



Mira Costa High School

PROFILE 2018-2019

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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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www.miracostahigh.org



Mission

The Mira Costa school community strives to maximize the unique potential of each student, to cultivate the skills essential for lifelong learning and to nurture responsible citizenship. Our tradition of excellence provides a positive learning environment which includes: a wide range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities; clear expectations for academic achievement and responsible behavior; respect for people, property, and ideas; programs that develop the skills of communication, teamwork, problem-solving, technology, and information management; and dedicated and supportive staff, parents, and community partners who focus on "students first."

School and Community

Mira Costa High School is a comprehensive, 4-year public high school, serving approximately 2,600 students in grades 9-12 and is nationally recognized for academic excellence. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Mira Costa was named a California Distinguished School in 2011 and a Gold Ribbon School in 2015. It is the sole high school in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and serves a diverse student body from Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and students by permit from surrounding communities. One preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school accommodate the district's enrollment of approximately 6,650 students. Manhattan Beach is located southwest of metropolitan Los Angeles and draws predominantly middle to high-income business and professional residents. The school district's reputation for having a superior educational system attracts many families to this suburban community.

Student Enrollment: 2,570

9 TH GRADE	10 TH GRADE
627	649
11 TH GRADE	12 TH GRADE
692	602

Academic Program

Mira Costa High School demands academic excellence from all students. Students are required to complete 230 credits — with 5 credits earned for each class completed per semester. The school is on a traditional semester schedule with six periods and an optional zero period. Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors are required to take six classes. Seniors may take five classes. All classes meet for 56 minutes daily, with office hours scheduled periodically. The teacher to student ratio is 29 to 1. Mira Costa provides a wide range of rigorous courses for students including 37 Advanced Placement/Honors courses, CTE pathways, and a variety of elective options.

Staff

- 106** Teachers
- 88** Classified Employees
- 5** Administrators
- 5** Counselors
- 3** College and Career Counselors
- 2** Psychologists
- 2** Academic Support Counselors
- 1** Athletic Director
- 1** Activities Director
- 1** Librarian
- 1** Health Assistant

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent
Ben Dale, Ed.D., Principal
Jessica Bledsoe, Vice Principal
Tara Grings, Vice Principal
Stephanie Hall, Vice Principal
Deborah Hofreiter, Ed.D., Vice Principal

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

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COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

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REGISTRAR

Sina Evans
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Honors and Advanced Placement Classes

2018-2019 School Year

ENGLISH

Honors English 11
AP English Literature and Composition

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

AP Art History
AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
Honors Band Music Performance
Honors Orchestra Music Performance

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

AP Chinese Language & Culture
AP French Language
AP Spanish Language
Honors Spanish Speakers

MATHEMATICS

Honors Algebra 2
Honors Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
AP Statistics
Honors Engineering Design & Development

SCIENCE

AP Biology
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Honors Earth Science
AP Environmental Science
Honors Physics
AP Physics C
Honors Biotechnology 3

SOCIAL STUDIES

Honors Modern World History
AP European History
Honors U.S. History
AP U.S. History
AP American Government
AP Microeconomics
AP Human Geography
AP Psychology

AP CAPSTONE

AP Research
AP Seminar

TOTAL AP COURSES OFFERED: 24
TOTAL HONORS COURSES OFFERED: 13

Graduation Requirements

230 credits required for graduation
5 credits for each semester completed
2.5 credits for each semester of AP Research, AP Seminar, and MCHS History Project

SUBJECT	# OF SEMESTER(S)	# OF CREDITS
English	8	40
Modern World History	2	10
United States History	2	10
American Government	1	5
Economics	1	5
Mathematics	4	20
Biological Science	2	10
Physical Science	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
Fine or Performing Arts or Foreign Language	2	10
Health	1	5
Electives	17	85
TOTAL	46	230

Transcript Designations

COURSE TITLES

AP Advanced Placement Courses

H Honors Courses

CODES

a Advanced Placement courses qualifying for weighted GPA

r Repeated Course

***** Non-Academic

Grades of **A, B, C, D, P** = Pass

CR = Credit/Passing Mark

Grade of **F** = Failure

NM = No Mark

AU = Audit

W = Withdraw

I = Incomplete

Grading System and Class Ranking Policy

All credit courses taken in grades 9-12, including courses taken at accredited high schools outside of the district during the summer, are included in determining the cumulative GPA.

