



# Palo Alto High School

Established 1894

50 Embarcadero Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
650-329-3831  
www.paly.net  
CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

## 2009-2010 School Profile

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 22.6% Asian, 5.1% African-American, 61.5% Caucasian, 8.2% Latino, and 2.6% Other. Total student enrollment is 1836.

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

In 2009, Paly received the maximum six year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) review committee citing both the exemplary learning environment and the performance of its students in terms of personal and academic achievement.

### ACADEMICS 2009-2010

Paly students benefit from a rich curriculum and extensive extra-curricular opportunities. The student-teacher ratio is 28.5 to 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 [www.paly.net/college/PalyGradingKey09\\_10.pdf](http://www.paly.net/college/PalyGradingKey09_10.pdf).

#### Graduation Credit Requirements

- English – 35
- Mathematics – 20  
(Including Alg. 1)
- Physical Education – 20
- Career/Technical Ed. – 10
- World Language – none
- Social Studies – 40
- Science – 20  
(biological – 10; physical – 10)
- Arts, Visual & Performing – 10
- Living Skills – 5

#### Honors Courses

- American Classics
- Humanities
- Chinese
- French 3
- Math Analysis
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- World Classics
- Japanese 4
- Spanish 3
- Science Research Project
- US Foreign Policy

#### AP Courses

- English
- Spanish 4, 5
- AB Calculus
- Computer Science AB
- Biology
- Physics
- US History
- Economics
- Music Theory
- Studio Art
- French 4
- Chinese 5
- Japanese
- BC Calculus
- Statistics
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Psychology

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

### CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE (6 SEMESTERS)

441 students in the Class of 2010

Individual rank in class is not reported. Unweighted deciles are based on a student's grade point average (9th-11th). To assist you in accurately judging student performance, the following chart is provided. It reflects unweighted grade point average and class rank relationships for the class of 2010.

Decile	GPA	Decile	GPA
1	4.000 - 3.927	6	3.410 - 3.282
2	3.925 - 3.795	7	3.278 - 3.083
3	3.791 - 3.693	8	3.077 - 2.833
4	3.690 - 3.571	9	2.831 - 2.556
5	3.561 - 3.413	10	2.543 - 1.711

### TESTING

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

#### ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2007	2008	2009
ACT Scores	25.7	26.8	26.5
Nat'l Scores	21.2	21.1	21.1

#### SAT Reasoning Scores: Mean

Year	2007	2008	2009	Nat'l Mean
Verbal	620	629	630	501
Math	644	656	655	515
Writing	611	629	632	493

#### AP Scores (May 2008)

495 students took 1023 tests  
93% scored 3 or higher  
52% scored a grade of 5

#### National Merit Program

Year	2008	2009	2010
Semifinalists	34	27	46
Commended Scholars	47	55	52

## ACTIVITIES

### 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)
- La Crosse (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, \$ = State Champion

### Award-Winning Student Activities

- The Campanile (Newspaper) Silver Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, 2007
- Choir  
2009 CMEA Festival: Madrigal Singers, Superior Rating  
Concert Choir, Unanimous Superior Rating  
Beginning Choir, Superior Rating  
Concert Choir, Most Outstanding Choral Group  
Palo Alto High School Choirs received the Choral Sweepstakes Award
- Debate  
Lincoln Douglas Team- 2008-2009 State Champion
- Math Club  
2nd place in Bay Area Math Olympiad, 2008  
2nd place nationally in Junior Division of TEAMS, 2008
- The Paly Voice (Online News)  
Pacemaker Award, National Scholastic Press Association, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Photography  
2009 Bluecoat Art Show - 2nd Place School Portfolio Award
- Robotics Club  
Silicon Valley Regional Champion, 2008
- Science Olympiad  
2nd place - Northern CA State Award, 2008  
3rd place - Bay Area Regional Award, 2008
- Spirit Team/Cheer and Dance  
Superior - USA Summer Camp, 2007
- Theatre  
Selected by American High School Theatre Festival to represent the United States at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland - 2009
- Verde (Magazine)  
Pacemaker finalist, National Scholastic Press Association, 2008  
Gold Crown, Columbia Scholarship Press Association, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007
- Viking (Sports Magazine)  
1st Place, Nat'l Scholastic Press, 2008  
Assoc. Best of Show Competition in News Magazine Category, 2008

### Honor Societies

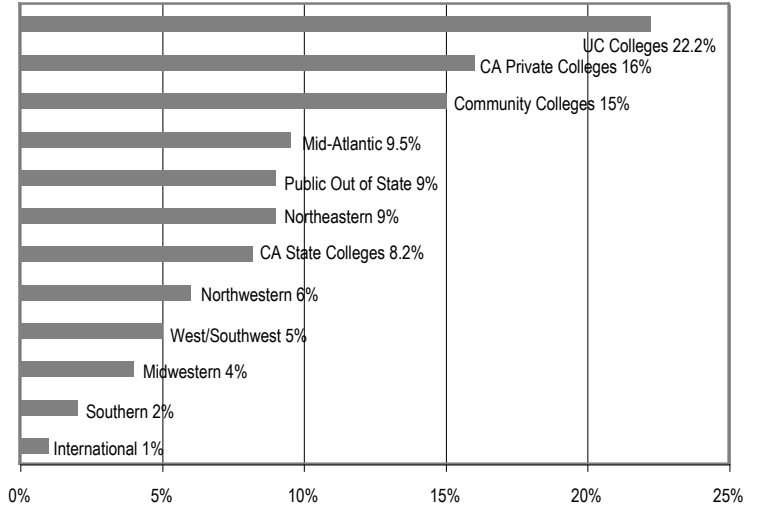
California Scholarship Federation (CSF)



## POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS - CLASS OF 2009

94% to 2 - 4 year colleges

79% directly to 4-year colleges



### CONTACT INFO

#### Principal

Dr. Jacqueline McEvoy (650) 329-3831

#### Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3831

Kim Diorio (650) 329-3712

Todd Feinberg (650) 329-3831

#### Guidance Department

(650) 329-3712

#### College & Career Center

(650) 329-3818

#### College Advisors

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

Alice Erber (650) 833-4298 aerber@pausd.org

#### Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

#### Superintendent

Dr. Kevin Skelly

(650) 329-3737

### MEMBER OF:

- The College Board
- National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)
- Western Association of College Admission Counselors
- Complies with NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.
- Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges.