



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

17

school, college and wellness counselors

1 OF 4

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

232

Courses offered

16:1

student-teacher ratio;
average class size of 22

60

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

40,000+

hours of Christian service by
students in one year

*2025-2026 school year

94

CIF team championships and
270 league championships

THIRTEEN-TIME RECIPIENT

of the CIF-SS Commissioners Cup

91%

advanced placement (AP) pass rate

AP HONOR ROLL

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

2026-2027 SCHOOL PROFILE

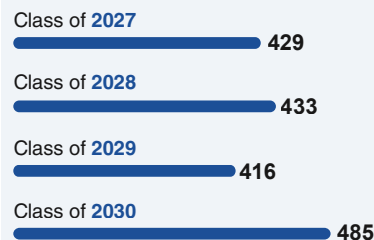
OVERVIEW

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.

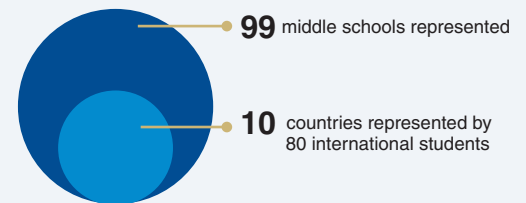
2026-2027 STUDENT BODY

- 50% Caucasian, 17% Hispanic/Latino, 15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 14% Multiracial, 1% Black/African American, 1% Native American/Alaskan Native, 2% declined to state
- 51% female, 49% male
- 40% of Santa Margarita students receive tuition assistance/scholarships
- 96% U.S. citizen, 4% non-U.S. citizen

ENROLLMENT: 1,763



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



CURRICULUM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULE

- 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

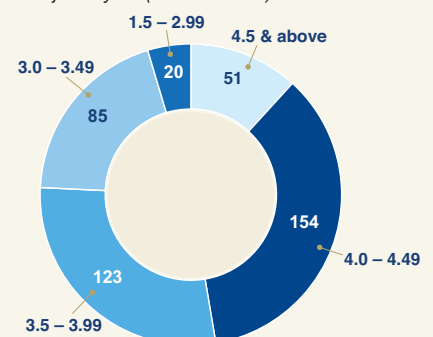
SMCHS is a non-ranking school

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.

TOTAL WEIGHTED GPA DISTRIBUTION

Class of 2027 (after three years)
Maximum Total Weighted GPA possible after
junior year (six semesters) is a 4.82



TESTING DATA & ADVANCED COURSES

AP TESTING (2026)

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).

- 1,615 total exams were administered
360 exams received a score of 5 (22%)
611 exams received a score of 4 (38%)
389 exams received a score of 3 (24%)
- 343 AP Scholars (2026) – 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 – 730 students

91% of exams taken received a 3 or higher

PASS RATE BY SUBJECT (2026)

SUBJECT	PASS RATE	STUDENTS
2-D Art & Design	100%	13
Art History	82%	28
Biology	96%	90
Calculus AB	73%	73
Calculus BC	86%	22
Chinese Lang/Culture	91%	23
Computer Science A	79%	19
Drawing	100%	15
English Lang & Comp	97%	143
English Lit & Comp	86%	125
Environmental Science	91%	150
European History	90%	48
French Language	60%	5
Macroeconomics	57%	108
Microeconomics	51%	114
Music Theory	78%	9
Physics 1	94%	64
Physics C	68%	37
Psychology	86%	160
Spanish Language	65%	26
Statistics	83%	54
US Government	96%	53
US History	98%	98
World History	91%	122

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

	2026	2025	2024	2023	TOTAL
w/Distinction	127	96	91	69	383
w/Honors	103	85	64	61	313
Scholars	343	124	96	93	656

ACT SCORES – 95 students tested (20% of the Class of 2026)

CLASS OF 2026	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	**6 perfect scores, 7 perfect English scores, 7 perfect math scores, 10 perfect reading scores and 4 perfect science scores
COMPOSITE	28*	26.5	19.4	

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

SAT SCORES – 310 students tested (65% of the Class of 2026)

CLASS OF 2026	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	**9 perfect math scores, 1 perfect English score
COMPOSITE	1240*	1090	1029	

* 29% scored in 95th percentile, 45% scored in the 90th percentile.

ADVANCED COURSES

- 100 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, AP Music Theory (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
(Class of 2027 Full IB Diploma Students took TOK as a 2 year class - 8th period/online for 11th grade. Required in person/1 of the 7 classes for 12th grade)

MATHEMATICS (11 classes)

Algebra 1 & 2 H
Geometry H
Precalculus H
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Computer Science A
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

(29 Classes)
Spanish 1, 2, & 3H
AP Spanish Language
Spanish IB SL, HL1 & HL2
French 1, 2, 3, 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 (11 classes)

Broadcast Journalism H
Screenwriting H
Film 2 H (New 2026-2027)
Advanced Painting H
Advanced Drawing H
AP Drawing
AP 2D Art & Design
Film IB HL1 & HL2
Visual Arts IB HL1 & HL2

PERFORMING ARTS (18 classes)

AP Music Theory (8th period class)
Advanced Women's Chorus H
Chamber Singers H
Men's Chorus H (New 2026-2027)
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

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

NO LONGER OFFERING IN 2026-27

Math AI IB HL2
Precalculus H AI IB

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

	2027	2026	2025	2024	2023
Finalists	TBD	2	2	2	5
Semifinalists	4	2	2	5	5
Commended	18	25	18	30	26

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 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
- Many SM students exceed the 3 SL/HL balance and select 4 HL and 2 SL classes for the IB Diploma
- TOK is required as one of the seven classes for all Full Diploma Candidates in 12th grade.
- IB Philosophy replaces the SMCHS requirement for Religion 3 and 4

SMCHS International Baccalaureate Programme

17 – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2026 (3% of the class)
9 – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2027 (2% of the class)
276 – IB Course Candidates, Classes of 2026 and 2027

Spring 2026 Testing Statistics and Results:

Class of 2026 and 2027:

17 – IB Diploma Candidates (85%) 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.

575 – Total Exams Taken
250 – Students Tested
70% – Pass Rate Across All Subject Areas



SUBJECT	STUDENTS	PASS RATE
English HL	37	86%
French SL	5	100%
Latin SL	2	50%
Spanish HL	1	100%
Spanish SL	14	100%
Business Management HL	80	63%
Economics SL	17	59%
Global Politics SL	27	100%
Philosophy HL	184	76%
Biology HL	13	77%
Chemistry HL	10	70%
Chemistry SL	42	36%
Design Tech SL	20	35%
Physics HL	9	78%
Math AA HL	14	86%
Math AA SL	7	71%
Math AI HL	8	50%
Math AI SL	16	75%
Dance HL	6	100%
Film HL	13	31%
Theater HL	9	56%
Theater SL	1	100%
Extended Essay	20	95%
Theory of Knowledge	20	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 11,539 individual awards and 123 delegation awards, reflecting a legacy of excellence and leadership in global affairs.



ROBOTICS/ENGINEERING The school's award-winning robotics teams "SMBly Required" and "SMBld" 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 39 years ago, SMCHS has earned more championships than any other school in Southern California with 19 state championships, 94 CIF championships, and 270 league championships. SMCHS offers 26 CIF and 7 club programs.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY As one of 40 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 that provides students with diagnosed learning differences tools and accommodations to be successful in the rigorous college prep curriculum offered at SMCHS.



EAGLE ONLINE ACADEMY SMCHS offers a fully asynchronous online school with over 80 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.



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 designed to promote student well-being and help students navigate the challenges of adolescence. Four wellness counselors provide mental health education, counseling, prevention and early-intervention services, as well as access to resources and referrals.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST - CLASS OF 2026

This is the complete matriculation list for the Class of 2026. We have indicated the number of students attending each college.

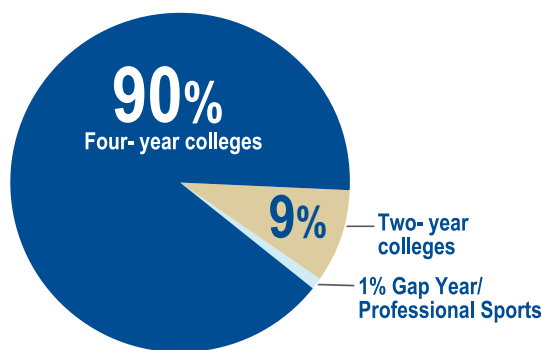
For our complete list of college acceptances and matriculation for the past 5 years, please visit our website: smhs.org/collegeplacement



