



SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-2027

Our School

Since its founding in 1964, Henry M. Gunn High School has been a model of rigorous, innovative learning and a supportive, inclusive community. **Mission Statement:** Titans are self-reliant learners empowered to better themselves and their communities. Gunn continues to be recognized among the nation's premier public high schools. For 2026, Gunn was ranked #2 among public high schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and #9 in California. Nationally, Gunn ranked #81 among public high schools in America, according to [Niche](#). These distinctions reflect Gunn's commitment to academic excellence, college preparation, student growth, and a learning environment that empowers students to pursue their goals and positively impact their communities.

Our Community

Located in Santa Clara County, Palo Alto is a vibrant community of approximately 68,000 residents, situated 35 miles south of San Francisco and 14 miles north of San Jose. The city borders world-renowned Stanford University and is also served by the highly regarded Foothill College. At the heart of Silicon Valley, Palo Alto has played a significant role in the development and growth of the high-tech industry, alongside neighboring communities such as Menlo Park and Mountain View. Today, many residents are professionals in technology, education, healthcare, business, research, retail, and service industries, reflecting the region's diverse and highly skilled workforce.

Our Students

Gunn's student body reflects the rich diversity of Palo Alto and its dynamic community. With a strong commitment to supporting the whole student, Gunn's Wellness Center and focus on social-emotional learning foster an inclusive environment where students thrive academically, socially, and personally.

Key to Transcript Symbols in Course Title on Transcripts

A = Advanced (math)/Accelerated (English)
D = Dual Enrollment Community College Course
SJ = Social Justice Pathway

2026-2027 (Total enrollment)

Total Students: 1,655
African-American: 1.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.1%
Asian: 49%
Filipino 1.1%
Hispanic or Latino: 12.1%
Pacific Islander: 0.2%
White: 25.6%
Two or More Races: 10.8%
Not reported: 0.1%
Roughly 2.7% of our students are classified as limited English proficient.

Contact Us

780 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-354-8200
www.gunn.pausd.org
CEE/ACT School Code 052-347

Student Achievement

ACT Composite Average

Year	2024	2025	2026
ACT Scores	30.3	30.1	
Nati Scores	19.4	19.6	19.4

SAT

Year	2025	2026	Nat'l & Int'l
EBRW	673	674	598
Math	693	699	594

National Merit Scholarship

Year	2024	2025	2026
Semi-Finalist	37	41	34
Commended	85	80	76

AP Scores – May 2026

837 students took 2498 tests
95.4% students scored 3 or higher
49.1% students scored 5

Grading System

Gunn High School lists both unweighted and weighted GPA on the transcript. Weighted GPA is based on all Honors (H) and Advance Placement (AP) courses, grades 10-12. While H and AP courses are given an extra grade point, +/- are not weighted in the student's GPA. Gunn High School does not rank students. The following grade distribution chart is provided to assist you in evaluating student performance

Please note, the following classes do not provide +/-'s in their grading rubrics:	
Biology	Chemistry
Conceptual Physics	AP Chemistry
AP Physics	AP Environmental Sci

Class of 2027 (6 semesters) (size: 393)		
Decile	Weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
1	4.32 - 4.50	3.97 - 4.00
2	4.23 - 4.31	3.94 - 3.97
3	4.15 - 4.23	3.89 - 3.94
4	4.06 - 4.14	3.83 - 3.89
5	3.95 - 4.05	3.75 - 3.83
6	3.85 - 3.95	3.68 - 3.75
7	3.72 - 3.85	3.56 - 3.67
8	3.55 - 3.71	3.40 - 3.56
9	3.20 - 3.55	3.15 - 3.40
10	1.67 - 3.20	1.67 - 3.15

Academics

Gunn students benefit from a rigorous and engaging curriculum. The student-to-teacher ratio is 26:1. Students to take a minimum of five courses each semester and earn five credits for every successfully completed semester course.

AP and Honors Courses

Gunn offers 30 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and 17 Honors courses. While students may take a maximum of two AP courses per semester, AP courses are not generally recommended for 9th grade. Only one AP course is available to 9th graders, and it is not weighted.

