The
POST OAK
SCHOOL

College Counseling School Profile

2026–2027

OUR MISSION

The Post Oak School is a diverse and welcoming Montessori community that honors and guides lifelong learners as they create their own bold pathways in leading purposeful lives.



postoakschool

Founded in 1963, The Post Oak School is an independent, coeducational day school in an urban setting offering comprehensive education from infancy through high school.

MONTESSORI IN HIGH SCHOOL

Students possess a strong ability to self-direct and work independently. Coursework requires significant reading; students should be comfortable using state-of-the-art technology and ready to participate regularly in roundtable seminar discussions.

Students come to Post Oak from many educational backgrounds, and those who succeed have a great capacity to self-manage and work independently.

CURRICULUM

The school offers a challenging curriculum preparing students to earn both the Post Oak and International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas. The IB curriculum fits well with the student-centered, critical thinking, and developmental approach at The Post Oak School. All students in grades eleven and twelve participate in the IB Diploma Program and most seniors sit for the IB exams in May. Some choose to complete an independent capstone project under the guidance of an advisor after the completion of the Extended Essay.

PHILOSOPHY

The Post Oak School focuses on the developmental understanding of growing up and becoming a mature adult. Students at Post Oak are usually very involved in the choices about what happens here through community council and community meetings. Post Oak is a place for students to find a voice and to make a positive difference in the lives of others as they explore personal interests. At Post Oak, students have incredible growth opportunities as they encounter challenges.

MATRICULATION

One hundred percent of Post Oak graduates enroll in a four-year college or university.

RANKINGS

The Post Oak School does not rank students academically. Therefore, we do not have valedictorian or salutatorian distinctions. Instead, the seniors elect a class member each year to give the commencement address. Before casting their votes, students engage in a conversation about the characteristics of a Post Oak graduate, enriched by the valuable input from each senior during the discussion. Students vote based on which class member they feel best exemplifies those qualities.

The High School program aims to enable students to achieve the skills necessary for college and life as independent adults and foster the sense of purpose needed to make a meaningful contribution to a better world. Students must be allowed to test their ability to be independent and have a wide range of experiences to discover their interests and develop their passions into talents. Instruction at Post Oak's High School serves these adolescent needs through key lessons that open doors to new areas of human knowledge, activities that allow for further investigation, discovery, and practice, and diverse opportunities for students to demonstrate learning.

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School
Maura Joyce | MauraJoyce@PostOakSchool.org

Assistant Head of School
Cara Henderson | CaraHenderson@PostOakSchool.org

College Counselor/Community Life Coordinator
Louis Dorsey | LouisDorsey@PostOakSchool.org

High School Director
James Quillin, PhD | JamesQuillin@PostOakSchool.org

Admissions Director, Museum District Campus
Tiffney Trimble | TiffneyTrimble@PostOakSchool.org

Dean of Curriculum and Instruction
Kim Harrison | KimHarrison@PostOakSchool.org

Registrar
Andrea Nelson | AndreaNelson@PostOakSchool.org

CEEB Code: 440562

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Lower Level Courses (Grades 9–10)		IB Upper Level Courses (Grades 11–12)	
English Language Arts		Language and Literature SL or HL	
Mandarin Chinese		Chinese ab initio SL	Chinese B SL
Spanish		Spanish SL or HL	
Integrated History and Social Sciences		Economics HL | Global Politics HL | IB World History HL	
Integrated Natural Sciences		Biology SL or HL Chemistry SL or HL	Computer Science SL Physics SL
Integrated Math		Math Applications SL	Math Analysis SL or HL
Design Tech Theater	Music Visual Arts	Film SL or HL Music SL or HL	Theater SL or HL Visual Arts SL or HL

Standard Level (SL), Higher Level (HL)

Core Requirements	Sample Mini-Course Intensives (change yearly)
Theory of Knowledge	Art Car; Music Production & DJing 2.0; Art of Cooking, Texas Coastal Conservation; Thailand; Costa Rica Field Study (FS);Paleontology FS; Modern Medieval Studies; Fashion & Making Clothes; Monet to Van Gogh; Asian Culture Study; Physics: Advanced Study; Big Bend River FS
Extended Essay	
Creativity, Activity, Service	
Physical Fitness I/II	

CURRENT GRADING SCALE

Evaluation	Numeric
Meets or Exceeds	4.0
Approaching	3.0
Developing	2.0
Limited (not passing)	1.0
Incomplete	0.0

Students receive narrative grades in their evaluations. The following weights will be added to the grade points:

- 0.25 for courses in which the student has achieved 100% completion
- 0.25 for upper level 11/12 courses taken at Higher Level (HL)

GRADING SCALE PRIOR TO 2024–2025

Evaluation	Numeric
Exemplary	4.5–5.0
Advanced	4.0–4.4
Proficient	3.5–3.9

Marks below 3.5 are not passing. Grades prior to the 2024–25 school year will not be merged with the grades under the new grading system.

