



# 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

## 2011-2012 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 27.7% Asian, 4.6% African-American, 58.3% Caucasian, 8.1% Latino, and 1.3% Other. Total student enrollment is 1916.

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 Thursday 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 2011-2012

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 visit [www.paly.net/college/PalyGradingKey11\\_12.pdf](http://www.paly.net/college/PalyGradingKey11_12.pdf).

#### Graduation Credit Requirements

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

#### Honors Courses

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

#### AP Courses

- English – Literature
- AB Calculus
- BC Calculus
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics C
- Computer Science
- Environmental Science
- Economics – Macro
- Psychology
- US History
- Chinese – Language
- French – Language
- Japanese – Language
- Spanish – Language/Literature
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Studio Art – Drawing and 3D

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)

473 students in the Class of 2012

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 2012.

Decile	GPA	Decile	GPA
1	4.000 - 3.947	6	3.429 - 3.250
2	3.945 - 3.800	7	3.238 - 3.031
3	3.795 - 3.675	8	3.030 - 2.825
4	3.666 - 3.555	9	2.818 - 2.452
5	3.550 - 3.435	10	2.451 - 1.441

### TESTING

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

#### ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2009	2010	2011
ACT Scores	26.5	27.3	27.2
Nat'l Scores	21.1	21.0	21.1

#### SAT Reasoning Scores: Mean

Year	2009	2010	2011	Nat'l Mean
Verbal	630	637	628	497
Math	655	670	661	515
Writing	632	644	633	489

#### AP Scores (May 2011)

532 students took 1149 tests  
 95% scored 3 or higher  
 53% scored a grade of 5

#### National Merit Program

Year	2010	2011	2012
Semifinalists	46	28	31
Commended Scholars	52	48	83

## 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)
- Gymnastics (G)
- La Crosse (B,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

\* = State Champion # = Central Coast Section Champion + = League Champion

### Award-Winning Student Activities

- **The Campanile (Newspaper)**  
Gold Award, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, 2009; National Scholastic Press All American Award, 2010
- **Choir**  
2010 Golden State Choir Invitational Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers, Spectrum Singers  
2010 Chanticleer Nat. HS Choral Invitational: Concert Choir  
CMA Festival Unanimous Superior Award for Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers and Spectrum Singers 2011  
Heritage Festival Gold Award Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers 2011
- **Debate**  
2009, 2010, 2011 National Forensic League Academic All-Americans  
2007-2011 Tournament of Champions  
2009 State Champion
- **Math Club**  
National Champions in Calculus Continental Math, 2011  
3rd Place in California Math League, 2011  
40 students qualified to the American Invitational Math Exam in 2011  
Gold Medalist at the USA Junior Math Olympiad, 2011  
Silver Medalist at the International Olympiad in Informatics, 2011
- **The Paly Voice (Online News)**  
Pacemaker Award, National Scholastic Press Association, 2010
- **Music**  
Symphonic Band - Superior Rating CMEA Festival  
Orchestra - Superior Rating CMEA Festival, 2011; Superior Rating CMEA Festival, Gold Rating Heritage Festival Anaheim, 2010  
Symphonic Band - Gold Rating Heritage Festival Anaheim Band and Orchestra Consistent Superior ratings at CMEA festivals
- **Photography**  
Arts Magazine awarded Student Press Association (CSPA) Crown Award, 2011  
1st Place in 2 of 9 categories - California Student Media Festival, 2010
- **Robotics Club**  
Semi-Finalist at FIRST Robotics Portland and Silicon Valley Regional, 2010  
Silicon Valley Regional Champion, 2008
- **Science Olympiad**  
2nd Place - NorCal Science Olympiad State Finals, 2011  
1st Place - Bay Area Regional, 2010  
3rd Place - Northern CA State, 2010 Science Bowl  
1st Place - SLAC Regional, 2010
- **Spirit Team/Cheer and Dance**  
National Dance Competition, 2010  
1st Place and 2nd Place in 3 Regional Competitions, 2010  
Superior and 1st Place - USA Summer Camp, 2010
- **Theatre**  
Thespians win top honors at CA State Thespian Conference, 2011  
All State Crew students selected for medals of excellence, 2011  
2nd Place in Stage Tech Challenge, 2011  
Excellence in Design, 2011 - Superior (highest possible) rating to 2 students for their Individual Event  
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
- **Viking (Sports Magazine)**  
1st Place - Nat'l Scholastic Press, 2008  
Assoc. Best of Show Competition in News Magazine Category, 2008
- **President's Award for Community Service**  
awarded to 187 Palo Alto High School students, 2010-2011



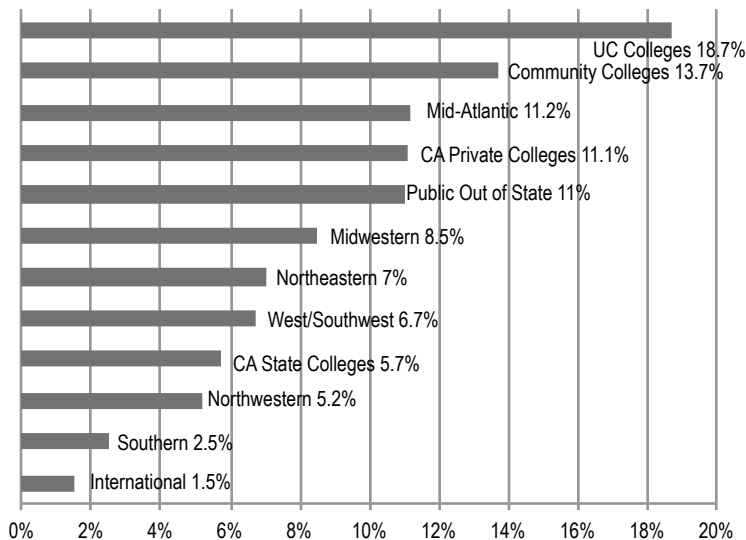
### Honor Societies

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

## POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS - CLASS OF 2011

78.6% directly to 4-year colleges

13.7% directly to 2-year colleges



## CONTACT INFO

### Principal

Phil Winston (650)329-3831

### Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650)329-3831

Kim Diorio (650)329-3712

Kathie Laurence (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 (WACAC)
- Complies with NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.
- Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges