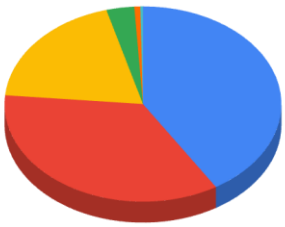
Pioneer High School

SCHOOL PROFILE
2026-2027

2026-2027 STUDENT BODY



- Hispanic - 41.2%
- White - 35.3%
- Asian/Pacific Islander - 19.3%
- Black - 3.3%
- Am. Indian or Alaskan Native - 0.7%
- Decline to State - 0.3%

1,290
Total Enrollment

31% First-generation college students
26% Economically disadvantaged
19% Students with disabilities
10% English Language Learners

"First-generation college student is defined as a student where neither parent nor guardian have earned a four-year college degree." -University of California

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students in San José Unified School District (SJUSD) are required to complete: 220 credits, Algebra Certificate, Community Service hours.

40 hours of Community Service required for graduation

- 12th grade students are required to take a minimum of five (5) classes. Four (4) allowed if proof of employment or proof of dual/concurrent enrollment.
- 11th grade students are required to take a minimum of five (5) classes.
- 9th & 10th grade students are required take a total of six (6) classes.
- Students can take up to seven (7) classes max, if space allows; 0 period offered.
- Although AP classes are not required nor is there a limit, students must seek additional consultation and approval to take more than 3 AP courses in a year.
- Course selection options not always guaranteed due to spacing and availability.

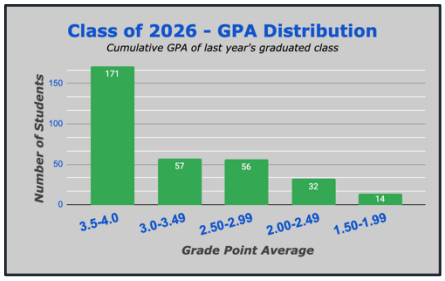
Subjects	Credits
English	40
Am Gov/Econ	10
US History	10
World History	10
Math	30
Science	30
LOTE	20
Visual/Perf Arts	20
PE	20
Electives	30
Total	**220**

GRADING

Grading System	
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

- GPA calculated on an **unweighted 4.0 scale**.
- PHS does not report individual **class rank**.
- **Cumulative GPA** is calculated using all courses, including non-college preparatory courses.

+/- grades are not included in GPA calculation.



STANDARDIZED TESTING

SAT School Day: SJUSD provides the SAT Exam free of charge to all 11th graders each year. For the Class of 2027, 316 students took the SAT with a mean total score of 1028.

National Merit Scholars: Class of 2027 has 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist.

PHS does not report test scores on transcripts.

AP Exams: In May 2026, we had 543 students take a total of 1220 AP exams with **79%** earning a score 3 or higher. 26 different subjects were given to our students.

AP Scholars: We had a total of 274 AP Scholar Awards: 80 Scholars, 56 with Honors, 105 with Distinction, 14 AP Seminar and Research Certificates, and 19 AP Capstone Diplomas.

ADVANCED & SPECIALTY COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
European History
Government & Politics
U.S. History
World History**
English Language
English Literature
Seminar
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Computer Science A
Statistics
Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics 1
Spanish Language
Studio Art 2D
Studio Art 3D
Macroeconomics
Psychology
Research

***New Course for 2024*
**New Course for 2023*

Honors Courses
Ethnic Studies Literature
Pre-Calculus
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Chamber Orchestra
Jazz Band*
Wind Ensemble

Accelerated Courses
Algebra 2

Specialty Courses:
Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) offers 23 hands-on STEAM courses, 22 of which are a-g approved. Open to 11th and 12th grade students.

