



# Pacific Collegiate School

## A California Charter School

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## School Profile 2018-2019

**MISSION:** Pacific Collegiate School's mission is to provide exemplary, standards-based college preparatory and fine arts education for public middle and high school students. Our vision is to offer any student the same quality of education offered by the most academically distinguished schools in California. Our graduates will be prepared to enter and thrive at the world's finest colleges and universities.

**VISION:** In addition to a core college preparatory curriculum, Pacific Collegiate School will emphasize international, cross-cultural, and technological education in order to prepare graduates for life in the 21st Century. Pacific Collegiate students will be introduced to the rich variety of world cultures and become fluent in at least one foreign language. They will become proficient in the basic information technologies essential for cultural literacy in the 21st Century. Our program is rooted in the belief that most students, not just a few, are capable of a demanding, rigorous and relevant high school education.

### SCHOOL

**A PCS diploma means more: Our school's superior academic standards and curricular rigor ensure that every graduate is highly-equipped for college-level challenges and life success.** Founded in 1999 and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Pacific Collegiate School is a college preparatory, public charter school for grades 7-12. Our target population is middle and high school-age students who seek an exemplary, standards-based college preparatory and fine arts education. We attract highly motivated students who flourish in a supportive and academically challenging environment.

PCS has an **open admissions policy**: admission in all grades is non-selective, and is determined through public implementation of a once-a-year lottery. Current enrollment is 547 in grades 7-12; there are 90 seniors in the Class of 2019. 36 full and part-time professionals make up the teaching faculty, 67% with advanced degrees. The student/teacher ratio is 21/1.

### RECOGNITION

- ☐ Recognized by *Newsweek*, *US News & World Report* and *The Washington Post* as one of the nation's top public high schools (2006-2017)
- ☐ Ranked by US News and World Report as California's #1 public school, and the #10 public school in the nation. (2017)
- ☐ Ranked in the Top Ten Public High Schools by *U.S. News and World Report* (2008, 2009, 2011, 2017)
- ☐ Designated a National Blue Ribbon School
- ☐ Selected a California Distinguished School

### COMMUNITY

Santa Cruz is located on California's central coast, about 65 miles south of San Francisco and 30 miles southwest of Silicon Valley. The population of Santa Cruz County is 264,000. Local colleges and universities include University of California Santa Cruz, California State University Monterey Bay, and Cabrillo Community College.

### GRADUATION & AP COURSE REQUIREMENTS

220 credits, including 5 AP courses and 80 hours of community service, must be completed during grades 9-12 to meet the school's requirements for graduation. Language and Math requirements can be satisfied using courses from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

English.....4 years (40 credits)	Foreign Language.....3 years (30 credits)
Math.....3 years (30 credits)	Fine Arts.....3 years (30 credits)
Laboratory Science.....3 years (30 credits)	College Prep Electives.....3 years (30 credits)
History.....3 years (30 credits)	Community Service.....20 hours/year

**CAPSTONE PROJECT**

The Capstone Project may be developed as a one-year (10-credit) project-based course that is inspired by a student’s particular interest and passion. Students undertake a self-directed study that demonstrates a high level of critical thinking, innovation and advanced level work beyond the current PCS offered curricula. While projects are independently driven, students work under the guidance of a discipline-specific faculty mentor and meet weekly with the Capstone Coordinator as part of a Research and Methods Class. All projects (both written and application-based) require a prospectus, an annotated bibliography and a written component; final projects are additionally presented to the PCS community at the end of the year Capstone Symposium. Project grades are assessed on the A-F letter-scale, 50% from coursework in the Research & Methods Class and 50% from the project grade as determined by the discipline-specific department evaluation.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Student activities include but are not limited to ASB Leadership (student government), Where Everyone Belongs (WEB), Peer Leaders, Junior Statesmen of America, language and culture clubs and Thespian Club. Physical Education is not required for graduation, but students may participate in 11 Interscholastic Sports and several club sports.

**STUDENT TESTING**

PCS is a public school; students in AP courses cannot be required to take the AP exam. Nonetheless, 80% of PCS students enrolled in AP courses in 2016-2017 took the corresponding exam.

**Advanced Placement Examinations (School-wide: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

Year	5	4	3	2	1	3+
2018	29%	37%	29%	14%	2%	84%
2017	18%	35%	28%	14%	4%	81%
2016	21%	35%	27%	12%	4%	83%
2015	15%	35%	35%	12%	4%	83%

**2018 Advanced Placement Scholars (School-wide: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

- 34 Scholars
- 29 Scholars with Honor
- 38 Scholars with Distinction
- 5 National Scholars

**National Merit Scholarship Results**

Class of 2018	1 Semifinalist	11 Commended Students
Class of 2017	1 Finalist	9 Commended Students
Class of 2016	1 Finalist	10 Commended Students

\* 2018 Finalists and Merit Scholars have not yet been named

**SAT & ACT Results**

	Critical Reading	Math	Combined	ACT Composite
Class of 2018	679	683	1362	29.9
Class of 2017	650	622	1272	29.6

