



Palo Alto High School

Established 1894

2016-2017 School Profile

50 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-329-3701

www.paly.net

CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

Palo Alto High School, Paly, has long had a national reputation for academic excellence. The proximity of Stanford University, the Silicon Valley business community, and San Francisco has created a socially diverse community with high academic expectations and a strong belief in quality public education. The student body reflects the community's socio-economic status and educational level. The ethnic/racial makeup of our student population is 35.3% Asian, 3.7% African-American/Black, 49.1% Caucasian, 10.3% Hispanic/Latino, 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.8% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 10% of the student population is enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch Program; 10% are first generation college students. Total student enrollment is 2000.

Palo Alto High School's Guidance Program provides academic planning, personal counseling, and college and career advising for students. At the core of the guidance department is the Teacher Advisor (T.A.) Program. The primary delivery of guidance materials and instruction is via the teacher advisors in the Thursday advisory periods. The teacher advisors serve as students' academic advisors and write students' counselor recommendations and/or school reports.

ACADEMICS 2016-2017

Paly students benefit from a rich curriculum and extensive extra-curricular opportunities. The student-teacher ratio is 28:1. Students may enroll in up to seven classes a semester. Students in grades 9-10 must take a minimum of six classes. Juniors and seniors must take a minimum of five classes. Students earn 5 credits for passing each semester course. For information about the grading key and course abbreviations, please see the chart enclosed with each transcript or visit: <http://www.paly.net/school-profile-and-grading-key>

Graduation Credit Requirements

- English – 40
- Mathematics – 30 (including Algebra I & Geometry)
- Science – 20 (Biological – 10; Physical – 10)
- Social Studies – 40
- World Language – 20
- Arts, Visual & Performing – 10
- Career/Technical Ed. – 10
- Living Skills – 5
- Physical Education – 20

Honors Courses

- Algebra 2/Trigonometry H
- Geometry H
- Math Analysis H
- Biology H
- Chemistry H
- Physics H
- Science Research Project H
- American Literature 11 H
- French 3 H
- Japanese 4 H
- Spanish 3 H
- Theater 4 H
- US Foreign Policy H

AP Courses

Palo Alto High School recommends students enroll in no more than 2 AP courses per year.

- AB Calculus
- BC Calculus
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics C
- Computer Science
- Economics – Macro
- English – Literature & Comp
- Psychology
- US History
- Chinese – Language & Culture
- French – Language
- Japanese – Language & Culture
- Spanish – Language/Literature
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Studio Art – Photography/Drawing

New Programs

Social Justice Pathway – A three-year program featuring self-direction and project-based learning in an interdisciplinary model rooted in community action and collaboration. Students begin by learning the practices of social justice in sophomore year by identifying global local issues that they want to devote themselves to, and learn how to achieve transformative rather than temporary relief from social problems. <http://palsjpc.com>

Sports Career Pathway – This program offers students hands-on opportunities to access career information related to sports - from law to retail to coaching to medicine to business entrepreneurship. With a focus on internships, seminars, business leadership and development, the pathway helps prepare students for jobs in the sports industry as soon as they graduate from high school or college.

Advanced Authentic Research – In this year-long program students work with their mentors to engage in original research in areas that matter deeply to them, whether in pursuit of their unique passion, or in their exploration of new interests. AAR is UC "g" approved, and students earn 5 Career and Technical Education credits per semester. <http://aar.pausd.org>

For a list and description of all courses offered, see the Palo Alto High School Course Catalog online at: <http://www.paly.net/course-catalog>

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE (6 SEMESTERS)

468 students in the Class of 2017.

Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist you in evaluating student performance, the following grade distribution chart is provided.

GPA Range (Unweighted)	Number of Students
3.76 – 4.00	172
3.51 – 3.75	111
3.01 – 3.50	116
2.51 – 3.00	39
2.50 and below	30

TESTING

Students at Paly continue to demonstrate outstanding performance on standardized tests.

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2014	2015	2016
ACT Scores	28.9	28.2	29.1
Nat'l Scores	21	21	20.8

SAT Reasoning Scores: Mean

Year	2014	2015	2016	Nat'l Mean
Reading	643	627	639	495
Math	668	657	662	511
Writing	646	624	639	484

AP Scores (May 2016)

691 students took 1482 tests
93% scored 3 or higher
53% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2015	2016	2017
Semifinalists	25	33	32
Commended Scholars	82	91	64



ACTIVITIES – Award-Winning Student Activities

Best Buddies Club

Outstanding High School Chapter of the Year (2014)

Band & Orchestra

Jazz Band Unanimous Superior CMEA Festival (2014)

5 students in CBDA All-state Honor Band and County Honor Band (2014)

1st Place, Anaheim Heritage Festival (2014)