Community College Dual Enrollment
American Sign Language 1A/1B^
Mexican American Studies^
Japanese 1A/1B, 2A/2B
^*section offered exclusively for Pioneer students.*

Ethnic Studies Courses
9th: Intro to Ethnic Studies (Elective)
10th: Ethnic Studies Literature (English Honors)
11th: US History Ethnic Studies (Social Science)

# of Students taking ≥ 1 Advanced Course
All Grades: **57%**
9th Grade: **38%** 11th Grade: **68%**
10th grade: **60%** 12th Grade: **61%**

21 AP | 8 Honors | 1 Accelerated | 3 Community College | 23 CTE

1290 Blossom Hill Rd
San José, CA 95118
(408) 535-6310
pioneer.sjusd.org
CEEB: 053096

San José Unified School District

Our Mission
Uniting as one community, we elevate opportunities for all.

Our Vision
Preparing today's students to be the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow.

Our Community
Eight miles south of downtown San José and 55 miles south of San Francisco, Pioneer's immediate community consists of the Blossom Hill and Almaden Valley neighborhoods. Much like the larger Silicon Valley region, the community is economically and culturally diverse, mixing single-family homes, high-density residential units, and low-income housing developments.

Our School
Founded in 1960, Pioneer is a comprehensive, 4-year high school with an interdisciplinary focus on service learning. Pioneer is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and a member of the College Board.

Principal
Tim Gavello

Assistant Principals
Erin Cahill
Daisy Kruckenberg
Melina Mahboobi

School Counselors
Judy Pataky-Hannon (A-E)
jpatakyhannon@sjusd.org

Chad Luna (F-La)
cjluna@sjusd.org

Eunice Esquivel (Le-Q)
emesquivel@sjusd.org

Nicole Pearson (R-Z)
npearson@sjusd.org

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Post-High School Breakdown

4-Year University	57.7%
2-Year Community College	35.2%
Vocational Career	3.2%
Work	1.8%
Undecided	2.1%



Letters of Recommendation

As of 2024-25, SJUSD decided to shift the writing of letters of recommendation from our school counselors to those staff members with a more direct and personal relationship with our students. This change is rooted in our belief that letters of rec should come from individuals who know the students well and can provide a more personalized and detailed account of their strengths, characteristics, and accomplishments; these individuals could be teachers, coaches, or other adult mentors. School counselors will be submitting the School Report and any supplementary documents on a student's behalf.

Top 5 Majors



All college matriculation information is self-reported using end-of-year student survey data.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Berkeley*
Davis*
Irvine*
Los Angeles*
Merced
Riverside*
San Diego*
Santa Barbara*
Santa Cruz*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bakersfield
Cal Poly, Humboldt
Cal Poly, Pomona*
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo*
Channel Islands
Chico*
Dominguez Hills
East Bay
Fresno
Fullerton*
Long Beach*
Los Angeles
Monterey Bay*
Northridge
Sacramento*
San Marcos*
San Diego State University*
San Francisco State University*
San Jose State University*
Sonoma State University

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Berkeley City College
Bunker Hill Community College*
Butte College
De Anza College*
Evergreen Valley College*
Foothill College*
Gavilan College*
Mission College*
Ohlone College*
San Jose City College*
Santa Barbara City College*
West Valley College*

CALIFORNIA PRIVATE
California Institute for the Arts
California Lutheran University
Chapman University*
Concordia University Irvine
Dominican University
Harvey Mudd College
Loyola Marymount University
Menlo College
Mount Saint Mary's University
Occidental College
Otis College of Art and Design
Pepperdine University
Saint Mary's College of California
Samuel Merritt University
Santa Clara University*

CA PRIVATE (CONT'D)
University of La Verne
University of San Diego*
University of San Francisco*
University of Southern California
University of the Pacific*
Vanguard University
Westmont College
Woodbury University

OUT OF STATE
AMDA Performing Arts College
American University
Arizona State University*
Baylor University*
Belmont University
Berry College
Binghamton University
Berklee College of Music
Boise State University
Boston University*
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College*
Brigham Young University*
Brigham Young University-Idaho*
Cape Fear Community College*
Carnegie Mellon University*
Case Western Reserve University
Charleston Southern University
Clark University
Clemson University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University*
Columbia University
Columbia College Chicago
Cornell College
Cornell University
Drexel University*
Duquesne University
Emory University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgetown University*
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gonzaga University
Grand Canyon University
Hawaii Pacific University
Hofstra University
Indiana University*
Iowa State University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Johns Hopkins University
Kansas State University
Kent State University
Kettering University

