



Carnegie Vanguard High School

for the Gifted and Talented

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A Top High School in the US

CEEB Code: 443541

CARNegie VANGUARD AND MISSION

Carnegie Vanguard High School was established in the fall of 2002 as the successor to the highly successful school-within-a-school Vanguard program at Jesse H. Jones Senior High which was created in 1977. Today Carnegie is the only Vanguard high school in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) with 100% of the students identified as gifted and talented in academics. The mission of Carnegie Vanguard High School is to provide a unique and challenging learning environment to prepare the diverse gifted and talented students of HISD for leadership in a global society.

STUDENT BODY

Carnegie Vanguard's students seek academic excellence in a community that values diversity, acceptance, and close relationships with faculty. Our 905 current students come from every area of the Houston Independent School District. Carnegie Vanguard's overall federal race and ethnicity demographic breakdown is as follows:

• Asian	33%
• Hispanic or Latino	32%
• White	16%
• Black or African American	10%
• Two or more Race Categories	9%
• American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
• Other or Unspecified	0%

During the 2026-2027 school year, about 35% of students at Carnegie Vanguard will be eligible for free/reduced lunch programs.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

- 100% acceptance at 4-year colleges or universities
- 95% matriculate at 4-year colleges or universities
- 5% matriculate at 2-year colleges (honors programs)
- 30% matriculate at out-of-state colleges
- 1% matriculate abroad

NATIONAL RANKINGS

- **US News and World Report:** #25 in National Rankings; #2 in Texas High Schools; #1 in Houston, TX Metro Area High Schools; #1 in Houston Independent School District High Schools
- **Niche!:** #1 in Best College Prep High Schools in Texas ; #4 in Best Public High School in Texas; #14 in Best High Schools for STEM in Texas; #1 in Best Public High Schools in Houston Area

GRADING SYSTEM AND STUDENT RANKING

All students have a rank published on their final senior transcript; however, Carnegie Vanguard only publishes ranks on preliminary transcripts for those students who are in the top 10% of their class. A student's grade point average is computed on a 4.0 weighted scale. The theoretical maximum GPA is above 4.9 on a 4.0 weighted scale, reflecting the number of required unweighted regular courses as well as HISD Advanced, AP, and Honors courses, which carry an additional grade point.

The cumulative GPA includes all courses except high school courses taken in middle school. For the class of 2026, the highest GPA score was 4.9434 on a 4.0 weighted scale and the mean GPA score was 4.0962 on a 4.0 weighted scale.

Letter grades and grade points are assigned as shown below:

Grade-Point Assignment

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	AP, Honors, and HISD Advanced Courses	On-Level and Regular Courses
A	90 – 100	5	4
B	80 – 89	4	3
C	75 – 79	3	2
D	70 – 74	2	1
F	Below 70	0	0

CURRICULUM

Carnegie Vanguard offers only HISD Advanced (HADV), Pre-AP, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as Honors elective courses in core subject areas. The curriculum for every course is above and beyond state and district standards. Each Carnegie Vanguard student generally takes at least 10 AP courses before graduation including the following: AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature, AP Physics 1, AP Capstone (Seminar and Research), AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP US History, AP Macroeconomics, AP US Government and Politics, and others. The highest level of math classes offered are Discrete Math, Statistics 2, and Post-Calculus Applications.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 26 credits are required for graduation under the Distinguished Level of Achievement plan. Required credits include:

- 4 credits of English that include AP English Language and AP English Literature
- 4 credits of social studies that include 5 AP courses
- 4 credits of science that include Biology, Chemistry, AP Physics 1, and another advanced science
- 4 credits of mathematics that include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and either AP Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics
- 1 credit of a research-based course, either AP Research or GT Independent Study
- 2 credits or more of one foreign language
- 1 credit of fine arts
- 1.5 credits of physical and health education
- 4.5 credits or more of electives

ADVANCED PLACEMENT DATA (2025 - 2026 academic year)

Students at Carnegie Vanguard are required to take the following courses and tests:

- Freshmen take AP Human Geography.
- Sophomores take AP World History.
- Juniors take AP English Language, AP US History, and AP Physics 1.
- Seniors take AP English Literature, AP US Government, AP Macroeconomics, and any others they elect to take.

The information in the following table is for the entire school, NOT just juniors and seniors.

