SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-2027

History & Philosophy

Established in 1957, Dunn School is a grade 6-12, co-educational, independent school for boarding and day students, located in rural Santa Barbara County on California's Central Coast. The school is characterized by seminar-style classes that encourage curiosity and open inquiry, responsiveness to a range of learning styles, and a close community of educators who value both intellectual and personal growth.

We are STARS

Dunn School is located in a rural area of Northern Santa Barbara County, on the Central Coast of California. We are fortunate to partner with the STARS (**Small Town and Rural Students**) program as we prepare students for college.

We are Global

Our globally diverse campus (our students come from 16 countries around the world) is enhanced by our partnership with the **Round Square** global exchange network. Round Square is an international network of more than 250 schools in 50 countries on six continents that connect and collaborate to offer world-class programs and experiences, developing global competence, character and confidence in students. Many of our students take advantage of opportunities to go abroad through Round Square, and we also host students from around the world on our campus throughout the year. Coupled with our Winter Term trips abroad, our students gain cultural competency that prepares them well for life beyond Dunn.

Mission & Values

The Dunn community educates the whole student to their fullest potential in preparation for a life of learning and responsible leadership in society. We strive toward the balanced education of the whole person. Our curriculum, both in the classroom and beyond, is designed around five core values: Emotional Wellness, Physical Readiness, Intellectual Growth, Social Responsibility, and Moral Courage.

Students & Setting

The **52 members of the Class of 2027** have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways. Several have been recognized by the **National Merit program as Commended Scholars, Hispanic Scholars and Rural Scholars.**

The class includes a variety of talented artists, academics, and athletes. Many students also work part-time jobs in the local community.

The Students in the **Class of 2027 are from 10 countries and Nations** (Chumash Nation, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, Serbia, South Sudan, Spain, United Kingdom and the US.) **Fifty-two percent are students of color.**

52 Class of 2026	**40%** Upper School Students Receiving Financial Aid	**27%** International Students
180 Upper School Enrollment	**98%** Class of 2026 4-year College Admission	**25** Nations of Origin
49/51% Boarding/Day	**29%** Domestic Students of Color	**5:1** Student-to-Faculty Ratio
55 Acre Rural Campus		**12** Average Class Size

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School Memberships:
NACAC, WACAC, ACCIS, NAIS, CAIS, TABS, COLLEGE BOARD

Academics & Grading System

ACADEMICS

Dunn's academic curriculum encourages intellectual growth and skill mastery. Our supportive and accessible faculty promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. This balanced approach allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose driven approach to their academic life.

Advanced Curriculum

Dunn does not offer AP courses but instead provides **Advanced curricular offerings that are responsive to the interests, abilities and aspirations of our students, and the unique strengths of our faculty.** In addition to high intellectual standards, Advanced courses place a greater emphasis on creative thought, evidence-based arguments, and intellectual risk - emphasizing skill mastery through multiple modes of assessment. Students in these courses engage with more sophisticated materials across all disciplines and are held to a higher standard of participation. **Due to the rigor of these courses, students are encouraged to take only 2-3 advanced courses each year.** Students who are significantly advanced in academic areas may be asked to participate in an independent study and serve as a TA (Teacher's Assistant) for a class. The course selection process, including placement in advanced courses, includes oversight by the Academic Dean, Director of College Counseling, and faculty advisors, to ensure appropriate rigor and balance. **Advanced courses receive one additional point in the GPA calculation.**

Experiential & Enrichment Curriculum

Central to our whole student philosophy, we dedicate over **100 hours each year to experiential-based learning.** Our week-long **wilderness trips** focus on character development and community mindedness. Our **Experiential Term** encourages students to follow their curiosity and pursue areas of interest along with faculty leaders, and our membership in RoundSquare allows students to connect with like-minded learners around the world through classes and exchange programs.

Learning Strategies

Dunn School offers a unique Learning Strategies program that provides highly personalized academic support designed to meet the needs of students with mild learning differences.

