



Notre Dame Belmont
High School
1540 Ralston Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002
650.595.1913
ndhsb.org

Head of School

Meredith Essalat, M.Ed. '98
messalat@ndhsb.org

Dean of Academics

Elizabeth Mangini, Ph.D. '92
emangini@ndhsb.org

Dean of Academic Advisement

Kristi Rossi, M.Ed., PPS
krossi@ndhsb.org

School Counselors

Christina Christenson, M.A., PPS
cchristenson@ndhsb.org

Esperanza Flores, M.A., PPS
eflores@ndhsb.org

Allan Gargaritano, M.A., PPS
agargaritano@ndhsb.org

Dean of Students

Arlene Empleo, M.Phil, MA
aempleo@ndhsb.org

Admissions Director

Debbie Anderson, '82
danderson@ndhsb.org

Registrar

Jolanda Breazeale '86
jbreazeale@ndhsb.org

EFS Director

Camilla Soto
csoto@ndhsb.org

Notre Dame High School, Belmont School Profile 2026-2027

About

Notre Dame High School, Belmont (NDB) is an independent Catholic college-preparatory school dedicated to teaching young women what they need to know for life. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, founded by St. Julie Billiart, established the school in 1851. Since 1923, NDB has been located on 10.6 acres of the historic William Ralston Estate in Belmont, California, a vibrant professional community in the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley. NDB is a WCEA/WASC accredited high school, and is an AP Platinum-designated School.

Mission

We are a caring and compassionate community committed to promoting justice and peace while developing responsible young women of active faith, strong intellect and Christian leadership. We develop the gifts and talents of each student and foster Gospel values in an environment of academic excellence and mutual respect.

Community

The school draws its student body from over 40 different zip codes in the San Francisco Bay Area, and 35% of students receive tuition assistance. Of the 372 students, 74 comprise the 2027 senior class. International students encompass 4% of the student body. The student/teaching faculty ratio is approximately 10:1. The average class size is 19. For the graduated class of 2026, 93% enrolled into a 4-year college, 5% into community college, 1% took a gap year, and 1% enlisted in the military.

Self-Reported Race/Ethnicity

- 61%** White/Caucasian
- 19%** Asian
- 16%** Hispanic of any race
- 15%** Multi-Racial (two or more races)
- 2%** Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- 2%** Black/African American
- 1%** American Indian/Alaskan Native

Faculty/Administration

82% hold one or more advanced degrees

Accreditation

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

CEEB#

050275

CURRICULUM

Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

Students must receive faculty recommendation and course prerequisite grades to be eligible for honors and AP classes. It is recommended that students take no more than three APs per academic year. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis. The relatively small size of NDB, combined with its block schedule and double-block AP science classes, sometimes creates scheduling conflicts, preventing a student from enrolling in all desired AP courses for which they are qualified. Depending on demand, select AP courses may not be offered every year. Most are taken in 11th and 12th grade.

Advanced Placement Courses (24)

Art History*
Biology
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Chemistry
Chinese Language and Culture (Tri-School)
Computer Science Principles
Computer Science A
English II : AP Seminar
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
French Language and Culture
Human Geography*
Physics I
Physics C (Tri-School)
Psychology
Spanish Language and Culture
Spanish Literature and Culture*
Statistics
Studio Art: 2-D, 3-D, & Drawing*
United States Government/Politics
United States History

Honors Courses (19)

Advanced Solutions for the Global
Good (Tri-School)
Algebra I
Algebra II
American Sign Language III
American Sign Language IV
Anatomy & Physiology (Tri-School*)
Biology
Chamber Choir
Chemistry
English I
English II (classes of 2027-28)
French III
Geometry
Journalism IV
Modern World History
Photography III
Pre-calculus
Sculpture III
Spanish III

*not offered in 2026-27

Graduation Requirements

The minimum course load for a student is 30 credits per semester for all grade levels (6 courses). Most students take 35 credits (7 courses) per semester. 240 credits with the following distribution are required for graduation:

English 40 credits
Mathematics 30 credits
Physical Education 10 credits
Spiritual Life 35 credits
Science 30 credits
Social Studies 30 credits
Visual/Performing Arts 10 credits
World Languages 20 credits
Becoming Notre Dame 5 credits
Electives 30 credits
Plus 80 hours of community service

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

The calculation of a student's academic standing is based on a weighted GPA, in which Honors and AP classes are weighted 1.0. Grade reporting occurs two times per year. NDB does not report class rank.

A+ = 98-100

A = 93-97

A- = 90-92

B+ = 88-89

B = 83-87

B- = 80-82

C+ = 78-79

C = 73-77

C- = 70-72

D+ = 68-69

D = 63-67

D- = 60-62

F = 59 and below

2026 Grade Distribution

Representing the Class of 2026

104 students on a 5.0 scale

AP and Honors classes weighted +1.0

GPA	Percentile
4.64	100th
4.34	75th
4.01	50th
3.35	25th

Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations (Class of 2025 and 2026)

In May of 2026, 194 students took 451 examinations in 25 subject areas. From this total, 81% earned a score of 3 or higher.

National Merit Scholarships

PSAT/NMSQT exams are offered to 10th and 11th grade students at NDB every October.

