St. Paul Central High School 2026-2027 Profile

IB World School & 2025 Cognia School of Distinction

Many Traditions, One School

St. Paul Central High School is the oldest high school in the state of Minnesota, founded in 1866. Central's longstanding tradition of academic excellence is widely acclaimed and has received recognition from Cognia® in 2025 as one of only 24 schools in five countries named a Cognia® School of Distinction. Our International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, "exemplifies the very best attributes of an IB World School," according to IB world experts. Central has educated leaders in business, government, literature, arts, sciences, and education throughout the state of Minnesota and the United States, serving as a model for public education serving diverse populations.

Principal	Cherise Ayers
Counseling Dept. Co-Chairs	Natalee D'Amore & Heidi Elliott
Accreditation	Cognia®
Control	State of Minnesota
CEEB Code	242230
Class Size	Up to 40 students
Stud./Counselor Ratio	248:1
9th grade	432 students
10th grade	460 students
11th grade	457 students
12th grade	390 students
Total enrollment	1,739 students
White	49%
Black/not Hispanic	22%
Multiracial	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%
Hispanic/Latino	4%
Native	3%
46 Languages spoken in students' homes.	
38% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch.	

GRADE POINT DETERMINATION*

Grade		Grade	
A	4.0	**C**	2.0
A-	3.7	**C-**	1.7
B+ (above avg)	3.3	**D+** (below avg)	1.3
B	3.0	**D**	1.0
B-	2.7	**D-**	.7
C+ (average)	2.3	**N/NP** (fail)	0/NA

**Students may take up to 8 courses per quarter. All grades except for P and NP are used for GPA and class rank.*

****Due to safety concerns from federal immigration enforcement during second quarter of the 2025–2026 school year, students' grades stayed the same or improved from their mid-quarter grade. Students receiving an "N" had until March 4, 2026 to submit assignments for a passing second quarter grade.***

WEIGHTED HONORS COURSES

International Baccalaureate (IB)*	**48** courses
Advanced Placement (AP)*	**17** courses
College in the Schools (CIS)*	**5** courses
Accelerated, Honors, Immersion, Quest*	**15** courses

PSEO: Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in courses at colleges or technical institutes through the MN Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

**See description on additional page.*

All grades from courses designated as honors will be figured for GPA via a 1.25 multiplier effect, e.g. an "A" in an honors course will be multiplied by 1.25 to yield a weighted grade point of 5.0: (4 x 1.25 = 5.0).

CLASS OF 2026 HIGHEST GPA

Weighted	**4.86**
Unweighted	**4.00**

ACT DATA

Central Composite Averages:

2026 (253 students)	**23**
2025 (276 students)	**21**
2024 (293 students)	**21**
2023 (366 students)	**22**

NATIONAL MERIT COMPETITION

2027 Merit Program	
Commended	**5**
Semifinalists	**4**
Finalists	**TBD**
2026 Merit Program	
Commended	**4**
Semifinalists	**2**
Finalists	**2**
2025 Merit Program	
Commended	**8**
Semifinalists	**4**
Finalists	**4**

POST-SECONDARY PLANS CLASS OF 2026

Students surveyed	**316**
Four-year college	**75%**
Two-year college	**14%**
Other/Still Deciding	**4%**
Workforce	**3%**
Apprenticeship/Career Certificate	**2%**
Military	**<1%**
Gap Year	**1%**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Number of exams, May 2026	**1456**
Students taking exams	**910**
Subject areas	**22**
AP Scholars Awarded	**126**
AP Scholars with Honors	**45**
AP Scholars with Distinction	**70**
AP National Scholars Awarded	**0**
Total Scholars	**241**

Advanced Placement Tests: African American Studies, Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science A, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Micro Economics, Physics 1*, Physics C: EM, Physics C: Mech, Precalculus, Psychology, Statistics, US Government and Politics, US History, World History: Modern

**During the 2025-2026 school year, students with Physics, Accelerated listed on their transcript followed the AP Physics 1 curriculum.*

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Number of exams, May 2026	**498**
Students taking exams	**209**
Full Diplomas Awarded	**11**
Highest Diploma Points	**34**

IB Program Tests: English Lit, English Lang&Lit, German, German Lang&Lit, French, French Lang&Lit, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish, Economics, History, Biology, Physics; Sports, Exercise, and Health Science; Math Analysis, Math Applications, Visual Arts, Music