POST OAK DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts and Literature	4
Second Language(s)	4
History and Social Sciences	4
Natural Sciences	4
Mathematics	4
Arts	4
Mini-Course Intensives	4
Theory of Knowledge	4
Extended Essay	½
Physical Fitness (9th and 10th grades)	2
Upper Level HL courses	6

TESTING DATA

The Class of 2026 Standardized Testing Averages:

ACT Composite (mid 50%)	33
SAT (mid 50%)	1320

FIELDWORK & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Internships

Among Post Oak's teachers are curators and scientists from world-renowned museums; artists from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Glassell School of Art; doctors from the Texas Medical Center; and researchers from the Houston Museum of Natural Science, all of whom work in our partner institutions throughout the Houston Museum District. Students directly connect with experts in the field, shoulder to shoulder. The result is a school that breaks down walls and maximizes opportunities for students to engage with experts in their field of interest. Additionally, the vast majority of internships are unpaid, benefitting both the student and partner institutions.

Many Post Oak's High School students choose to participate in the internship program. As students pursue their interests through internships, they further develop their classwork skills. Some students secure internships in paleontology, entomology, history, and marine biology by working weekly at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A student with a long-time interest in psychology interned at the Jung Center. A group of students completed an EV car conversion project. You can read about and follow our interns through their blogs on our website.

Mini-Course Intensives & Travel

Post Oak offers more authentic travel opportunities than other schools. Travel together builds relationships, tests capacity, and accelerates growth through real-world challenges.

At Post Oak, we travel, never just a tourist or sightseeing trip, but in context to the course the student takes. You can read about them in the students' travel blogs. For Post Oak students, a trip is a class, and each activity on the trip has a meaning within that course of study.

The annual fall Odyssey trip, which occurs during the first full week of school, allows students and faculty to get acquainted through travel that engages the group in a deep field-study experience. For example, last year, we traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, where students explored the city's history and culture. They visited Central High School, the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. They also studied geology at Pinnacle Mountain, archaeology at Plum Bayou Mounds, and history at the Historic Arkansas Museum. The trip concluded with the Esse Purse Museum, which illustrates women's lives in the 1900s through the everyday items they carried.

Another travel experience is the two-week J-Term and M-Term courses in January and March. These opportunities offer students the ability to dive deeply into specific areas of interest and develop complex skills through traveling locally or internationally, performing community service, and conducting cultural, scientific, or arts-related studies.

Community Service

Complementing the intensives, students undertake volunteer work in support of local organizations throughout Houston.

ATHLETICS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Post Oak School has many opportunities for participation in individual and team athletics as well as other activities. As a small school, much of what is possible will be determined by student interest from year to year. Examples include:

- Cross country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Track
- Volleyball
- Yoga
- Chess
- Creative writing
- Film
- Photography
- Poker
- School newspaper
- Woodworking
- Yearbook

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Community Council serves as the voice of the student body and reflects Post Oak's Montessori commitment to self-governance, leadership, and community responsibility. Council members work to strengthen school culture, promote accountability to Community Norms, and support restorative practices when challenges arise. Rather than serving as peer judges, they act as community stewards who foster reflection, healthy relationships, and collective responsibility.

Students in good standing are selected through a representative candidacy process, with staggered one-year terms ensuring continuity and mentorship among members.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Faculty & Staff (High School)

14 full-time faculty
5 part-time faculty
6 staff
61 percent hold post-graduate degrees

Student Enrollment

Total School 508
High School 91

9th	20
10th	24
11th	25
12th	22

Ethnicity Data for The Post Oak School

Asian	13.8%
Black/African American	4.2%
Latino/Hispanic	6.4%
Multiracial	22.0%
Native American	0.4%
White/Non-Hispanic	45.4%
Unreported/Unknown	7.8%

FINANCIAL AID

Twenty-six percent of High School students receive financial aid.

GPA

The cumulative GPA is weighted.

COLLEGE REPORTING POLICY

The Post Oak School does not report disciplinary infractions to colleges. However, we encourage students to be honest and self-report disciplinary actions to colleges and universities.

ACCREDITATIONS

- Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

The 17 seniors in the class of 2026 received merit scholarship offers totaling $4,401,203. Below are the college matriculations for our graduates in recent years. A complete list of college acceptances is available on our website.'

- American University
- Austin College
- Babson College
- Bard College
- Barnard College
- Baylor University
- Belmont University
- Beloit College
- Berry College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Carleton College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Chapman University
- Colgate University
- Colorado College
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- Connecticut College
- Cornell College
- Cornell University
- Davidson College
- Drexel University
- Duke University
- Elon University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- The George Washington University
- Guilford College
- Haverford College
- High Point University
- Hofstra University
- Hollins University
- Ithaca College
- Kalamazoo College
- Lake Forest College
- Lawrence University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Montana State University
- New York University, Gallatin School
- New York University, Shanghai
- Northeastern University
- Oberlin College
- The Ohio State University
- Pepperdine University
- Pitzer College
- Pomona College
- Reed College
- Rice University
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Southern Methodist University
- Southwestern University
- St. Edward's University
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- Texas A&M University, College Station; Galveston
- Texas A&M University, Galveston
- Texas Christian University
- Texas Tech University
- Trinity University
- Tulane University
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- University of Arizona
- University of California–Irvine
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Houston
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Andrews
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Washington
- Wake Forest University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- Wheaton College
- Wester Carolina University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Yale University
- York St. John University

The
POST OAK SCHOOL

MUSEUM DISTRICT CAMPUS: GRADES 7–12

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