Class of 2022: 4 Commended Students

Class of 2023: 3 Commended Students

Class of 2024: 1 Finalist, 2 Commended Students

Class of 2025: 4 Commended Students

Class of 2026: 1 Finalist, 1 Commended Student

Class of 2027: 1 Finalist, 3 Commended Students

STEM Wing and Double Block AP Lab Sciences

Our STEM program is housed in a brand-new 10,000 ft², \$9M facility, which opened in fall 2026 with professional-grade equipment, including a tabletop scanning electron microscope (SEM) with an attached x-ray analyzer. Five labs, two prep rooms, an Innovation Lab, and a Center for Ethics and Technology house fourteen different course offerings in STEM, including three AP Sciences. At NDB, AP Chemistry and AP Biology meet daily in order to encompass a full year of college-level coursework, including labs. NDB students have the necessary time to delve deeply into the subject matter and complete the comprehensive lab work required. Feedback from our graduates indicates that they excel in their college courses due to the depth of coverage and the extensive lab experience gained at NDB.

English Curriculum - AP Seminar

Starting with the class of 2029, all 10th grade students take English II: AP Seminar. Taught through works of literature, this rigorous course engages students in textual analysis and interdisciplinary problem-solving. AP Seminar teaches students critical research, collaboration, and presentation skills to prepare them for advanced high school and college work. Beginning in 2026-27, 11th and 12th grade students have the option of AP English Language or Literature courses (when meeting prerequisites) or deep dives into literary genres through rigorous seminars in NDB's Selectives Program in Advanced Reading and Knowledge (SPARK).

Capstone Project

At NDB, juniors complete a Capstone project within the Spiritual Life (religious studies) curriculum. They choose a local or global social justice issue, research the topic in depth, and engage in an academic-focused critical analysis. Additionally, students engage in theological and values-based reflection, examining the issue through the lens of the Notre Dame Hallmarks and Catholic Social Teaching.

Students with Learning Differences are Empowered for Success

The Empowered for Success (EFS) Program is designed to support and guide students with documented learning differences (i.e. cognitive, psychological, physical and medical conditions) throughout their high school years. The program empowers students to understand how they learn best and to self-advocate. Annual reviews of student learning plans help students understand how to effectively utilize accommodations. NDB does not modify the curriculum, therefore students are expected to meet the same academic standards as their peers, and they are often enrolled in Honors and AP courses. Our EFS scholars are gifted, highly motivated and dedicated learners.

Student Activities Program

NDB creates numerous opportunities for students to pursue interests and take on leadership roles. The school offers a competitive interscholastic sports program including cross country, tennis, flag football, golf, volleyball, water polo, wrestling, basketball, soccer, swimming, softball, lacrosse and track and field. Cheerleading is part of the program, competing in regional and national competitions each year. In addition to 42 clubs, notable activities include the associated student body, student council, California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, mock trial, robotics team, ethics bowl, math club, the DEIB Coalition, a school newspaper (*The Catalyst*), as well as *Tiger TV* broadcast news.

Tri-School Program

Notre Dame High School, Belmont, Junipero Serra High School and Mercy High School participate in a Tri-School program that provides co-educational experiences in the areas of academics, performing arts and student activities.

Tri-School Productions Program

Tri-School Productions is a large, collaborative co-ed theater program that stages two student-run productions each year, providing comprehensive training that has led recent graduates to perform on Broadway and study theater arts at prestigious institutions like NYU, UCLA, and the Manhattan School of Music.

2024 and 2025 AP School Honor Roll: Platinum Designation

NDB has been named to the 2024 and 2025 AP School Honor Rolls with Platinum Designation, which recognizes schools with AP programs that are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. For 2025, NDB has again been designated as Platinum. Awards for 2026 have not been announced at the time of this School Profile update.

University Acceptances 2021-2026 (selected)

American University	Macalaster College	University of California, Irvine
Auburn University	Manhattan University	University of California, Merced
Bates College	Menlo College	University of California, Los Angeles
Baylor University	Michigan State University	University of California, Riverside
Boston College	Middlebury College	University of California, San Diego
Boston University	New York University	University of California, Santa Barbara
Bucknell University	Northeastern University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Cal Poly SLO	Occidental College	University of Colorado Boulder
Cal Poly, Pomona	The Ohio State University	University of Georgia
Carnegie Mellon University	Oregon State University	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Case Western Reserve University	Pace University	University of Maryland
Chapman University	Parsons School of Design	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Clemson University	The Pennsylvania State University	University of Miami
Colby College	Pepperdine University	University of Michigan
Colgate University	Pitzer College	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
College of the Holy Cross	Pomona College	University of Oregon
Colorado School of Mines	Purdue University	University of Pennsylvania
Cornell University	Rensselaer Institute of Technology	University of San Diego
Dartmouth College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of San Francisco
Denison University	San Diego State University	University of Southern California
Drew University	Santa Clara University	University of Tennessee
Drexel University	Scripps College	University of Texas, Austin
Emerson College	Skidmore College	University of Utah
Fairfield University	Smith College	University of Vermont
Fordham University	Southern Methodist University	University of Washington
Georgetown University	Stanford University	University of Wisconsin, Madison
George Washington University	Stevens Institute of Technology	Vanderbilt University
Gonzaga University	Syracuse University	Villanova University
Indiana University Bloomington	Temple University	Wake Forest University
Johns Hopkins University	Texas A&M University	Washington University St. Louis
Kenyan College	Texas Christian University	William and Mary
Lafayette College	The New School	Worcester Poly Tech
Loyola Marymount University	Tulane University	
Loyola University - Chicago	University of California, Berkeley	
	University of California, Davis	