TOP TEN COLLEGES ENROLLED IN CLASS OF 2025*

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Saint Paul College
University of St. Thomas
Augsburg University
St. Olaf College
Minneapolis College
University of Minnesota, Duluth
Gustavus Adolphus College
DePaul University
Metropolitan State University

**2026 data not yet available.*

St. Paul Central High School 2026-2027 Profile

IB World School & 2025 Cognia School of Distinction

CLASS OF 2027 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

86 credits must be earned in the following areas*:

English	**16** credits
Social Studies (World His., Geogr., US His., Econ., Gov.)	**14** credits
Math (through Integrated Math III or above)	**12** credits
Science (including Biology and Chemistry or Physics)	**12** credits
Physical Education	**2** credits
Health	**2** credits
Critical Ethnic Studies	**2** credits
FACS/Industrial Tech	**2** credits
Fine Arts	**4** credits
General Electives	**20** credits

**2* credits equal one semester.*

Academic Specialties

Central offers students six options for rigorous college preparation:

1. International Baccalaureate - IB
Central HS has been an IB World School authorized to offer the Diploma Program since 1987. Our Diploma Program offers 17 testing subjects: Chinese (Mandarin); French; German; Latin; Spanish; Russian; English Lit; French Lang & Lit; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Math Analysis; Math Applications; History; Economics; Philosophy; Music; Visual Arts, and Theory of Knowledge. About 50% of our 11th and 12th graders register for one or more IB Exams, and Central scores have consistently been above average for IB students throughout the world.

The IB Diploma Program is a global pre-university program that provides an interdisciplinary curriculum and incorporates multicultural perspectives and internationally-based standards of achievement. IB courses develop and refine higher-level thinking skills, writing techniques, and oral communications.

2. Middle Years Program – MYP
Central HS in partnership with Hidden River Middle School has been authorized to offer the IB MYP since 2009. The partnership shares a common philosophy of commitment to challenging and high-quality international education.

3. Advanced Placement - AP
Central High School has been offering AP courses and exams since 1994. The school currently offers 17 courses and continues to have a significant number of AP award recipients including National AP Scholars. In 2024, Central was named as a Silver member to the AP School Honor Roll.

4. Quest
For over 40 years, Quest classes are honors courses combining traditional group learning with individual pursuit of academic interests and artistic talents. Students are trained to think independently and to learn from each other and from the instructor. The humanities-based curriculum delves into ancient and modern texts by multiethnic authors of all genders. Quest classes stress analysis and synthesis of ideas, as well as critical thinking processes articulated in written and oral assignments.

5. College in the Schools - CIS
Instructors trained by University of Minnesota faculty teach English, Latin, Psychology, for University credit.

Other Specialties

1. Media Communications
Central has a dedicated recording studio. In the audio studio, musicians, singers, and technicians rehearse daily to prepare, perform, and record original compositions with state-of-the-art equipment. In the TV studio, broadcast journalism students produce CMN, the Central Morning News.

2. Performing Arts
Experience is available in acting, band, choir, jazz band and orchestra. Central has an accomplished theater club, that performs three full shows each year. All aspects of the productions are student-driven: acting, music, stage management, costumes, and technical production. Our dance classes perform a recital annually. Vocalists and instrumentalists in Central's Music Department perform throughout the school year in our community. These large organizations tour nationally every two years. Central musicians have a tradition of first-place awards and superior ratings at local, state and national festivals and competitions.

3. Visual Arts
The visual arts department provides a solid introduction to the formal, technical, and expressive qualities of several art media. After completing introductory courses, many students continue work focusing on ceramics, drawing, jewelry, photography, painting, and art history in upper-level, honors, IB and AP courses. Central's visual artists participate in several juried exhibits throughout the year.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities at Central support optimal youth development and engage every segment of the school's diverse student population. Central's athletic program includes swimming, tennis, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, badminton, wrestling, gymnastics, track and field, cross-country running, and skiing. Central teams consistently participate in postseason competition for regional and state championships.

Central also has a rich variety of extracurricular activities, including theater, jazz band, honor society, community service activities (Fresh Force, Roots & Shoots), speech, debate, math team, yoga, and much more.

CENTRAL
HOME OF THE MINUTEMEN