



Palo Alto High School

Established 1894

2017-2018 School Profile

50 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-329-3701

www.paly.net

CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

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 38.7% Asian, 2.9% African-American/Black, 46.1% Caucasian, 10.4% Hispanic/Latino, 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 10% of the student population is enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch Program; 10% are first generation college students. Total student enrollment is 2,046.

Palo Alto High School's Guidance Program provides academic planning, personal counseling, and college and career advising for students. At the core of the guidance department is the Teacher Advisor (TA) Program. The primary delivery of guidance materials and instruction is via the teacher advisors in the Thursday advisory periods. The teacher advisors serve as students' academic advisors and write students' counselor recommendations and/or school reports.

ACADEMICS 2017-2018

Paly students benefit from a rich curriculum and extensive extra-curricular opportunities. The student-teacher ratio is 28:1. Students may enroll in up to seven classes a semester. Students must take a minimum of five 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: <http://www.paly.net/school-profile-and-grading-key>

Graduation Credit Requirements

- English – 40
- Mathematics – 30
(including Algebra I & 2 & Geometry)
- Science – 20
(Biological – 10; Physical – 10)
- Social Studies – 40
- World Language – 20
- Arts, Visual & Performing – 10
- Career/Technical Ed. – 10
- Living Skills – 5
- Physical Education – 20

Honors Courses

- Algebra 2/Trigonometry H
- Geometry H
- Math Analysis H
- Biology H
- Chemistry H
- Physics H
- Advanced Drawing/Painting
- American Literature 11 H
- French 3 H
- Japanese 4 H
- Spanish 3 H
- Theater 4 H
- US Foreign Policy H

AP Courses

Palo Alto High School recommends students enroll in no more than 2 AP courses per year.

- AB Calculus
- BC Calculus
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics C
- Computer Science
- Economics – Macro
- English – Literature & Comp
- Psychology
- US History
- Chinese – Language & Culture
- French – Language
- Japanese – Language & Culture
- Spanish – Language/Literature
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Studio Art – Photography/Drawing
- Seminar

Specialty Programs

Social Justice Pathway – A three-year program featuring self-direction and project-based learning in an interdisciplinary model rooted in community action and collaboration. Students begin by learning the practices of social justice in sophomore year by identifying global local issues that they want to devote themselves to, and learn how to achieve transformative rather than temporary relief from social problems. <http://palsjp.com>

Sports Career Pathway – This program offers students hands-on opportunities to access career information related to sports - from law to retail to coaching to medicine to business entrepreneurship. With a focus on internships, seminars, business leadership and development, the pathway helps prepare students for jobs in the sports industry as soon as they graduate from high school or college.

Advanced Authentic Research – In this year-long program students work with their mentors to engage in original research in areas that matter deeply to them, whether in pursuit of their unique passion, or in their exploration of new interests. AAR is UC "g" approved, and students earn 5 Career and Technical Education credits per semester. <http://aar.pausd.org>

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

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE (6 SEMESTERS)

485 students in the Class of 2018.

GPA's are calculated on a weighted 5-point system for Honors (H) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses only. All other courses factor into the GPA based on a 4-point scale. A student's weighted GPA appears on his/her high school transcript and related college-application School Report.

Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist you in evaluating student performance, the following grade distribution chart is provided.

GPA Range (Unweighted)	Number of Students
3.76 – 4.00	200
3.51 – 3.75	88
3.01 – 3.50	113
2.51 – 3.00	49
2.50 and below	31

TESTING

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

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2015	2016	2017
ACT Scores	28.2	29.1	29
Nat'l Scores	21	20.8	20.9

SAT Reasoning Scores: Mean

Year	2015	2016	Nat'l & Int'l Mean
Reading	627	639	538
Math	657	662	533
Writing	624	639	538

2017 SAT (1600 Scale)

	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Paly	664	680
Mean–Nat'l & Int'l	538	533

AP Scores (May 2017)

745 students took 1,469 tests
94% scored 3 or higher
47% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2016	2017	2018
Semifinalists	33	32	35
Commended Scholars	91	64	71

ACTIVITIES – Award-Winning Student Activities

Band

Symphonic Band: Unanimous Superior CMEA Band Festival (2017)

Orchestra: Unanimous Superior CMEA Orchestra Festival (2017)

A student won All State musician, 6th consecutive year

Instrumental Music Dept.: Sweepstakes Award NYC Heritage Festival (2016)

Band & Orchestra: Gold 1st Place NYC Heritage Festival (2016)

Bridge Club

1st Place, Bay Area High School Bridge Championship (2016)

Choirs

2017 CMEA Award Unanimous Superiors: Concert Choir, Madrigals Singers, Spectrum Singers, Premier Choir

Chanticleer Regional High School Invitational (2017)

Numerous ACDA/CASMEC Honor Choir members

Community Engagement

Fall 2016: 167 students contributed 24,745 hours of service

Film Club

3 shorts/youth films selected for Cinequest Film Festival (2015)

Math Club

Student won USA Math Olympiad (2016, 2017)

4 qualifiers at USA Math Olympiad (2015, 2016)

Nat'l Champions in Calculus Continental Math (2015, 2016, 2017)

Twice won Internat'l Math Modeling Contest (2015, 2016)

1st & 2nd Place, Santa Clara County Math Field Day (2015, 2016)

4 qualifiers to 2nd Place Ciphering Time Trials/11th Grade (2015)

2nd Place Team, Bay Area Math Olympiad (2016)

2 qualifiers for Math Olympiad Summer Program (2015)

Publications

C Magazine: Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc.

The Campanile (newspaper): Nat'l Scholastic Press Assoc., Pacemaker, Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc. (2015) (online)

Madrono: 1st Place Yearbook Cover Design, Journalism Educ. Assoc. of Nor. Calif.; 1st Place Specialty Spread; Honorable Mention: Academic Spread & Student Life Spread; 3rd Place Feature Photo

Paly Voice (online news): Pacemaker Award, Nat'l Scholastic Press Assoc. (2015)

Verde (magazine): Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc. (2015)

Viking: Silver Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc.

Robotics Club

Reached semifinals of Roebbling Division of World Championships (2017)

Won Dean's List Award (2017)

Art Sub Team won Honorable Mention first safety animation (2017)

Won Entrepreneurship Award 5 times in 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017)

Art Sub Team won 1st Place for Tech. Merit, Nat'l Underground Society of Animators (2015)

Science Olympiad

3rd Place White Team, Santa Clara Regional Competition

1st Place Green Team, Santa Clara Regional Competition

3rd Place, NorCal State Competition (2017)

1st Place, Santa Clara Regionals (2015, 2016)

2nd Place, NorCal Science Olympiad State Finals (2015, 2016)

Speech & Debate

State Championship Qualifiers in Congressional Debate, Original Oratory & Lincoln Douglas Debate

Top 10 in Calif. in LD Debate

Reserve National Qualifiers in LD, Original Oratory, & Congressional Debate

3 Tournament of Champions Qualifiers (2017)

Champions of the Robert Garcia Invitational, Santa Clara University Invitational, Dempsey-Cronin Invitational, John Schamber Invitational, Martin Luther King Invitational, & Steven Stewart Invitational

Nat'l Speech & Debate Assoc. Academic All-Americans (2008-2017)

1st Place Debate Champions, Western States Novice and JV Championship (2014, 2015)

1st Place Speakers, Western States Novice & JV Championship (2014, 2015)

Spirit Team/Cheer & Dance

5th Place, X-Small National (2017)

4th Place, Small Dance Division, National (2017)

7th Place, Lyrical Division (2017)

Overall Excellence (2016)

1st Place, X-Small Contemporary (2016)

3rd Place, National/Hip Hop (2016)

3rd Place, National (2016)

Theatre

Calif. State Thespian Festival (2017):

1st Place: Sound Design IE

1st Place: Costume Construction

2nd Place: Stage Mgmt. IE, Costume Design IE

Calif. State Thespian Festival (2016):

1st Place: Stage Mgmt., Monologue, Sound Design

2nd Place: Stage Mgmt., Lighting Design, Monologue

All State: 6 students (2017); 4 students (2016)

Asst. Director for PalyWorks: 1 student (2017)

Cable Coiling: 1st place (2017)

Calif. Playwrights' performances: 3 students (2016)

Event Callbacks: 9 students (2017); 5 students (2016)

Scholarship Winners: 2 students each (2016, 2017)

Selected for Opening Number: 2 students each (2016, 2017)

State Thespian Student Board: 1 student (2017); 2 students (2016)

Superior Ratings: 16 students (2017); 8 students (2016)

Ultimate Frisbee Club

Team formed w/Gunn HS placed 6th at Calif. State Championships (2015)

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+, G)
- Lacrosse (B+, G)
- Soccer (B+, G+)
- Softball (G)
- Swimming (B, G+#)
- Tennis (B, G+)
- Track/Field (B, G)
- Volleyball (B, G+)
- Water Polo (B, G)
- Wrestling (C+)