Orchestra: Gold Rating, 5 students CODA State Honor Orchestra (2014)

Bridge Club

1st Place, Bay Area High School Bridge Championship (2016)

Choirs

Chanticleer Youth Choral Invitational (2014)

Community Engagement

Spring 2016: 83 students contributed 11,332 hrs. of service to 102 local, nat'l, internat'l community benefit organizations

Film Club

3 shorts/youth films selected for Cinequest Film Festival: 2015

1st Place Emerging Artist, CalArts at Dance Camera West Emerging Artists Competition Awards (2014)

Jurist, Golden Gate Award (2014)

4 Honorable Mentions, White House Film Festival (2014)

Math Club

Twice won Internat'l Math Modeling Contest (2016)

One student won USA Math Olympics, and 4 qualifiers (2016)

1st & 2nd Place, Santa Clara County Math Field Day (2016)

4 qualifiers to 2nd Place Ciphering Time Trials/11th Grade (2015)

Nat'l Assess. and Testing Fall Startup: 3rd Place/11th Grade, 4th Place/10th Grade, 19th Place/10th Grade (2015)

A-Star Math Tournament: 5th Place Team, 2nd Place Calculus, 3rd Place Discrete (2015)

3rd Place Team, Bay Area Math Olympiad (2015)

2 qualifiers for Math Olympiad Summer Program (2015)

Student was 1 of 12 top national winners at USA Math Olympiad (2015)

4 qualifiers for USA Math Olympiad (2015)

Nat'l Champions in Calculus Continental Math (2015, 2016)

Publications

C Magazine: Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc.

The Campanile (newspaper): Nat'l Scholastic Press Assoc., Pacemaker, Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc. (2014, 2015) (online)

Madrono: 1st Place Yearbook Cover Design, Journalism Educ. Assoc. of Nor. Calif.; 1st Place Specialty Spread; Honorable Mention: Academic Spread and Student Life Spread; 3rd Place Feature Photo

Paly Voice (online news): Pacemaker Award, Nat'l Scholastic Press Assoc. (2015)

Publications (cont.)

Verde (magazine): Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc. (2015); Pacemaker Award, Nat'l Scholastic Press Assoc. (2014)

Viking: Silver Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc.

Quiz Bowl Club

Team Qualifier, NAQT High School Nat'l Championship (2014)

2nd Place, HSAPQ California State Championships (2014)

Robotics Club

Won Virtual Division of Internat'l Competition, outscoring all world teams on space station (2016)

Qualified for FIRST Robotics World Championships and placed 27th in Curie Division (2016)

Judges Award, Capital City Classic Robotics Competition (2015)

#8 in FIRST, won Entrepreneurship award at both Central Valley Regional and Silicon Valley Regional competitions (2015)

Art Sub Team won 1st Place for Technical Merit, Nat'l Underground Society of Animators (2015)

Science Olympiad

1st Place, Bay Area Regionals (2015, 2016)

2nd Place, Nor. Calif. Science Olympiad State Finals (2015, 2016)

6 students medaled in US Physics Olympiad Semi-finals (2014)

Senior graduate selected to US Physics Team (2014)

Speech & Debate

Nat'l Speech and Debate Assoc. Academic All-Americans (2008-2015)

1st Place Debate Champions, Western States Novice and JV Championship (2014, 2015)

1st Place Speakers, Western States Novice and JV Championship (2014, 2015)

Spirit Team/Cheer & Dance

Overall Excellence (2015)

1st Place, X-Small Contemporary (2015)

3rd Place, National/Hip Hop (2015)

3rd Place, National (2015)

1st Place, Regional (2014)

3rd Place, National (2014)

Theatre

Calif. State Thespian Festival (2016):

1st Place: Stage Mgmt., Monologue, Sound Design

2nd Place: Stage Mgmt., Lighting Design, Monologue

5 students invited to Event Callbacks

4 students in All State Cast/Asst. Director/Crew

2 students selected for Opening Number

2 students elected to Calif. Thespian Student State Board

2 scholarship winners

3 students in Calif. Playwrights' performances

8 students earned Superior Ratings

Ultimate Frisbee Club

Team formed w/Gunn HS placed 6th at Calif. State Championships (2015)

Athletic

Palo Alto High School is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League in the following sports:

- Badminton (C)
- Baseball (+B)
- Basketball (B,+#G)
- Cross Country (+B,G)
- Football (B)
- Golf (+B,G)
- Lacrosse (B,+G)
- Soccer (+B,+G)
- Softball (G)
- Swimming (B,+#G)
- Tennis (B,G)
- Track/Field (B,G)
- Volleyball (G)
- Water Polo (B,G)
- Wrestling (C)

