



Palo Alto High School

Established 1894

50 Embarcadero Road
 Palo Alto, CA 94301
 650-329-3701
 www.paly.net
 CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

2014-2015 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 30.1% Asian, 3.5% African-American, 49.9% Caucasian, 10.1% Hispanic/Latino, 0.6% Native American and 5.8% Other. The percentage of students that participate in the Federal free and reduced lunch program is 8.8%. Total student enrollment is 1966.

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 (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.

ACADEMICS 2014-2015

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 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:

<http://www.paly.net/school-profile-and-grading-key>

Graduation Credit Requirements

- English – 40
- Mathematics – 20
(Including Algebra 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

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

AP Courses

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

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)

478 students in the Class of 2015.

Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist you in evaluating student performance, the following grade distribution chart is provided. Unweighted grade point averages are from students' 9th-11th grade coursework.

GPA Range (Unweighted)	Number of Students in Class of 2015
4.00	18
3.8 - 3.99	113
3.6 - 3.79	94
3.4 - 3.59	71
3.2 - 3.39	53
3.0 - 3.19	30
2.8 - 2.99	30
2.6 - 2.79	21
2.4 - 2.59	15
2.2 - 2.39	13
2.0 - 2.19	8
Below 2.0	6

TESTING

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

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2012	2013	2014
ACT Scores	28	28	28.9
Nat'l Scores	21.1	20.9	20.9

SAT Reasoning Scores: Mean

Year	2012	2013	2014	Nat'l Mean
Reading	635	640	643	497
Math	660	674	668	513
Writing	640	647	646	487

AP Scores (May 2013)

645 students took 1379 tests
96% scored 3 or higher
54% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2013	2014	2015
Semifinalists	40	31	25
Commended Scholars	47	86	82

ACTIVITIES

Award-Winning Student Activities

Best Buddies Club _____

Outstanding High School Chapter of the Year: 2013, 2014

The Campanile (Newspaper) _____

National Scholastic Press Assoc., Pacemaker, Gold Crown, Columbia Scholastic Press Assoc. 2012, 2014 (online)

Band & Orchestra _____

Jazz Band Unanimous Superior CMEA Festival: 2014

Symphonic Band Unanimous Superior CMEA Festival: 2013

5 students in CBDA All-state Honor Band and County Honor Band: 2014

1st place Anaheim Heritage Festival: 2014

Orchestra _____

Gold rating

5 students CODA State Honor Orchestra: 2014

Choirs _____

Chanticleer Youth Choral Invitational: 2014

Napa Valley High School Invitational Festival Unanimous Superiors – Concert Choir & Madrigal Singers: 2012

Golden State Choir Invitational: 2012

Community Engagement _____

233 students qualified for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (100+ service hours)

Vikings documented 35,270 hours of service to local, national and international community

Film Club _____

Emerging Artist, 1st place CalArts @ Dance Camera West Emerging Artists Competition Awards: 2014

Jurist, Golden Gate Award: 2014

Four Honorable Mentions, White House Film Festival: 2014

Math Club _____

Nati'l Champions in Calculus Continental Math: 2013

Santa Clara Valley Math Association Founders Trophy: 2013

1st Place Santa Clara Math Field Day Teams Contest : 2013

46 students qualified to American Invitational Math Exam: 2014

4 students qualified to USA Math Olympiad: 2014

Paly Voice (Online News) _____

Pacemaker Award, National Scholastic Press Assoc.: 2012, 2013

Best of Show, National Scholastic Press Assoc. Convention: 2012

Quiz Bowl Club _____

Team qualifier for the 2014 NAQT High School Nat'l Championship

2nd in the 2014 HSAPQ California State Championships

Individual qualifier to the 2014 National History Bee

Science Olympiad _____

2014 Six students medaled in the U.S. Physics Olympiad semi finals

Senior graduate selected to the U.S. Physics Team

2014 Bay Area Regional, 2nd place in the Northern California Science Olympiad State Finals

2014 Alternate finalists Clean Technology competition

Senior graduate qualified 2014 Chemistry Olympiad Summer Camp

Speech & Debate _____

7th in nation for Lincoln-Douglas debate in the nation 2014 the Tournament of Champions

Top 4 finalists in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at 2013 State Championship

Nat'l Speech and Debate Association Top 100 Club Award

Nat'l Speech and Debate Assn. Academic All-Americans: 2008-2014

1st place debate champions Western States Novice and JV Championship: 2013, 2014

1st place speakers at the Western States Novice and JV Championship: 2014

1st place debate champions three nat'l competitions: 2014

1st place varsity debate champions at Santa Clara University Invitational: 2014

Top 10 speaker awards at six regional competitions: 2014

Spirit Team/Cheer & Dance _____

1st Place Regional 2014

3rd Place National 2014

2nd Place Nationals, 2012

Theatre _____

Three Statewide 1st places, three statewide 2nd places, two top Senior Scholarship winners: 2014

1st place Northern California Play Marathon Competition: 2014

Verde (Magazine) _____

1st Place, Feature Story of the Year, National Scholastic Press Assoc., 2013

Pacemaker Award, National Scholastic Press Assoc., 2011

Viking (Sport Magazine) _____

Gold Crown Columbia Scholastic Press Association, 2012-13 (online and print)

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 (+G)
- Water Polo (B,G)
- Wrestling (C)

B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed

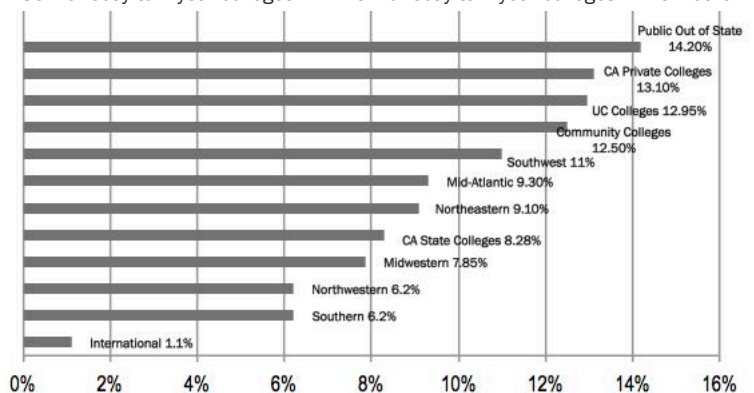
+ = League Champion # = CCS Champion \$ = State Champion

Honor Societies

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS - CLASS OF 2014

80% directly to 4-year colleges • 12.5% directly to 2-year colleges • 7.5% other



CONTACT INFO

Principal Kim Diorio (650) 329-3831

Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3831

Vicki Kim (650) 329-3831

Kathie Laurence (650) 329-3712

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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. Max McGee (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 – 2014-2015

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

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: 215 credits total

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

Interpretation of Symbols Following Course Titles

- A High ability, advanced
- H Honors
- AP Advanced Placement
- 52 Independent Study
- MP Modified Program
- 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 |
| WritCr 11 | = Analysis of the Writer’s Craft |

Math

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Trg/Anlt A/H | = Trigonometry/Analytic Geometry Adv or Honors |
| IntrAnl/Calc (IAC) | = Intro to Analysis/Calculus |

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 * |

ADVANCED PROGRAMS

Courses marked “H” or “A” are part of a special sequence of classes (enriched or accelerated) with high academic standards leading to an Advanced Placement “AP” course at college level. The process of selecting students for Advanced Program courses follows 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 classes listed on transcript from Grade 9 on, unweighted

** 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.*