian Fifield from El Diamante High School was honored with the 2024-2025 Seymour Award for the Central Region for her outstanding scholastic achievement, character, and Service.
- California FFA State President (2018) and Sentinel (2023)- Matt Rosa made history in 2018 by being elected as the California State FFA President, becoming the first student from Visalia to hold this prestigious position and Thomas Rosa, in 2023, was elected as the California State FFA Sentinel, a role that involves representing and leading over 100,000 FFA members across the state.
- 70% of seniors met the A-G requirements (2023)- Met the necessary requirements for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. This figure is notably higher than the statewide average, which was approximately 50% during the same period.

El Diamante At a Glance

Total Enrollment	1800 (grades 9-12)
Graduating Class Size (2025)	426
Graduation Rate (2025)	97%
Pursuing Higher Education	30% 4-year 62% 2-year 8% Military/Workforce
A-G (College Requirements Met)	65%
Reading /Literacy Proficiency	75%
Minority Enrollment	81%
Economically Disadvantaged	58%
Students with Disabilities	14%

Community and Context

El Diamante High School is part of the Visalia Unified School District, serving a diverse community in California's Central Valley. The student population reflects the rich cultural and socioeconomic diversity of the area, with a majority Hispanic/Latino enrollment and many first-generation college-bound students. Visalia's economy is rooted in agriculture, healthcare, and small business, shaping opportunities for students. El Diamante provides rigorous academics, career technical education (CTE) pathways, and college readiness programs.

- City: Visalia, California (Population =146,000)
- Median Household Income: = \$80,000
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Around 24.6% of the adult population holds a bachelor's degree or higher
- Language Spoken at Home: 47% of households speak a language other than English (mostly Spanish)
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 52.7%
- White alone (Non-Hispanic): 36–39%
- Asian: 5.4–6.5%
- Black or African American: 2.2–2.6%
- American Indian / Alaska Native: 1.2–2.0%
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander: 0.05–0.15%
- Other Race: 3%

Graduation Requirements

220 units of credit	5 credits per semester		
English	40	Math	20
Science	20	Social Science	30
Fine Arts/ Foreign Language	10	PE/Health Science	25
Electives	75		

Curriculum & Course Offerings

El Diamante offers a full range of courses including Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment partnerships with College of the Sequoias, and Career Technical Education pathways.

- 11 Advanced Placement courses available with 664 students participating.
- 8 Honors classes offered with 438 students participating.
- 12 Dual Enrollment courses in grades 10, 11, and 12, in partnership with College of the Sequoias, Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno with 257 students participating
- Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Media Arts, STRONG academy, Ag Mechanics, Ag Horticulture, Automotive, Certified Nursing, Medical Assistant and Culinary Arts with 703 students participating in Academies

Class Periods: Six periods daily on Mondays; Tuesday-Friday uses an odd/even block schedule with 3 periods each day.

Some pathways offer a 4th-year course for more advanced study (for example, in Ag Mechanics and Ag Technology).

67% of AP testers scored 3 or higher.

Course Details

- Freshman Honors grades are unweighted
- Freshmen are unable to take AP Courses.
- Incoming Freshman student placement in Honors English or Math are reviewed based on CAASPP scores, teacher recommendation and prior subject matter grades.
- Sophomore to Senior students are evaluated for Honors and AP level courses based upon grades, testing and recommendation.
 - Students with prior Honors/AP coursework must have a C or better in the prior year subject matter honors course and teacher recommendations.
 - Students wanting to enter the Honors/AP courses are reviewed based on testing courses, prior course subject grades and teacher recommendation.
- Dual Enrollment History Courses: Students must have a 3.00 GPA with teacher recommendation.
- Dual Enrollment/Concurrent Enrollment: Students wanting to enroll must meet the college course requirements and have a 3.00 or higher.

Rigor and Grading

El Diamante High School provides a rigorous academic program designed to prepare students for college and career success. The school offers a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and Dual Enrollment courses in partnership with College of the Sequoias, Fresno City College, and Fresno State University. El Diamante uses a weighted grading system.

- Visalia Unified School District awards a weighted grade point (A = 5.0, B = 4.0, C = 3.0) for these classes. These additional grade points may boost a student's GPA. The degree to which colleges and universities accept these enhanced grades varies by institution.
- Every 1 unit of college coursework equals 3.3 high school credits. Earned credits will be rounded up or down and capped at 10 units for any one course. Therefore, 1 college unit equals 3 high school credits, 2 equals 7, and 3 or more will equal 10.
- College courses that generally align with the high school graduation requirement courses may be transferred in to meet a graduation requirement but pre-approval must be received. There will be an updated approved COS course list forthcoming. All other coursework added to the high school transcript will go toward high school elective credit.
- Weighted GPA: AP and Dual Enrollment courses receive an additional grade point. 5 Honors courses receive an additional grade point.
- ACT & SAT are not required for admission to University of California University and California State University admissions.

Class Rank

Seniors are ranked numerically, according to their weighted grade point averages, at the end of their junior year. All courses with a letter grade of A-F are counted. Total class enrollment is included in computing class rank.

College Matriculation (Recent Graduates)

- University of California: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Los Angeles,
- California State Universities: Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Sacramento, San Diego, Northridge,
- Stanford University, University of Southern California, Arizona State, Baylor University, University of Oregon

Honors and Recognition

Class of 2025/Seniors (426)	Number of students	%
FAFSA/Dream Act	289	67.95%
College & Career Readiness	245	57.48%
Biliteracy Seal	92	21.60%
CSF Lifetime	68	15.96%
Civic Engagement	50	11.73%
Golden State Merit	153	35.92%
AVID	46	10.80%

School Culture

El Diamante offered 46 clubs that gave students opportunities to explore interests, build skills, and connect with peers outside the classroom. There were 1,163 participants. There were 655 students that participated in athletics at El Diamante in 2024. El Diamante athletics helped many students stay motivated and connected to their education. It encouraged attendance and positive behavior. It offered a constructive outlet outside of academics.