Subject	Total Exams	Average Score	% of 3, 4, 5
2D Art and Design	7	3.6	100%
African American Studies	25	4.2	92%
Art History	15	3.7	80%
Biology	150	3.6	85%
Calculus AB	84	3.9	80%
Calculus BC	55	4.5	95%
Chemistry	91	3.5	85%
Chinese Language	11	4.3	91%
Computer Science A	40	4.1	90%
Computer Science Principles	35	4	97%
Drawing	10	3.1	90%
English Language	217	3.7	89%
English Literature	182	3.4	81%
Environmental Science	60	3.5	83%
European History	28	3.9	89%
French Language	9	3	44%
Human Geography	224	4	92%
Macro Economics	171	3.2	73%
Micro Economics	1	5	100%
Physics 1	219	3.4	74%
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	54	3.4	80%
Physics C: Mechanics	76	3.7	88%
Precalculus	188	4.3	97%
Psychology	65	4	95%
Research	196	3.5	84%
Seminar	217	3.2	83%
Spanish Language	47	4.3	98%
Spanish Literature	10	4.2	100%
Statistics	145	3.6	80%
US Government & Politics	185	4	92%
US History	218	3.8	89%
World History	227	4	89%
Total Exams	3,262	3.7	86%

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2026 (N = 192)

National Recognition	Number of Students	Percent of Class
National Merit Semifinalists	18	9.5%
Commended Scholars	29	15.0%

SAT SCHOOL DAY 2026 TEST RESULTS (N = 214 tests)

SAT Reasoning Test Scores	Mean Total Score 400-1600	Mean EBRW Score 200-800	Mean Math Score 200-800
Carnegie Vanguard HS	1292	643	649
District	916	460	455
State of Texas	952	483	469

ACT TEST RESULTS 2025 - 2026 (N = 109 tests)

ACT Summary	Mean Score
English	26.5
Math	27.5
Reading	29.3
Science	28.3
Composite	27.8

DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES 2025-2026 (N = 109 tests)

ACT Score	# of Carnegie Students	Percent Rank at Carnegie
36	0	0%
35	7	6.4%
34	8	7.3%
33	11	10.1%
32	5	4.6%
31	4	3.7%
30	6	5.5%
29	8	7.3%
28	10	9.2%
27	5	4.6%
26	7	6.4%
25	11	10.1%

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Because of our constrained urban location and budget limit, Carnegie is able to offer only limited athletic opportunities to our students. Current athletic offerings include UIL baseball, cross country, track and field, tennis, girls volleyball, and soccer. Lack of athletic resources puts a constraint on our students' athletic pursuits, and our students have to work much harder than their peers at other high schools to pursue their athletic passions.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION 2022 – 2026

16% of Class 2026 matriculated at the most selective colleges with acceptance rate below 25%.

Colleges in Texas

Austin College
Baylor University
Blinn College
Houston Christian University
Houston City College
Lamar University
LeTourneau University
Lone Star College
Prairie View A&M University
Rice University
St. Edward's University
St. Mary's University
Sam Houston State University
San Jacinto Community College

Schreiner University
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Stephen F. Austin University
Texas A&M University, College Station
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University, Galveston
Texas A&M, Texarkana
Texas Southern University
Texas State Technical College-Waco
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
The University of Texas at Arlington

The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Austin (Denmark)
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Texas at Tyler
Trinity University
University of Houston
University of Houston, Clear Lake
University of Houston, Downtown
University of North Texas
University of St. Thomas
University of the Incarnate Word
Wharton County Junior College

Out-of-State Colleges

Amherst College
American University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Babson College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University, Provo
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
California Institute of Technology
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Centenary College of Louisiana
Chulalongkorn University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark College
Clarkson University
Colby College
College of William and Mary
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Drake University
Drexel University
Durham University
Duke University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach
Emerson College
Emory University
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University

Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grand Canyon University
Grinnell College
Hampton University
Harvard College
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
King's College London
Knox College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Mary Baldwin University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Miami University - Oxford
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New Mexico State University
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Pennsylvania State University
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University
Queen's University, Belfast
Reed College
Regis University
Rhodes College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rhodes College
Rochester Institute of Technology
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Skidmore College
Smith College
Spelman College
St. John's University
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY at Purchase College
Syracuse University
The University of Alabama
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
The University of Oklahoma
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Canterbury
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut-Storrs
University of Denver
University of Evansville
University of Exeter
University of Florida

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Oklahoma
University of Oxford
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness College
University of Toronto
University of Tulsa
University of Virginia
University of Washington, Seattle
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Williams College
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University