Community college courses taken during the summer are included on the transcript only if they meet a graduation requirement.

Transcripts list both the UNWEIGHTED and WEIGHTED GPA. The WEIGHTED GPA is determined by adding an extra point to any grade point value in an AP course where the final grade is an A, B or C in a semester. Honors courses are NOT weighted.

AP COURSES ARE LIMITED TO 4 PER YEAR FOR STUDENTS.

Mira Costa High School does not release student disciplinary records.

THE WEIGHTED GPA IS AVERAGED IN THREE WAYS:

CUMULATIVE GPA for all classes Grades 9-12 (including PE/Athletics)

ACADEMIC GPA Grades 9-12 (no PE/Athletics)

ACADEMIC GPA Grades 10-12 (no PE/Athletics)

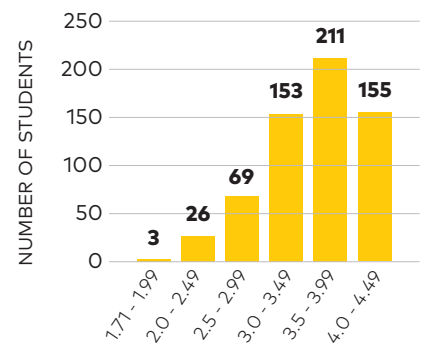
Mira Costa High School does not rank its students per school district policy. Latin Honors are used to recognize and distinguish high academic performance of seniors based on the following GPA system:

Summa Cum Laude: 4.0 and above

Magna Cum Laude: 3.8 - 3.99

Cum Laude: 3.5 - 3.79

CLASS OF 2018 GRADE DISTRIBUTION



WEIGHTED ACADEMIC GRADE POINT AVERAGE

2018 Testing Profile

AP TEST RESULTS

AP Passage Rate of 3 or Greater: 82.4%

1,051 students took a total of 2,090 tests in 30 subjects

AP Score	# of Exams	% of Exams
5	463	22%
4	677	32%
3	582	28%
2	295	14%
1	73	3%

ACT TEST RESULTS

338 Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS	State (CA) 2017
English	28.6	22.5
Mathematics	26.8	22.7
Reading	28.1	23.1
Science	26.6	22.2
Writing	7.3	--
Composite	27.7	22.8

SAT TEST RESULTS

182 Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS	State (CA)
SAT Evidence in Reading and Writing	625	539
SAT Mathematics	627	538
SAT Essay		
Reading	5	5
Analysis	4	3.5
Writing	6	5
Overall	1251	1077

CLASS OF 2018 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Reported February 2018

National Merit Finalists	12
National Merit Semifinalist	12
National Merit Commended Scholars	36

2013-2018 College Admission Data

Mira Costa High School Class of 2018 students were offered admission to over 357 colleges, including the majority of California State Universities, all campuses of the University of California, and the majority of the Ivy League Universities. See below for a sampling of admittances.

The first column indicates the number of students who were admitted from the Class of 2018. The second column indicates the number of students who were admitted over the past five years.

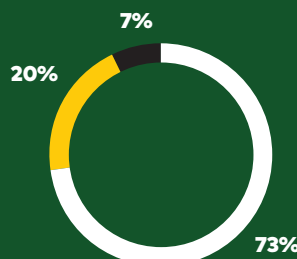
American University	7	35	Duke University	3	9
Amherst College	1	3	El Camino College	67	314
Arizona State University	26	143	Emory University	3	17
The University of Arizona	54	244	George Washington University	18	59
Berklee College of Music	1	11	Harvard University	0	4
Boston College	13	60	Indiana University, Bloomington	54	240
Boston University	27	118	Johns Hopkins University	1	12
Bowdoin College	2	3	Loyola Marymount University	30	137
Brown University	2	5	University of Miami	7	34
Bucknell University	1	9	Miami University, Oxford	14	82
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	60	225	University of Michigan	24	96
California Institute of Technology	2	4	Northeastern University	12	67
California State University, Long Beach	26	113	Northwestern University	3	14
University of California, Berkeley	48	202	University of Notre Dame	7	17
University of California, Davis	45	185	University of Oregon	112	395
University of California, Irvine	34	148	University of Pennsylvania	6	18
University of California, Los Angeles	31	164	University of Portland	6	24
University of California, San Diego	44	202	Princeton University	2	5
University of California, Santa Barbara	76	340	Purdue University	15	63
University of California, Santa Cruz	52	266	Reed College	7	12
University of Chicago	1	7	San Diego State University	61	209
Clemson University	4	17	San Francisco State University	40	156
Colgate University	4	18	Southern Methodist University	42	104
College of William and Mary	3	15	Stanford University	4	13
University of Colorado, Boulder	68	311	Syracuse University	26	100
Columbia University	2	9	Texas A & M University	1	7
Cornell University	7	28	Tufts University	2	14
			Tulane University	17	78
			University of Southern California	51	192
			University of Texas, Austin	10	37
			University of Washington	56	232
			University of Wisconsin, Madison	44	111
			Yale University	1	5

UC/CSU
Eligibility
Rate

83%

of MCHS Graduates have completed the requirements to apply to a University of California or California State University.

College
Matriculation
for 2017-18



- 4-year University
- 2-year College
- Gap Year, Industry Certification, Employment, Military or Other

Programs of Excellence

Associated Student Body

The ASB class implements and oversees all student activities at Mira Costa High School. Student activities range from pep rallies and dances, to awareness weeks and school-wide community service. The purpose of each activity is to engage students and create a welcoming, spirited, enriched and involved school community. The ASB Student Council also oversees 100+ student-run organizations in the areas of academics, politics, culture, religion, athletics, special interest and philanthropy. For a complete list of clubs on campus, please visit Club Information on the Activities tab of our website at www.miracosta.org.

Drama and Tech Theater

Drama and Tech Theater is a robust program that engages over 100 students in the production of professional quality theater productions. Students can elect to take drama courses for both the theater and the screen that focus on acting, directing, and writing. These courses also engage students in both theater criticism and history. Technical theater courses provide student crew members with experience in all positions of production support, including lighting, sound, scenic, and show management. Tech Theater supports all performing arts groups, including two major theatrical productions each year.

Friendship Foundation

The Friendship Foundation supports parents and families who have children and young adults with special needs by providing a safe, accepting and inclusive environment where they can enjoy sports, art, music and many other social programs with their peers. Mira Costa students, general and special education, join together bi-weekly to eat lunch, socialize, play games, and attend school functions as a group. This gift of friendship augments the standard educational system and professional therapies by creating a natural setting for individuals with special needs to practice their learned skills amongst their peers.

Link Crew Leadership

Link Crew focuses on empowering a diverse group of junior/senior leaders to help create smooth transitions for new students. All incoming freshmen are "linked" with 2 leaders who spend the year mentoring their Crew, extending invitations to campus events, answering questions, and providing support. Link Crew aims to heighten school spirit, inclusivity, and acceptance on campus. The Link Crew class focuses on leadership skills through units and activities that address everything from goal setting and post-project reflections, to public speaking and giving/receiving feedback.

Literary Magazine – Reflections

Reflections, the literary magazine of Mira Costa, offers a unique opportunity for students to showcase their poetry, prose, art, and photography. This compilation allows students to tap into the

beauty of their imaginations and have a voice promoting creativity, collaboration, and most importantly, free expression. Students experiment in all facets of creativity and coordination of this annual publication.

Media Arts – Mustang Morning News

In this nationally award-winning program, students learn how to research, write and produce digital stories that have a positive impact on the world. These include short films, the award-winning Mustang Morning News live television broadcast, and documentaries produced in countries like Cuba and Cambodia. As part of their coursework, students learn media literacy and research skills, collaboration and problem solving, and how to be an ethical author and consumer of digital media. Find out more about classes and see examples of student work on our website: www.mcmediarts.org.

Model United Nations

Model United Nations (MUN) is an international program that allows high school and college students to compete and engage in debate about global issues. Model UN conferences are held throughout the country and even overseas. MCHS competes in places as varied as UC Berkeley, Georgetown, New York, and Paris. Over its 25 year existence, Costa MUN is the most decorated program of its kind in the United States.

Music – Band, Choir and Orchestra

The GRAMMY® Award winning Music Department at Mira Costa High School is comprised of phenomenal Choirs, Bands, and Orchestras. Costa choral singers not only develop their singing voices which create award winning choirs, but more importantly, they establish a voice for life. Mira Costa bands provide a broad range of musical opportunities, including Concert Ensembles, to Jazz Ensembles and Marching Ensembles. The Concert Ensembles have been featured at Carnegie Hall, our highly regarded Jazz program recently took the silver medal at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival (America's largest and oldest), and the Marching Band is a perennial finalist at Southern California Championships. The Orchestra program is comprised of three string ensembles and a full symphony orchestra. Organized by experience and level of proficiency, each group provides student musicians with several dynamic performance opportunities based on technique development and artistic programming. In recent years, Mira Costa orchestras have presented numerous times at music conferences, and performed at world class venues both domestically and internationally.

Newspaper – La Vista

More than 50 students work together to publish the student-run newspaper, La Vista, each school year. This highly collaborative and student-run publication requires students to report, investigate, interview, write, photograph, and design in order to publish the award-winning newspaper. Students write news, fea-

tures, opinion, arts, and sports articles which are published in the monthly paper and online at www.LaVistaMCHS.com. La Vista, a top-ranked hybrid-news organization, has won the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Silver Crown for the past three years. The program gives students the opportunity to develop important skills in time management, teamwork, communication, writing, editing, and leadership.

SoCal ROC

SoCal ROC provides career technical education programs that meet the demands of today's job market and prepare students through relevant career training. Through hands-on learning and theory-based instruction, students have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to be successful in today's market and prepare for careers of the future. Approved by the Board of Education and certified by the California Department of Education, SoCal Roc programs are offered to Mira Costa students, as well as adults in the South Bay and surrounding communities.

Technology and Engineering

In the Technology and Engineering department, the many classes and clubs give students hands-on learning in different STEM fields such as Computer Science, Engineering, and Robotics. Computer Science prepares students to master the Information Age. The Engineering courses use the Project Lead the Way curriculum which empowers students to step into the role of an engineer by adopting a problem-solving mindset. Solar Boat Club offers an opportunity to design, build, and race a solar powered canoe. The Robotics Club offers an opportunity to compete against other clubs and schools in a build/programing challenge using the VEX system.

Visual Arts

This program engages students as creative and independent thinkers, preparing them for further academic studies, and encouraging a life-long appreciation for the visual arts. The courses cover a wide range of disciplines including: painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, 3D fabrication, photography and art history. There are beginning, intermediate and advanced courses including Advanced Placement Studio Art and Art History. Skill development and creative thinking are stressed as students develop their portfolio of artwork.

Yearbook – Hoofprints

The Mira Costa yearbook program, Hoofprints, boasts over 30 students dedicated to storytelling through photography, writing, and design. The student-run publication summarizes the school year in just under 450 pages, and consistently wins awards of excellence. Students learn skills in communication, time management, leadership, design, photography, writing, editing, and publishing.

Athletic Programs

Since Mira Costa opened in 1950, the athletic program has grown to include 35 Varsity teams. In 2017-2018 MCHS won 12 league championships and 2 CIF championships. 27 of 35 teams went to CIF playoffs. Multiple individual sport athletes (golf, cross country, diving, swimming, and track) competed and placed in state championships. While winning and accolades are a source of pride, MCHS athletics seeks to build student character, team building and integrity.

The MCHS athletic program includes the following sports:

- Badminton (B&G)
- Baseball
- Basketball (B&G)
- Beach Volleyball (B&G)
- Cheer
- Cross Country (B&G)
- Dance
- Flags
- Football
- Golf (B&G)
- Ice Hockey
- Indoor Volleyball (B&G)
- Lacrosse (B&G)
- Marching Band (B&G)
- Rugby (B&G)
- Soccer (B&G)
- Softball
- Surf (B&G)
- Swimming (B&G)
- Tennis (B&G)
- Track and Field (B&G)
- Water Polo (B&G)
- Wrestling (B&G)