**SAT Subject Tests**

Class of 2018	Biology 704	Literature 689	Math II 669	Physics 674	US History 642	World History 678
Class of 2017	Biology 703	Literature 686	Math II 687	Physics 698	US History 658	World History 670
Class of 2016	Biology 737	Literature 660	Math II 679	Physics 690	US History 659	World History 670

**GRADING, CLASS RANK & WEIGHTING**

Grades at PCS are reported out as letter grades, with ‘+’ and ‘-’ distinctions used. Grade point average is calculated using a four-point scale for grades 9-12. Because of the rigor of its required AP curriculum and the small size of the senior class, Pacific Collegiate School does not rank students. Weighted GPA credits one full point for AP course grades (thus an AP grade of B+, unweighted as 3.4, would be calculated as 4.4 in the weighted GPA).

**2016-2017 Grade Distribution (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades): 70% receives pass with credit**

Department	A	B	C	D	F	Grading Scale		GPA Calculation	
English	40%	37%	19%	2%	2%	A	93-100	A	4.00
History	44%	31%	19%	3%	3%	A-	90-92	A-	3.70
Language	48%	34%	15%	2%	1%	B+	87-89	B+	3.40
Math	42%	33%	20%	3%	3%	B	83-86	B	3.00
Science	28%	34%	30%	2%	5%	B-	80-82	B-	2.70
Visual & Performing Arts	72%	21%	5%	1%	1%	C+	77-80	C+	2.40
						C	73-76	C	2.00
						C-	70-72	C-	1.70
Overall	47%	31%	17%	2%	2%				

**High School Course Offerings (\* not offered every year)**

**English**

English 9, Medieval World  
 English 10, Modern World  
 AP English Language AP  
 English Literature Honors  
 American Literature  
 Advanced Topics in Literature  
 Rhetoric and Oratory

**History and Social Science**

History 9, Medieval World  
 AP World History  
 AP U. S. History  
 Ethics and Evil  
 Americanization and Assimilation  
 Nationalism and Global Conflict

**Mathematics**

Algebra I  
 Algebra II  
 Geometry  
 Honors Pre-Calculus & Trigonometry  
 AP Calculus BC  
 AP Statistics  
 Intro to Engineering  
 Multivariable Calculus AP  
 Computer Science Advanced  
 Computer Science

**Science**

Conceptual Physics  
 Chemistry  
 AP Biology  
 AP Chemistry\*

AP Environmental Science  
 AP Physics\* (1 & 2)

**World Languages**

French 1, 2, 3, 4, AP  
 Latin 1, 2, 3, AP  
 Spanish 1, 2, 3, AP  
 Chinese 1, 2, 3, AP

**Visual and Performing Arts**

Music 1 – Beginning Instrumental  
 Music 2 – Advanced Instrumental  
 Music 3 – Symphonic  
 Music 3 – Jazz  
 AP Music Theory  
 Chorus  
 Advanced Chorus AP  
 Music Theory\* Drama  
 1 – Beginning Drama 2  
 – Intermediate Drama 3  
 – Advanced Advanced  
 Drama  
 Dance Studies  
 Art 1, 2, 3  
 Studio Art  
 AP Studio Art  
 Graphic and Digital Arts  
 Video Production  
 AP Art History

**Special Programs**

Capstone Project  
 ASB Leadership  
 Journalism / Yearbook

**College Matriculation 2016-2018**

Azusa Pacific University	Southern Oregon University
Brigham Young University-Hawaii	Stanford University
Brown University	The New School
Cabrillo College	The University of Arizona
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	The University of Auckland
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
California State University, Bakersfield	Truckee Meadows Community College
California State University, Fullerton	Tufts University
California State University, Long Beach	United States Air Force Academy
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Aberdeen
Case Western Reserve University	University of Advancing Technology
Colorado State University	University of British Columbia
Columbia University	University of California, Berkeley
Concordia University - Montreal	University of California, Davis
De Anza College	University of California, Irvine
George Mason University	University of California, Los Angeles
Gettysburg College	University of California, Riverside
Humboldt State University	University of California, San Diego
Johns Hopkins University	University of California, Santa Barbara
Lane Community College	University of California, Santa Cruz
Macalester College	University of Chicago
New York University	University of Colorado at Boulder
North Idaho College	University of Guelph
Northeastern University	University of Massachusetts, Boston
Oregon State University	University of Miami
Pace University, Westchester Campus	University of Oregon
Portland State University	University of Pisa
Reed College	University of Pittsburgh
Rider University	University of Portland
Sacred Heart University	University of Puget Sound
San Diego State University	University of San Diego
San Francisco State University	University of Southern California
San Joaquin Delta College	University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts
San Jose State University	University of the Pacific
Santa Barbara City College	University of Tulsa
Santa Clara University	University of Washington
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Washington State University
Scripps College	Wellesley College
Seattle University	Wesleyan University
Sonoma State University	Western Washington University
	Yale University