OUT OF STATE (CONT'D)
Le Moyne University
LIM College
Lindenwood University*
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College*
Manhattan University
Marquette University
Mercy University
Merrimack College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Michigan State University*
Mississippi State University
Montana State University
Mount Saint Mary's University
Nazareth University
New Mexico State university
New York University
Niagara University
North Carolina State University*
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University*
Pace University*
Pacific University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University*
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Rhode Island School of Design*
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Thomas Aquinas
School of Visual Arts
Seattle University*
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Southern Oregon University*
St. John's University
Stanford University
Stonybrook University
SUNY Buffalo
SUNY Cortland
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University*
The Ohio State University
Union College*

OUT OF STATE (CONT'D)
University of Alabama
University of Arizona*
University of Arkansas
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
University of Indiana
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*
University of Nevada, Reno*
University of New England
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon*
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound*
University of South Carolina*
University of South Florida
University of Tampa*
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Arlington*
University of Texas at Austin
University of Utah*
University of Vermont
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
West Virginia University
Wingate University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS
University of British Columbia

***Indicates school student is attending**

Specialty Program Highlights

American Justice System: Mock Trial course that teaches the impaction of law, and dynamics of a courtroom. [*25-26 only*]

Credit Recovery: A-G approved online courses offered through Edgenuity.
In-person courses also offered in English, Math, and Science†; these count towards graduation requirements but not A-G approved. [†*Not offered 26-27*]

Exploring Computer Science: Students complete a National Science Foundation (NSF)-designed curriculum that includes introduction to human computer interaction, problem solving, web design, programming, data analysis, and robotics.

Latino Literature: While learning the same skills taught in their English class, students examine their place in their community while studying the work of Latinx authors.

Leadership: We offer two unique courses: **Service Learning Leadership** organizes and implements community service projects and **ASB Leadership** organizes and implements school-wide student events.

Man in the California Environment (Man/Cal Env): Students teach field ecology to 3 local primary schools and lead teams of 4th graders in weekly field expeditions through a local watershed preserve.

Broadcasting: Records weekly video announcements.
Journalism: Publishes monthly newspaper.
Yearbook: Documents and designs for annual yearbook.

Destination College Advising Corps (DCAC): Program funded by UC Berkeley's Center for Educational Partnerships; aims to increase college access for low-income, first-gen, and historically underrepresented students.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars

Robotics
Finalist Silicon Valley Regional ('25)
Team Sustainability Award ('25)
Gracious Professionalism Award – Pinnacles Robotics Competition ('26)

Performing and Fine Arts
Instrumental Music Program – Commendation from City of San José ('26)
Jazz Band – "Excellent" ranking at Santa Cruz Jazz Festival ('24), Silver at Forum Music Festival ('25)
Symphony Orchestra - Gold at Forum Music Festival ('25)
Manilow Music Project Award Recipient – Lara Levy and the Pioneer Music Program
Mustang Chorale (Choir) – Superior rating at Music in the Parks festival ('26)

Athletics Highlights

League Champions - Blossom Valley A.L.:
Wrestling ('25) Girls Cross Country ('25)
Girls Volleyball ('24) Boys Volleyball ('25)
Boys Water Polo ('25)

CCS Champions - Blossom Valley A.L.:
Traditional Competitive cheer ('26)

SPORTS OFFERED

Badminton	Flag Football (W)	Swimming/ Diving
Baseball (M)	Football	Tennis
Basketball	Golf (M)	Track & Field
Comp Cheer	Lacrosse	Volleyball
Comp Sport Cheer	Soccer	Water Polo
Sideline Cheer	Softball (W)	Wrestling
Cross Country		