MARIN ACADEMY

SCHOOL PROFILE | 2026–2027

CEEB
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ABOUT MARIN ACADEMY

Marin Academy is an independent, coeducational day school in San Rafael, California, serving approximately 450 students in grades 9–12. MA combines academic challenge with inquiry, creativity, and experiential learning, encouraging students to think independently, consider diverse perspectives, and take ownership of their learning. Through a future-focused, human-centered education, students develop the skills and capacities to navigate complexity and contribute with purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

> "Marin Academy asks every individual to think, question, and create in an environment of encouragement and compassion, and challenges each person to accept the responsibilities posed by education in a democratic society."

HEAD OF SCHOOL
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CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY: THE CORE COMPETENCIES

Marin Academy's curriculum is guided by five school-wide competencies that develop the intellectual, creative, and interpersonal capacities students need to navigate complexity and engage thoughtfully with the world. Across disciplines and experiences, students learn to examine evidence, consider multiple perspectives, communicate compellingly, engage with empathy, pursue questions with curiosity, and take thoughtful intellectual risks.



INTELLECTUAL FLEXIBILITY



COMPELLING EXPRESSION



DEMONSTRATED EMPATHY



STRATEGIC BOLDNESS



IMAGINATIVE CURIOSITY

These competencies extend across the MA experience, providing a shared framework for student learning and growth in the classroom, community, and beyond.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

- Ninth-grade students begin with a gradeless first semester to support their transition to MA. During this period, students develop foundational skills aligned with the MA Competencies and receive strengths-based, growth-oriented feedback.
- Students typically enroll in six courses each semester. At certain points in the curriculum, graduation requirements may result in students carrying seven courses.
- Grades are reported on an unweighted A–F / 4.0 scale; MA does not award A+ grades.
- MA does not rank students, weight grades, or offer academic awards.
- Only courses taken at Marin Academy appear on the transcript and are included in the GPA.

AT A GLANCE: OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

38%
STUDENTS OF COLOR

20%
RECEIVE TUITION ASSISTANCE

48
ZIP CODES

CLASS OF 2027 ACADEMIC PROFILE

There are **115** students in the Class of 2027.

The middle 50% GPA range is **3.72–3.96**

(unweighted, based on grades earned at Marin Academy only).

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2026–2027 COURSE OFFERINGS, PROGRESSION, AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A total of 23 credits are required for graduation. Of these, 19.5 credits must be earned through required courses or designated departmental electives; the remaining 3.5 credits may be chosen from any area. One credit is awarded for a year-long course that meets three times per rotation.

MOST ADVANCED COURSES

Marin Academy does not offer AP courses. Courses designated (H) reflect advanced study within the MA curriculum. In some departments, including English and History, all upper-level electives carry the Honors designation. The courses below represent the highest level of study available to students in each department.

DEPARTMENT	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	MOST ADVANCED COURSES
ENGLISH	Four years. Required courses include English I (9th), English II (10th), and English III Honors (11th). Seniors take two semester-long upper-level English courses, each designated (H) English IV.	All upper-level (H) English IV electives
MATH	Three years and completion of Algebra II.	(H) Advanced Calculus (H) Multivariable Calculus (H) Advanced Mathematical Thinking and Inquiry
SCIENCE	Three years of lab science required, including Biology (9th), Chemistry (10th), and one year of Physics. Physics may be taken in 11th or 12th grade.	(H) Advanced Chemistry (H) Advanced Biology (H) Advanced Physics with Calculus (H) Applied Design, Engineering, and Technology (H) MARC: Applied Genetics Research (H) MARC: Independent STEM Research I & II
HISTORY	Three years, including Modern World History I (9th), Modern World History II (10th), and United States History Honors (11th).	All upper-level (H) History electives (H) Advanced Historical Research Methods
WORLD LANGUAGES	Three years of the same language through at least Level 3, or two years each of two different languages.	(H) Spanish IV, V, VI (H) French IV, V, VI (H) Mandarin V (H) Spanish for Heritage Speakers
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	Two years of coursework in Visual & Performing Arts, with offerings in Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and Theater.	Performing Arts: Advanced Bands, Dance IV, Theater Company (H) Visual Arts: All Level IV courses in Drawing & Painting, Photography, and Ceramics
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	Two semesters, Fall of 9th grade and Spring of 10th grade.	
ETHNIC STUDIES	One semester of Introduction to Ethnic Studies in 9th grade.	
LIFE FITNESS	Students are required to complete the requirement in 9th and 10th grade through the following pathways: ▶ Life Fitness Courses ▶ Dance Program ▶ Interscholastic Athletics ▶ Independent Study	



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SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

Marin Academy's signature experiences extend learning beyond the classroom through research, interdisciplinary inquiry, leadership, civic engagement, and experiential education.

Marin Academy Research Collaborative (MARC)
A highly competitive, application-based science research program offering team-based genetics research and a two-year independent STEM research track. Students engage in original, college-level research and may present or publish their findings.

Transdisciplinary Leadership Program (TLP)
An application-based senior program in which students develop leadership skills while engaging in cross-disciplinary projects that address complex real-world and community issues.

Outings Program
Established in 1972, MA's outdoor education program offers experiences including backpacking, kayaking, and snow camping while fostering ecological knowledge, personal growth, and stewardship.

Conference on Democracy
An annual, student-led program that brings a range of perspectives to campus through speakers and programming focused on political, social, economic, and environmental issues at the local, national, and global levels. Leadership in Action, a credit-bearing, project-based leadership course, gives students responsibility for designing and implementing the Conference and other signature community programs.

Minicourse
An immersive weeklong program that challenges students through environmental stewardship, community service, academic and artistic enrichment, wilderness skills, and other experiential learning opportunities.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Additional opportunities allow students to deepen their interests, contribute to the school community, and take on meaningful leadership roles.

Identity & Equity (IDEQ) Leaders
Students apply to lead affinity and alliance groups that foster belonging, dialogue, and engagement around identity and equity. Leaders receive training and facilitate programming in partnership with faculty advisors.

Advanced Bands
Advanced student ensembles in which musicians compose, arrange, rehearse, and perform original music.

Human Development TA Program
A highly competitive, application-based leadership opportunity for juniors and seniors. Selected students receive extensive training before serving as teaching assistants and helping facilitate peer discussions on identity, relationships, health, and well-being.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES OF 2023–2026

*Bolded is for the Class of 2026

American University
Amsterdam University College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brown University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Marin
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Cuesta College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Diablo Valley College
Duke University
Emory University
Fordham University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Indiana University Bloomington
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Middlebury College
Montana State University
New York University
New York University Shanghai
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
Scripps College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
Tufts University
Tulane University
The University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
The University of Edinburgh
University of Florida
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Puget Sound
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Whitman College
Willamette University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University

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