Discipline Policy

Dunn reports discipline in accordance with application requirements. Students are counseled to truthfully answer all questions regarding disciplinary actions rendered through their Dunn tenure.

Grading System

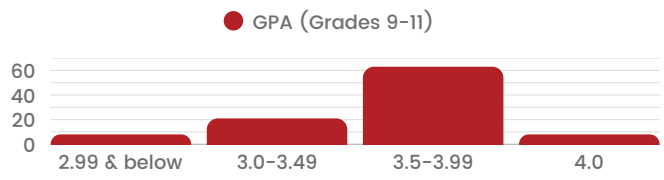
- 34 instructional weeks
- A **semester system began in the 2026-2027** school year. Previously, grades were reported on a trimester system
- 4.0 grading scale
- Advanced classes receive 1.0 bonus point
- Both weighted and unweighted GPAs are reported on the transcript
- Remediated classes taken at Dunn School replace previous grades earned in like classes
- Class rank is not computed nor reported

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92.99%	3.7
B+	87-89.99%	3.3
B	83-86.99%	3.0
B-	80-82.99%	2.7
C+	77-79.99%	2.3
c	73-76.99%	2.0
C-	70-72.99	1.7*
D+	67-69.99%	1.3
D	63-66.99%	1.0
D-	60-62.99%	-.7
F	0-59.99%	0.0

*minimum passing grade

Class of 2027 GPA Distribution



Standardized Testing

The majority of Dunn School students opted out of taking standardized tests in previous years. Our data is insufficient and could be misleading. In fairness to all students we are unable to share testing averages.

Full Year Courses

English
English 9
English 10
Advanced English 10
English 11
Advanced English 11*
English 12
Advanced English 12*
Creative Writing
Speech and Debate

History
History 9
World History
Advanced World History*
U.S. History
Advanced U.S. History*
Modern World History
US Government
Advanced Micro/ Macro Economics*

Math
Integrated Math 1
Advanced Integrated Math 1
Integrated Math 2
Advanced Integrated Math 2
Integrated Math 3
Advanced Pre-Calculus
Statistics
Advanced Statistics*
Advanced Calculus 1*
Advanced Calculus 2*

Science
Conceptual Physics
Chemistry
Advanced Chemistry I
Advanced Chemistry II*
Biology
Advanced Biology I
Advanced Biology II*
Advanced Physics
Advanced Environmental Science
Anatomy and Physiology
Computer Science

Visual Arts
Studio Art 1, 2
Studio Art 3 - Portfolio Development
Studio Art 4 - Portfolio Completion
Ceramics 1, 2
Ceramics 3 - Portfolio Development
Ceramics 4 - Portfolio Completion *
Photography 1, 2, 3
Videography

World Language
Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Advanced Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Advanced Spanish 3
Advanced Spanish 4*
Multi-Lingual Support (MLS)
French 1
French 2
French 3

Performing Arts
Music Fundamentals
Ensemble 1
Ensemble 2
Ensemble 3
Vocal Ensemble 1, 2

Electives
Innovation and Entreppreneurship 1, 2
Entrepreneurship and Business Management
Investors and Philanthropists
Innovation Project Mastery

Entrepreneusrhip Program and University Partnerships

The Jurgensen Entrepreneurship Program provides students with over 750 hours of hands-on learning in business management, investment strategies, and marketing. Through managing student-run businesses and a $425,000 investment fund, students develop essential skills and confidence, giving them a significant head start as they prepare for their college studies and future careers.

The program is distinguished by its unique partnerships with Syracuse University, offering students unparalleled access to college-level entrepreneurship education. **Through Syracuse University, students take Micro and Macro Economics** courses on Dunn's campus, earning college credit while gaining a solid foundation in economic theory.

Dunn also hosts the **University of Delaware's prestigious Diamond Challenge**, an international entrepreneurship pitch competition, allowing Dunn students to compete against top young innovators from across the country.

