



# Mira Costa High School

**PROFILE 2019-2020**

1401 Artesia Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Tel 310-318-7337  
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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 student body from Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and students by permit from surrounding communities. One pre-school, 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: 2,620**

9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

643

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

637

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

651

12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

689

## Academic Program

Mira Costa High School expects 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 36 Advanced Placement/Honors courses, CTE pathways, and a variety of elective options.

### Staff

- 106** Teachers
- 97** Classified Employees
- 5** Administrators
- 5** Counselors
- 3** College and Career Counselors
- 2** Academic Support Counselors
- 3** Psychologists
- 1** Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- 1** Marriage Family Therapist (MFT)
- 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

**David Beck**  
Head Counselor  
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## COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

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**Eliza Santarosa**  
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## REGISTRAR

**Dominque Sharp**  
dsharp@mbusd.org x 5049

# Honors and Advanced Placement Classes

2019-2020 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 Broadcast Journalism 3\*  
Honors Orchestra Music Performance\*

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

AP Chinese Language & Culture  
AP French Language  
AP Spanish Language

## MATHEMATICS

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

## SCIENCE

AP Biology  
Honors Chemistry  
AP Chemistry  
AP Computer Science Principles  
Honors Earth Science  
AP Environmental Science  
Honors Physics  
AP Physics C

## 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: 12**

\*Introduced after 2016-17

# 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>230</b>

# 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.

## THE WEIGHTED GPA IS AVERAGED IN THREE WAYS:

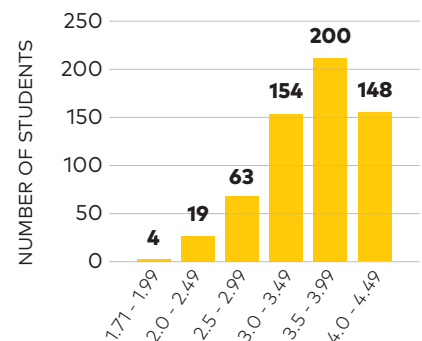
**CUMULATIVE GPA for all classes** Grades 9-12 (including PE/Athletics)

**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 2019 GRADE DISTRIBUTION



**AP COURSES ARE LIMITED TO 4 PER YEAR FOR STUDENTS.**

**HONORS COURSES ARE NOT WEIGHTED.**

The current Course Description Book is available at [www.miracostahigh.org](http://www.miracostahigh.org)

Mira Costa High School does not release student disciplinary records.

## 2019 Testing Profile

### AP TEST RESULTS

AP Passage Rate of 3 or Greater: 82.4%

1,138 students took a total of 2,189 tests in 31 subjects

AP Score	# of Exams	% of Exams
5	515	24%
4	671	31%
3	618	28%
2	294	13%
1	90	4%

### ACT TEST RESULTS

338 Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS 2018	State (CA) 2018
English	28.6	22.5
Mathematics	26.8	22.5
Reading	28.1	23
Science	26.6	22.1
Writing	7.3	6.7
Composite	27.2	22.7

### SAT TEST RESULTS

311 Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS	State (CA)
SAT Evidence in Reading and Writing	633	540
SAT Mathematics	632	536
SAT Essay		
Reading	5	5
Analysis	4	4
Writing	6	5
Overall	1265	1076

### CLASS OF 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Reported February 2019

National Merit Finalists	7
National Merit Semifinalist	7
National Merit Commended Scholars	29

## 2014-2019 College Admission Data

Mira Costa High School Class of 2019 students were offered admission to over 324 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 2019. The second column indicates the number of students who were admitted over the past five years.

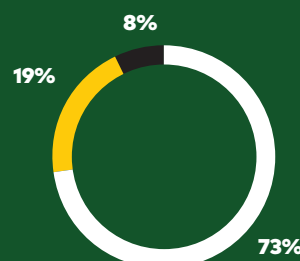
American University	9	41	Emory University	4	19
Amherst College	2	4	George Washington University	10	62
Arizona State University	37	156	Harvard College	1	4
The University of Arizona	54	258	Indiana University, Bloomington	66	263
Berklee College of Music	1	15	Johns Hopkins University	1	12
Boston College	7	57	Loyola Marymount University	18	134
Boston University	29	132	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	7
Brown University	2	5	University of Miami	7	37
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	39	241	Miami University, Oxford	20	87
California Institute of Technology	1	4	University of Michigan	19	101
California State University, Long Beach	26	120	Northeastern University	15	66
University of California, Berkeley	47	231	Northwestern University	1	12
University of California, Davis	29	185	University of Notre Dame	0	16
University of California, Irvine	23	146	University of Oregon	88	429
University of California, Los Angeles	33	171	University of Pennsylvania	2	18
University of California, San Diego	49	216	University of Portland	5	23
University of California, Santa Barbara	49	336	Princeton University	1	5
University of California, Santa Cruz	60	286	Purdue University	16	68
University of Chicago	2	9	Reed College	7	18
Clemson University	7	23	San Diego State University	58	248
Colgate University	2	19	San Francisco State University	31	161
College of William and Mary	0	13	Santa Monica College	30	188
University of Colorado, Boulder	74	348	Southern Methodist University	24	124
Columbia University	2	11	Stanford University	5	16
Cornell University	5	31	Syracuse University	21	110
Dartmouth College	3	7	Texas A & M University	1	8
Duke University	3	10	Tufts University	4	16
El Camino College	82	323	Tulane University	9	77
			University of Southern California	40	206
			University of Texas, Austin	5	37
			University of Washington	48	256
			University of Wisconsin, Madison	34	142
			Yale University	0	4

UC/CSU  
Eligibility  
Rate

75%

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

College  
Matriculation  
for 2018-19



- 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](http://www.miracosta.org).

## Biotechnology Program

Rigorous three-year pathway in science that provides students with an opportunity for practical application of coursework, exposure to team problem-solving situations and industry internship experience. Applied laboratory skills include DNA extraction and precipitation, GRAM staining, forensic DNA mapping, and expertise in many other skills applicable to paid internships and jobs in biotechnology.

## 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 – Papercut

Papercut, 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.

## 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.mcmmediaarts.org](http://www.mcmmediaarts.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, features, opinion, arts, and sports articles which are published in the monthly paper and online at [www.LaVistaMCHS.com](http://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/programming 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 2018-2019 MCHS won 11 league championships and 3 CIF championships. 33 of 35 teams went to CIF playoffs. Multiple sport competitions in state championships — including boys volleyball, girls beach volleyball (placed first) and girls cross country (placed fourth). 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)