Some of our AP courses

AB Calculus	French - Lang & Cult
BC Calculus	Physics C: Mech/E&M
Computer Science A/Pri	French - Lang & Cult
Statistics	German - Lang & Cult
Business w/Personal Finance	Japanese Lang & Cult
Biology	Mandarin – Lang & Cult
Chemistry	Spanish – Lang & Cult
Environmental Sci	Spanish – Lit & Cult
Physics 1	English – Lit & Comp

Graduation Credit Requirements (220)

(A) Social Studies - 40	(F) Visual & Performing Arts – 10
(B) English - 40	(G) Electives – 25
(C) Math - 30	Career Technical (CTE) - 10
(D) Science – 20	Living Skills – 5
(E) World Language – 20	Physical Education - 20

Athletics

Gunn has 875+ students-athletes participating in 17 sports.

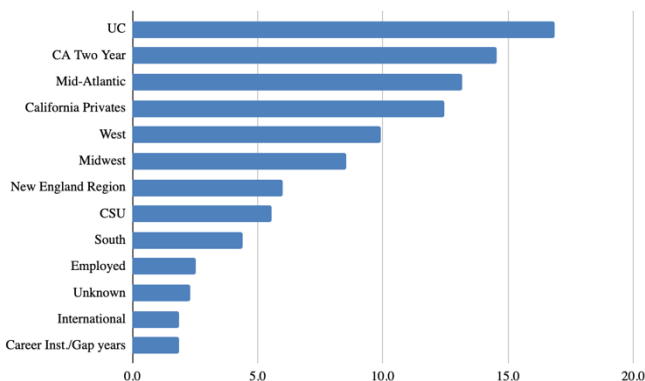
Badminton (C)	Soccer (B,G)
Baseball (B)	Softball (G)
Basketball (B,G)	Swim/Dive (B,G)
Cheer (C)	Tennis (B,G)
Cross Country (C)	Track/Field (C)
Flag Football (G)	Volleyball (B,G)
Football (B)	Water Polo (B,G)
Golf (B,G)	Wrestling (C)
Lacrosse (B,G)	

Student Activities & Clubs

Over 100+ clubs in these exciting areas:

Auto Shop	Food	Med
Activism	Games	Music
Computer	Intellectual	Outdoors
Culture	Key Club	Politics
Dance	Language	Rings
Debate	Lifestyle	ROCK
Entrepreneurial	Literature	Service
Environmental	Math	Student Gov't

Accredited by: Western Association of Schools and Colleges
California Distinguished High School
Complies with NACAS Statement of Principles of Good Practice



College Enrollment – Class of 2026

15.3% to 2 year colleges

79.1% to 4 year colleges

SELF: (Social-Emotional Literacy & Functionality)

SELF is a non-graded 4-year comprehensive weekly program for every Gunn student participates in weekly. As students develop the core SEL competencies – social awareness, self-management, self-efficacy, self-awareness, social management, and social engagement – students build community and share stories with a trusted adult mentor and each other, guided by specific themes each semester like equity and empathy, self-identity, and building relationships.

Alternative Programs

Gunn offers several alternative programs such as AVID, Social Justice Pathway, College Pathway (first-generation students), Business Pathway, and College Now. Also, there are several Dual Enrollment programs that include Sports Medicine, Stage Tech, and Audio Music Technology.

Our Administration

Principal	Erik Olah
Assistant Principals	Latrice Bennett
	Kathryn Catalano
	Ryan Lundell
	Janeen Malatesta
Student Activities	Lisa Hall
Athletic Director	Justin Halas
Registrar	Ofelia Smith

Our Counselor Team

School Counselors	
Andrea Bueno	abueno@pausd.org
Jorge Chavez	jchavez@pausd.org
Myesha Dickson	mdickson@pausd.org
Lorenzo Gomez	lgomez@pausd.org
Derek Johanson	djohanson@pausd.org
David Leftwich	dleftwich@pausd.org
Cora Ross	cross@pausd.org

College & Career Counselor

Jonathan Fidani	jfidani@pausd.org
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College & Career Info Spec

Leighton Lang	llang@pausd.org
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