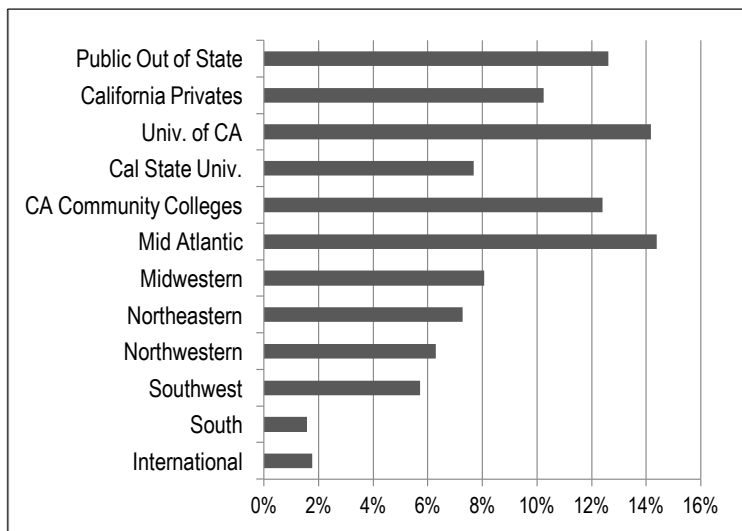
B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed
+ = League Champion # = CCS Champion

Honor Societies

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS - CLASS OF 2016

77.2% directly to 4-year colleges • 12% directly to 2-year colleges • 8.6% other



CONTACT INFO

Principal Kim Diorio (650) 329-3831

Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3760

Vicki Kim (650) 329-3760

Kathie Laurence (650) 329-3760

Adam Paulson (650) 329-3760

Guidance Department (650) 329-3712

College & Career Center (650) 329-3818

College Advisors

Sandra Cernobori (650) 329-3813 scernobori@pausd.org

Crystal Laguna (650) 329-3719 claguna@pausd.org

Stephanie Mendoza (650) 833-4298 smendoza@pausd.org

Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Superintendent Dr. Max McGee (650) 329-3737

MEMBER OF:

- The College Board
- National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)
- Western Association of College Admission Counselors (WACAC)

Complies with NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice. Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges

PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT & GRADING KEY – 2016-2017

All credits earned in Grades 9-12 count toward graduation. All courses are counted in computing grade point average with exception of courses earning: **P** = Pass, **NM** = No mark, **NC** = No Credit and **NA** = Drop for Non-attendance.

Grade Point Equivalents

Grade points are determined by using the following scale of equivalents:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

Time Structure

Class periods are minimally 50 minutes. Courses meeting the equivalent of 5 times per week carry 5 semester units of credit.

Graduation Requirements: 220 credits total

40 English	20 Physical Education
40 History/Social Science	10 Career/Technical Ed
10 Fine/Performing Arts	20 World Language
20 Science	5 Living Skills
30 Mathematics	

Interpretation of Symbols Following Course Titles

A High ability, advanced
 H Honors
 AP Advanced Placement
 NCP Not College Prep

CLARIFICATION OF ALL COURSE ABBREVIATIONS

CAN BE FOUND IN OUR COURSE CATALOG AT:

paly.net/course-catalog

Selected Course Abbreviations

Career Technical Education

Comp Des 1 & 11	=	Computer Aided Design (full year or semester)
CompApp	=	Computer Applications/Computer Information Technology
Expl Exp	=	Exploratory Experience
Gen Weep	=	Work Experience Education Program
Tchg Prac	=	Teaching Seminar and Practicum

English

RdgBetLines	=	Reading Between the Lines – Expository Reading and Writing Course
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Math

IntrAnl/Calc (IAC)	=	Intro to Analysis/Calculus
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Other

Lib Trn	=	Library Training
SchServ	=	School Service*
ROP	=	Regional Occupational Training Program
OPRTN	=	Self-contained classroom, individualized curriculum
Sci LbAs	=	Science Lab Assistant
Tchr Asst	=	Teaching Assistant *
Expl Exp-AAR	=	Advanced Authentic Research Program
(SJ)	=	Classes within the Social Justice Pathway
Sci Proj H	=	Science Research Project

ADVANCED PROGRAMS

Courses marked “H” or “A” are part of a special sequence of classes (enriched or accelerated) with high academic standards leading to an Advanced Placement “AP” course at college level. The recommendations made to students in AP courses are based on a rigorous set of standards. These courses provide intellectual challenge beyond that of regular college preparatory courses. Therefore, the school hopes that the college admissions office will consider the nature and quality of the work, as well as the grades, in assessing this record.

Grade Point Averages on Transcript

District Unw = All classes listed on transcript from Grade 9 on, unweighted

** School Service and Teaching Assistant will be graded on a P (indicating work of C or better) or NC (No credit) basis. These courses do not calculate into their GPA.*