



San Mateo High School

smhs.smusd.org | 650-558-2399 | CEEB Code: 053175

School Profile

2026-27

Student Enrollment

1564

Class of 2027

338

Free & Reduced Lunch

43.2%

Multilingual Learners

17.6%

2026 Graduates

341

1st Generation Grad

49.0%

Attending 4-Year College

44.3%

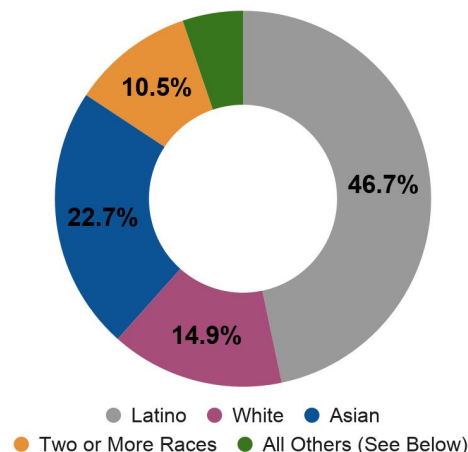
Attending 2-Year College

46.1%

School Overview

San Mateo High School (SMHS) is the oldest of six comprehensive high schools in the San Mateo Union High School District. The Bearcat Spirit of nearly 125 years has created a school environment dedicated to combining academic excellence, community service, and hands on learning to provide students with the tools needed to succeed beyond high school. San Mateo High School is the most diverse of all the high schools in the district, featuring both ethnic and socio-economic diversity, and serves the largest Newcomer English Learner population of its neighboring sites.

The city of San Mateo has a population of approximately 103,000 and is located 20 miles south of San Francisco. San Mateo's location between San Francisco and San Jose in the United States' tech hub has created a strong interest in STEM programs among San Mateo High School students, highlighted by our Biotechnology dual-enrollment CTE pathway.



Race/ Ethnicity < 5%

Pacific Islander 4.0%
 Black/African American 0.8%
 Native American 0.8%
 Undeclared 0.2%

Curriculum & Grading

Students must earn 220 credits to graduate. Five credits are earned per course per semester. All courses fulfilling graduation requirements must be taken on campus. With prior approval, students may take up to 40 credits of concurrent enrollment for courses not offered by SMHS. Students in grades 9-11 must enroll in a minimum of 6 classes. 12th grade students must enroll in a minimum of 4 classes.

Graduation Requirements

English	40 credits	World Language	10 credits
Social Science	35 credits	Visual & Performing Arts	10 credits
Mathematics	30 credits	Career Technical Education	10 credits
Science (1 biological, 1 physical)	20 credits	Health	5 credits
Physical Education (PE 1 & 2 only, no exceptions)	20 credits	Electives	40 credits

Grading:

Weighted GPA includes all courses 9-12 with an extra point given for Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment Courses.

Unweighted GPA is calculated for courses 9-12

A = 5.0, B = 4.0, C = 3.0

Scheduling Constraints: Students must be enrolled in performance arts classes in order to perform in shows/ events. Students must be enrolled in A.S.B. Leadership if holding an elected position. This will impact access to AP / Honors courses due to potential scheduling conflicts.

AP / Honors Progression:

Access is limited in 9th-10th Grade; most courses become available in 11th grade. AP classes are open enrollment.

1 Freshman
Maximum 1 AS
Recommended

2 Sophomore
Maximum 2
AS/H/AP
Recommended

3 Junior
Up to 3 H/AP
Recommended

3 Senior
Up to 3 H/AP
Recommended

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)*

Biology	Physics 1
Calculus AB	Psychology
Calculus BC	Spanish Language & Culture
Chemistry	Spanish Literature & Culture
Chinese Language and Culture	Statistics
Computer Science A	Studio Art 2D/3D
English Language & Composition	Studio Art 3D
English Literature & Composition	Drawing
Environmental Science	US History
French Language and Culture	US Government & Politics
Macroeconomics	