American University 1	Fordham University 2	Saddleback College 34	University of Idaho 1
Arizona Christian University 1	Fullerton College 2	Saint Mary's College 1	University of Miami 3
Arizona State University 5	George Washington University 1	Saint Mary's College of CA 1	University of Michigan 3
Auburn University 6	Georgetown University 1	San Diego Mesa College 1	University of Mississippi 4
Austin Community College 1	Georgia Tech 1	San Diego State University 8	University of Missouri 2
Baylor University 4	Gettysburg College 1	San Jose State University 2	University of Nebraska 2
Binghamton University 1	Gonzaga University 2	Santa Barbara City College 1	University of New Hampshire 1
Boise State University 7	Harvard University 1	Santa Clara University 3	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill 1
Boston College 3	Harvey Mudd College 1	Santa Monica College 2	University of Notre Dame 5
Boston University 1	Hofstra University 1	Seattle University 1	University of Oklahoma 4
Bowdoin College 1	Howard University 1	Seton Hall University 2	University of Oregon 5
Bucknell University 1	Illinois Wesleyan University 1	Southern Methodist University 9	University of Pittsburgh 1
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 11	Indiana University 4	Stanford University 2	University of San Diego 11
Cal Poly Humboldt 1	Irvine Valley College 6	Syracuse University 2	University of San Francisco 2
Cal Poly Maritime Academy 1	Johns Hopkins University 1	Texas A&M University 1	University of South Carolina 1
Cal Poly Pomona 3	Keio University 1	Texas Christian University 13	University of Southern California 14
CSU Fullerton 3	Lehigh University 2	Texas Southern University 1	University of Tennessee 12
CSU Long Beach 2	Loyola Marymount University 5	The American University of Paris 1	University of Texas 2
CSU Monterey Bay 1	Loyola University Chicago 5	The Ohio State University 1	University of the Pacific 2
CSU Sacramento 2	Manhattan University 1	Towson University 1	University of Utah 24
CSU San Marcos 3	McGill University 1	Trinity University 2	University of Washington 4
Cameron University 1	Molloy University 1	Tulane University 2	University of Wisconsin 3
Carleton College 1	Montana State University 3	UCAM Universidad Catolica San Antonio de Murcia 1	Utah State University 1
Case Western Reserve University 1	Mt. San Antonio College 1	United States Air Force Academy 1	Vanderbilt University 1
Chapman University 7	New York University 6	University of Alabama 4	Vassar College 1
Claremont McKenna College 4	Norco College 2	University of Arizona 8	Virginia Tech 1
College of the Holy Cross 2	North Carolina A&T State University 1	UC Berkeley 5	Wake Forest University 1
Colorado Mesa University 1	North Greenville University 1	UC Davis 5	Waseda University 1
Colorado School of Mines 1	Northeastern University 2	UC Irvine 10	Washington State University 2
Columbia University 2	Northern Arizona University 1	UCLA 12	Wellesley College 2
Connecticut College 1	Oklahoma State University 1	UC Riverside 5	Wesleyan University 1
Cornell University 2	Orange Coast College 2	UC San Diego 8	Westminster University 2
Dartmouth College 1	Oregon State University 1	UC Santa Barbara 3	Whittier College 1
Delaware State University 1	Otis College of Art and Design 1	UC Santa Cruz 4	Willamette University 1
Denison University 1	Pace University 1	University of Cincinnati 2	Xavier University 1
DePaul University 1	Pepperdine University 6	University of Colorado-Boulder 6	
Duke University 1	Pitzer College 1	University of Colorado-Colorado Springs 1	
Emory University 2	Point Loma Nazarene University 4	University of Florida 1	
Fairfield University 1	Pomona College 1	University of Glasgow 1	
Florida State-Jacksonville 1	Purdue University 1	University of Hawaii 1	
Florida State University 1	Rhode Island School of Design 1		

COLLEGE STATISTICS: CLASS OF 2026

- 473 students in the class of 2026
- 99 percent attending college
- 157 colleges and universities attended
- 100 percent college acceptance for students applying
- 420 colleges and universities applied to
- 5,136 college applications
- 3,015 college acceptances
- 59 percent total acceptance rate
- 100 percent acceptance rate at 271 schools
- 81 recruited college student-athletes



COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

37 U.S. states, 5 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:

Mrs. Rachel Kim kimr@smhs.org

Mrs. Megan Oliver olivorm@smhs.org

Ms. Eva Hester hestere@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS (Athletics)

Mr. Mike Hiserman hisermanm@smhs.org

COLLEGE PLANNING ADVISOR/ESSAY SPECIALIST

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.