



Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experience  
 Palo Alto High School  
 Winter 2016

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Palo Alto High School

*3 words to describe your school*

Total number of students surveyed= 1440

Number of students who responded to this question: 1359

CODE/ANSWER	EXAMPLES	FREQUENCY	STUDENT %
Stressful	Stressful, Pressure, Overly pressured, Worrying	346	25.5%
Fun	Fun, Enjoyable, Entertaining, Fun times	306	22.5%
Challenging or rigorous	Demanding, Intense, Hardworking, Challenging	300	22.1%
Competitive	Competitive, Competition, Hypercompetitive	246	18.1%
High quality	Amazing, Cool, Awesome, Impressive, Special	229	16.9%
Difficult/Hard	Hard, Tiring, Difficult, Time-consuming, Tough	220	16.2%
Caring/Accepting	Inclusive environment, Welcoming, Accepting, Kind	190	14.0%
Interesting or engaging	Interesting, Involved, Exciting	187	13.8%
Diverse	Diverse, Diversity	127	9.3%
Freedom or openness	Open, Freedom, Independence, Free	125	9.2%
Bad	Useless, Horrible, Pointless, Dumb	121	8.9%
Educational	Learning, Educating, Growth, Enriching	113	8.3%
Friendly	Friends, Friendly, Collegiate, A great time with friends	104	7.7%
Spirit	Spirit, Spirited, Spirit week	101	7.4%
Big	Large, Big, Vast, Huge	100	7.4%
Helpful or supportive	Helpful, Flexible, Resourceful, Helping	99	7.3%
Academic	Academically focused, Academic, Strong Academics	86	6.3%
Expensive or rich	Wealthy, Elite, Privileged, Rich people	85	6.3%
Family or community	Community, United, Family, Good community	75	5.5%
Average	Mediocre, Decent, Alright, Meh	70	5.2%
Unique	Unique, Different, Eccentric	58	4.3%
Boring	Boring, Tedious, Monotonous	50	3.7%

<b>CODE/ANSWER</b>	<b>EXAMPLES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>STUDENT %</b>
Too much work or homework	Homework, Too much homework, A lot of homework	50	3.7%
Smart	Intelligent, Intellectual, Smart, Bright	45	3.3%
Athletic	Sports, Athletic, Sporty	44	3.2%
Opportunity	Lots of opportunities, Riddled with opportunity	43	3.2%
Driven or Goal-oriented	Driven, Ambitious, Focused, Tenacious, Purposeful	41	3.0%
Relaxed or easy	Easy, Chill, Manageable, No worries	32	2.4%
Social	Sociable, Outgoing, Social	30	2.2%
Progressive	Modern, Innovative, Progressive	29	2.1%
Controlling or strict	Rigid, Confined, Strict, Prison	26	1.9%
Superficial	Fake, Superficial, Public image oriented	26	1.9%
Motivating or encouraging	Motivating, Inspiring	25	1.8%
Safe	Safe	22	1.6%
Emotional damages	Suicide, Suicidal, Depressing, Bullying	19	1.4%

**TOP TEN RESPONSES BY GENDER AND GRADE**

CODE	FREQUENCY	GENDER		GRADE			
		FEMALE	MALE	9	10	11	12
Stressful	346	29.9%	17.9%	14.7%	25.1%	30.1%	33.3%
Fun	306	16.4%	27.6%	30.7%	26.1%	1.2%	8.3%
Challenging or rigorous	300	23.1%	19.6%	18.9%	17.3%	27.4%	25.5%
Competitive	246	19.0%	15.3%	7.8%	12.9%	28.1%	28.7%
High quality	229	12.0%	20.3%	17.5%	16.8%	12.7%	14.8%
Difficult/Hard	220	11.2%	15.1%	15.4%	13.2%	12.0%	9.3%
Caring/Accepting	190	15.3%	11.2%	15.6%	12.9%	13.4%	9.7%
Interesting or engaging	187	8.8%	12.8%	10.4%	15.2%	6.7%	7.9%
Diverse	127	9.8%	8.1%	8.5%	9.6%	10.0%	6.9%
Freedom or openness	125	9.6%	8.1%	14.2%	7.6%	6.7%	3.7%

**Ns:** Female: 706. Male: 616. Unspecified gender: 118. 9th grade: 423. 10th grade: 394. 11th grade: 299. 12th grade: 216. Unspecified grade: 108.

Note: students who did not specify gender or grade are excluded from the percentages.