



Santa Catalina School

2025-2026

Mission

Santa Catalina exists to develop in each student a striving for excellence, a maturing awareness of moral and spiritual values, a sense of responsible purpose, and a determination to serve the world with courage, grace, and compassion.

Motto

Veritas—truth—is the motto of Santa Catalina School. Underlying all actions, relationships, and communication is the assumption that this standard exists. Only with this principle clearly acknowledged and firmly in place is the school's mission worthy and possible.

Administration

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Head of School

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santacatalina.org

Santa Catalina Profile

First founded in 1850, Santa Catalina School is an independent, Catholic, all-girls boarding and day school located in Monterey, California. Santa Catalina's mission and vision are driven by four core values: truth, openness, service, and relationships.

Santa Catalina's curriculum draws inspiration from the classical tradition of the arts and sciences and our Catholic heritage, coupled with innovative classes to meet the demands of the 21st century. Our college-prep academics are complemented by rich offerings in the fine and performing arts, engineering, and athletics. Santa Catalina students also participate in a wide array of extracurricular activities such as clubs, student publications, and service. The school's 500-seat theater hosts three major dramatic productions each year, an array of concerts, and other programs. Catalina's athletic facilities field 12 sports in which 70% of students participate. The Sister Claire and Sister Christine Mathematics and Science Center is home to our unique Marine Ecology Research Program and our robotics team.

- Total students: 226 (135 boarding/91 day)
- 86 boarding students from 10 states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Texas
- 49 international students from 13 countries: Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine
- Students of color: 44%
- Student-teacher ratio: 7:1
- Teaching Faculty: 31
- Average class size: 14
- Need-based financial aid: 36% of the student body
- Accreditation: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Honor Code

The Santa Catalina Honor Code is rooted in the value of truth (*veritas*) and emphasizes honesty and integrity as the foundation of the community. Each student is responsible for their academic work, ensuring it reflects their own effort and learning. The Honor Code is signed by all students at the beginning of each year, and violations are reviewed by the Student-Faculty Discipline Committee. Santa Catalina notifies colleges to which any senior has applied of disciplinary action resulting in suspension or permanent separation from the school. The student is then responsible for contacting college admission offices within two weeks of the disciplinary decision to explain the circumstances leading to her change in status.

Class of 2026

There are 51 students in the Class of 2026.

SAT: Summary 1600 Test Scores for the Class of 2025		
Subject	Mean Score	Middle 50%
EBRW	626	570 - 688
Math	599	518-638
Total	1225	1085-1318
ACT: Test Scores for the Class of 2025		
Composite	27	25-31

Grading Scale

Unweighted Courses	Weighted Courses	Grading Scale
A = 4.00	A = 4.5	93-100
A- = 3.67	A- = 4.17	90-92
B+ = 3.33	B+ = 3.83	87-89
B = 3.00	B = 3.5	83-86
B- = 2.67	B- = 3.17	80-82
C+ = 2.33	C+ = 2.83	77-79
C = 2.00	C = 2.5	73-76
C- = 1.67	C- = 2.17	70-72
D+ = 1.33	D+ = 1.83	67-69
D = 1.00	D = 1.5	63-66
D- = .67	D- = 1.17	60-62
F = .00	F = 0.00	0-59

Grade Point Average

Santa Catalina School does not rank students. GPA calculations are cumulative on a 4.0 scale. Weighting is .5 for Honors, AP, and AT courses. Students may not take an Honors, AP, or AT course without approval from the Dean of Academics. The school year is divided into two semesters. Weighted courses are available beginning in Grade 10, with an increasing range of weighted and advanced class options offered in Grades 11 and 12.

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

Advanced Topic Courses

Intensive Advanced Topic (AT) courses are offered in a number of disciplines. Inspired by the passions of Santa Catalina students, AT courses are designed and implemented based on the ever-expanding capacities and critical pedagogical judgment of our expert faculty. With an emphasis on experiential learning and the exploration of topics in greater depth, AT courses reinforce skills essential for success in upper-level college courses.

AT courses are highly demanding and are intended to be the most academically challenging offerings in their respective departments, with syllabi and requirements equivalent to college coursework in the subject area.

Marine Ecology Research Program (MERP)

MERP is a three-year intensive, accelerated study of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary’s marine environment. Students in the program may complete a concentration of up to eight science classes by graduation. Each student develops and pursues a research project, working with instructors and local marine agencies (e.g. Stanford’s Hopkins Marine Station). The program culminates with the presentation of the student’s research findings at a public, scientific forum (e.g. the Western Society of Naturalists Annual Meeting).

Performing and Visual Arts Certificate Programs

Certificate programs in the visual and performing arts guide students through a comprehensive, multi-year course of study that expands as well as refines each student’s artistic repertoire. Not only does each student develop a portfolio of work that can be used for college applications and future interviews, but both certificate programs also culminate with a senior showcase consisting of either a live performance or gallery exhibition. Many certificate program requirements do not appear on the transcript.