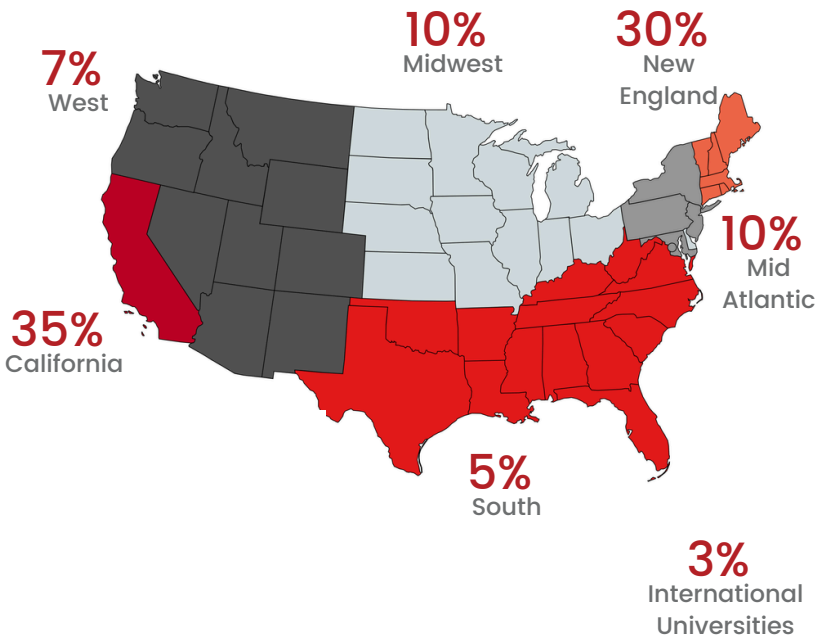
These partnerships provide Dunn students with real-world entrepreneurial experience that goes beyond the classroom, combining rigorous academic coursework with practical applications.

*An asterisk next to the course name indicates that the class is comparable to the course that most prepares students for the AP exam.

Educational Outcomes

The 38 members of the Class of 2026 received 150 offers of admission and will attend 30 different colleges in the US and abroad. Ninety-seven percent are attending four-year colleges, and three percent chose to attend a two-year college.

Five-Year College Matriculation
The graduates of the Classes of 2022-2026 attended the following four-year colleges and universities in 32 US States and the District of Columbia; and five countries: France, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Spain.



Four-year College Matriculation 2022-2026

American University
Arizona State University - 2
Babson College
Berklee College of Music - 2
Boise State University
Boston College
Brown University
California Lutheran University - 2
California Poly San Luis Obispo - 6
California Poly Univ. Humboldt - 2
California State University-Chico
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Chatham University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Colorado Mesa University
Columbia University, New York - 2
Connecticut College
Denison University - 2
Duke University
Emerson College - 2
EU Business School - (Spain)
FIDM Design Institute, Los Angeles
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Hult International Business School (UK)
JCA | London Fashion Academy (UK)
Lafayette College - 2
Loyola Marymount University - 5
Montana State University - 2
Northeastern University - 6
Northwestern University
Occidental College - 2
Pepperdine University - 2
Princeton University - 2
Purdue University - 2
Rider University
Rollins College
Saint Mary's College of California
Sarah Lawrence College -
Sciences Po (France)
Skidmore College
Smith College
Soka University
Stanford University - 3
Syracuse University - 2
Texas Christian University
The Catholic University
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Tulane University
University of Arizona - 2
University of California-Berkeley
University of California - Davis
University of California-Irvine
University of California-Los Angeles - 4
University of California-Riverside - 4
University of California-San Diego - 2
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California-Santa Cruz - 2
University of Connecticut - 2
University of Denver
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Lancashire (UK)
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Redlands
University of San Diego - 4
University of Southern California - 2
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin
University of Utah
Villanova University
Washington University in St Louis
Xavier University