Advanced Standing (AS)

AS English 1
AS English 2

Honors Courses (H)*

Chinese 4H
French 4H
Spanish 4H

Dual Enrollment (DE)*

College of San Mateo

Intro to Graphic Design
Career & Life Planning
College & Academic Success

Skyline College

Biotechnology 1 & 2
Biotech Independent Research
Entrepreneurship
The Business Plan

* = Weighted Courses

Class of 2026 Outcomes

Weighted GPA	# Students	% Class
4.0 +	87	22.4%
3.5 - 3.99	70	20.5%
3.0 - 3.49	63	18.4%
2.5 - 2.99	49	14.3%
2.0 - 2.49	55	16.1%

Class Ranking : SMHS does not rank students.

AP Scores [May 2026]

3.96
Average Score

92.5%
Scored 3 or higher

72%
Exams scored 4-5

- 480 students took 1,162 exams
- 23 AP Subject Exams were offered

Standardized Testing

Because the University of California and California State University systems have been test-blind since 2020 and do not consider SAT or ACT scores in admission decisions, SMHS does not report score ranges. Applying without scores is a norm at our school. 38% of the class of 2026 took the SAT.

Special Programs

- Art Certificate:** Visual arts all 4 years and portfolio submission
- AVID:** 4 years
- Biotechnology:** Level 1, 2, Summer Internship, Independent Research
- Dance:** Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced
- Drama/Adv. Drama/Musical Theater/Tech Theater:** Three annual productions: fall musical, winter musical, fall play
- Leadership:** ASB/Athletic Leadership/Renaissance Leadership
- Music:** Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Ensemble/Marching Band; Orchestra; Choir/ Chamber Singers
- Newcomer Multilingual Learner Program:** Levels 1-3, ML Content Classes
- World Language:** Spanish Native Speakers; Levels 1-AP in Chinese, French, Spanish

Elective courses can be taken multiple times over 4 years at SMHS. Repeated enrollment reflects sustained commitment and academic progression.

Administration

Yvonne Shiu, Principal
yshiu@smuhsd.org

Michael Holtz, Asst. Principal (Gr. 10/12)
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Gary Hong, Asst. Principal (Gr. 9/11)
ghong@smuhsd.org

Lauren Ponti, Asst. Principal (ML Program)
lponti@smuhsd.org

Michelle Torres, Dean of Students
amtorres@smuhsd.org

Post Secondary Plans

16.3% University of California	9.6% California State Univ.	18.4% Private / Out of State Univ.	46.1% Community College	5.2% Trade/ Military/Work
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Recognition	2024	2025	2026
AP Scholars	43	69	55
AP Scholars with Honor	47	47	40
AP Scholars with Distinction	127	118	127
Seal of Biliteracy	128	103	76

National Merit			
Graduating Class	Semi Finalists	Merit Finalists	Commended Students
2025	6	6	20
2026	3	3	19

Athletics & Extracurriculars

- Athletics:** approx. 40% of students participate at least one of 43 sports teams
- Clubs:** approx. 90 student run clubs on campus that range from interest-based, competition-based, or service-oriented.
- Performance Clubs:** Dance Team, Grupo Folklórico, Pep Band, POM

Student Supports

- MTSS Tier 2 -** Bearcat Den after school tutoring, Bearcat Mentors program, Fly Law, Empowerment Through Action, Restorative Practices, Tutorial period, School Counselor/Wellness Check-ins
- AVID, Self & Social Empowerment, Community Literacy in Action, Designated ELD**

School Counseling

Nicole Chan (% 2027)
nchan@smuhsd.org

Veronica Gasco (% 2028)
vgasco@smuhsd.org

Crystal Beltran (% 2029)
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Jane Zimmerman (% 2030)
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Ariana Morales (ML Newcomers)
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College & Career

Evestella Hanson, College & Fin. Aid
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Sun Chang, Career Coordinator
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Jinning Gee, Student Data Analyst
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