B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed

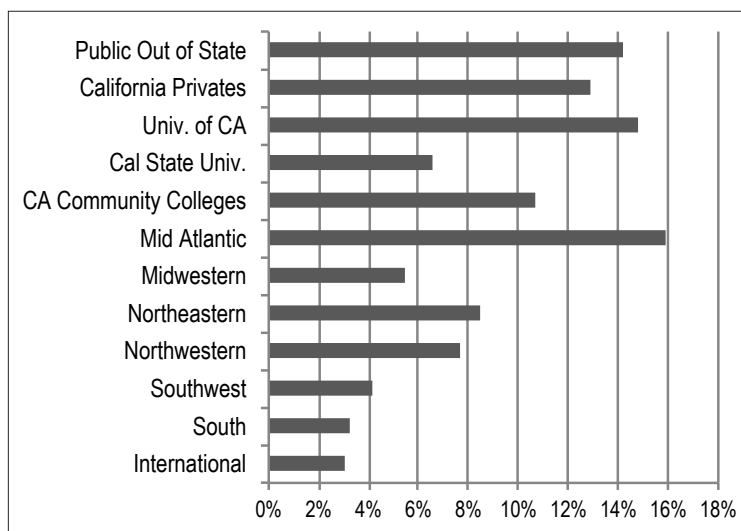
+ = League Champion # = CCS Champion

Honor Societies

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS - CLASS OF 2017

82.1% directly to 4-year colleges • 10.9% directly to 2-year colleges • 6.9% other



CONTACT INFO

Principal Kim Diorio (650) 329-3831

Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3760
 Janice Chen (650) 329-3760
 Vicki Kim (650) 329-3760
 Adam Paulson (650) 329-3760

Administrator on Special Assignment

Katya Villalobos (650) 329-3760

Guidance Department (650) 329-3712

College & Career Center (650) 329-3818

College Advisors

Sandra Cernobori (A-K) (650) 329-3813 scernobori@pausd.org
 Crystal Laguna (Outreach) (650) 329-3719 claguna@pausd.org
 Stephanie Mendoza (L-Z) (650) 833-4298 smendoza@pausd.org

Palo Alto Unified School District

Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, Superintendent
 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306
 (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

PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT & GRADING KEY – 2017-2018

All credits earned in Grades 9-12 count toward graduation. All courses are counted in computing grade point average with exception of courses earning: **P** = Pass, **NM** = No mark, **NC** = No Credit and **NA** = Drop for Non-attendance.

Grade Point Equivalents

Grade points are determined by using the following scale of equivalents:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

*All AP and Honors classes will receive an extra grade point for a C or above

Time Structure

Class periods are minimally 50 minutes. Courses meeting the equivalent of 5 times per week carry 5 semester units of credit.

Graduation Requirements: 220 credits total

40 English	20 Physical Education
40 History/Social Science	10 Career/Technical Ed
10 Fine/Performing Arts	20 World Language
20 Science	5 Living Skills
30 Mathematics	

Interpretation of Symbols Following Course Titles

A High ability, advanced
 H Honors
 AP Advanced Placement
 NCP Not College Prep

CLARIFICATION OF ALL COURSE ABBREVIATIONS

CAN BE FOUND IN OUR COURSE CATALOG AT:

paly.net/course-catalog

Selected Course Abbreviations

Career Technical Education

Comp Des 1 & 11	= Computer Aided Design (full year or semester)
CompApp	= Computer Applications/Computer Information Technology
Expl Exp	= Exploratory Experience
Gen Weep	= Work Experience Education Program
Tchg Prac	= Teaching Seminar and Practicum

English

RdgBetLines	= Reading Between the Lines – Expository Reading and Writing Course
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Math

IntrAnl/Calc (IAC)	= Intro to Analysis/Calculus
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Other

Lib Trn	= Library Training
SchServ	= School Service*
ROP	= Regional Occupational Training Program
OPRTN	= Self-contained classroom, individualized curriculum
Sci LbAs	= Science Lab Assistant
Tchr Asst	= Teaching Assistant *
Expl Exp-AAR	= Advanced Authentic Research Program
(SJ)	= Classes within the Social Justice Pathway
Sci Proj H	= Science Research Project

ADVANCED PROGRAMS

Classes marked “H” or “A” are part of a special sequence of courses (enriched or accelerated) with high academic standards leading to an Advanced Placement “AP” courses at college level. The recommendations made to students in AP courses are based on a rigorous set of standards. These courses provide intellectual challenge beyond that of regular college preparatory courses. Therefore, the school hopes that the college admissions office will consider the nature and quality of the work, as well as the grades, in assessing this record.

Grade Point Averages on Transcript

District Unw = All courses listed on transcript from Grade 9 on, unweighted
 Weighted GPA = Honors (H) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses calculated on a weighted 5-point system . All other courses factor into the GPA based on a 4-point scale.

** School Service and Teaching Assistant will be graded on a P (indicating work of C or better) or NC (No credit) basis. These courses do not calculate into their GPA.*