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 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.

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 |

Student Enrollment: 2,620

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>9th</th>
<th>10th</th>
<th>11th</th>
<th>12th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
dbeck@mbusd.org  x 5021
Sina Evans
slevans@mbusd.org  x 5027
Keshia Fields
kfields@mbusd.org  x 5010
Britney Oystrick
boystrick@mbusd.org  x 5022
Emily Sommer
esommer@mbusd.org  x 5034
Teby Wammack
twammack@mbusd.org  x 5024
Jennifer Wildenberg
jwildenberg@mbusd.org  x 5023

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER
Caryn Ramirez
cramirez@mbusd.org  x 5187
Ruthie Robles
rrobles@mbusd.org  x 5073
Eliza Santarosa
esantarosa@mbusd.org  x 5252

REGISTRAR
Dominique Sharp
dsharp@mbusd.org  x 5049
### 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

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

**TOTAL AP COURSES OFFERED:** 24  
**TOTAL HONORS COURSES OFFERED:** 12

*Introduced after 2016-17

### 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 (including PE/Athletics)**  
  Grades 9-12

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

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

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

### 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  
- NM = Credit/Passing Mark  
- AU = Audit  
- W = Withdraw  
- I = Incomplete

### Class of 2019 Grade Distribution

![Bar chart showing the distribution of grades for the Class of 2019 with grades ranging from 1.71 to 4.0.]
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Score</th>
<th># of Exams</th>
<th>% of Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACT TEST RESULTS
338 Students Tested (mean scores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>MCHS</th>
<th>State (CA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAT TEST RESULTS
311 Students Tested (mean scores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>MCHS</th>
<th>State (CA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT Evidence in</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading and Writing</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>1265</td>
<td>1076</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Amherst College 2 4
Arizona State University 37 156
The University of Arizona 54 258
Berklee College of Music 1 15
Boston College 7 57
Boston University 29 132
Brown University 2 5
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 39 241
California Institute of Technology 1 4
California State University, Long Beach 26 120
University of California, Berkeley 47 231
University of California, Davis 29 185
University of California, Irvine 23 146
University of California, Los Angeles 33 171
University of California, San Diego 49 216
University of California, Santa Barbara 49 336
University of California, Santa Cruz 60 286
University of Colorado, Boulder 74 348
University of Denver 2 11
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: 8%
- 2-year College: 0%
- Gap Year, Industry Certification, Employment, Military or Other: 73%
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, media, 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.

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 isolation, PCR amplification, 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 participate in any of 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 education 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 news 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.mcmdead.org.

Model United Nations
Model United Nations (MUN) is an international program that allows high school students to engage in debate about global issues. Model UN conferences are held throughout the country and even overseas. MCHS competes in places as varied as Nanjing, China, 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. 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 classroom instruction, on the job training and theory-based instruction, students have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to be successful in today’s market and prepare for careers that are in high demand. 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/program/ performing 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.

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)

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.