Certificate in Global Leadership

The Certificate in Global Leadership provides students learning opportunities beyond our graduation requirements to develop deeper global competence and international leadership skills. The program, which begins in the sophomore year, takes an interdisciplinary approach and includes required academic coursework, travel abroad with an experiential education component, service, and reflection. The purpose of the program is to develop students’ knowledge, skills, and empathic orientation so they can be diplomatic leaders and ethical, globally minded change-makers. Many certificate program requirements do not appear on the transcript.

Course Offerings 2025-2026

	9	10	11	12
English	English 1: Journeys & Transformations	English 2: The Self & the Other English 2 Honors: The Self & the Other	English 3: Dreams & Aspirations AP English Literature	Senior English Electives♦Ⓢ
History	Introduction to Historical Methods♦	World History 1500 to Present: The Making of the Modern World	U.S. History AP U.S. History	Senior Research Seminars♦Ⓢ Civics & Society
Mathematics & Computer Science	Algebra 1 Geometry Geometry Honors Introduction to Programming♦	Geometry Geometry Honors Algebra 2 Algebra 2 w/Trigonometry Algebra 2 Honors Intermediate Programming♦ Physical Computing♦	Algebra 2 Algebra 2 w/Trigonometry Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus Precalculus Honors Intermediate Programming♦ Physical Computing♦	Statistics AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AT: Multivariable CalculusⓈ AT: Computer Science & TechnologyⓈ Intermediate Programming♦ Physical Computing♦
Science	Conceptual Physics	Chemistry Chemistry Honors Marine Ecology Research 1	Biology Biology Honors AP Chemistry Marine Ecology Research 2 Honors	Natural Resources♦ Biodiversity♦ AP Biology AT: Physics w/TrigonometryⓈ AT: Physics w/CalculusⓈ AT: Marine Ecology Research 3 Independent StudyⓈ
Religious Studies	World Religions♦ Scripture♦		Peace & Justice♦ Religion, Film, and Literature♦	AT: PhilosophyⓈ
World Languages	French: Level 1 through AP & ATⓈ • Mandarin: Level 1 through AP & ATⓈ • Spanish: Level 1 through AP & ATⓈ Honors classes begin at Level 3			
Advising / Health & Wellness	Freshman Journey Freshman Foundations♦ Introduction to Health & Wellness♦	Sophomore Journey Concepts of Well-being♦	Junior Journey	Senior Journey
Electives (Music, Dance, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)	Art 1: Foundations 2-D	Art 2: Intermediate 2-D 3-D Media Photography 1 Design, Architecture & Engineering	Art 3: Advanced 2-D Photography 2	Studio Art Seminar
	Beginning Drama	Intermediate Drama	Advanced Drama	Rehearsal & Performance
	Dance 1: Technique & Performance	Dance 2: Choreography & Performance	Dance 3: Improvisation & Performance	Dance 4: Advanced Performance
	Chamber Choir Chamber Ensemble	Chamber Choir Chamber Ensemble	Chamber Choir Chamber Ensemble	Chamber Choir Chamber Ensemble

♦One semester course

ⓈIntensive Advanced Topic (AT) courses.

College Matriculations

100% of Santa Catalina School students traditionally attend a four-year institution. Graduates from the Classes of 2021-2025 matriculated to the following colleges and universities.

The University of Alabama (3)	Emerson College	Point Loma Nazarene University (2)
American University	Fairfield University	Princeton University
Arizona State University (3)	Florida Southern College	University of Redlands
University of Arizona	Fordham University	Rhode Island School of Design
Barnard College (4)	Gonzaga University (2)	Saint Mary's College of California
Bates College	Grinnell College	San Diego State University (6)
Belmont University	Hamilton College	University of San Diego (5)
Boston College (3)	Harvard University	University of San Francisco
Boston University (3)	Harvey Mudd College	Santa Barbara City College
Bowdoin College (2)	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Santa Clara University (2)
Brandeis University	Hillsdale College (2)	Savannah College of Art & Design (2)
Brown University (2)	IE University Madrid	Sonoma State University
Bryn Mawr College	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University of Southern California (7)
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (7)	Ithaca College	Southern Methodist University (4)
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	James Madison University (2)	Stanford University
California State University, Monterey Bay	Johns Hopkins University (2)	St. John's College
University of California, Berkeley (4)	Lipscomb University	Syracuse University (3)
University of California, Davis (6)	Loyola Marymount University (5)	Technológico de Monterrey (3)
University of California, Irvine (6)	Loyola University New Orleans	Texas A&M University
University of California, Los Angeles (4)	Macalester College	Texas Christian University (4)
University of California, San Diego (3)	Marquette University	The University of Edinburgh
University of California, Santa Barbara (2)	University of Miami (2)	The University of Texas at Austin (2)
University of California, Santa Cruz (3)	University of Michigan (3)	University of Toronto (2)
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Mississippi (2)	Tufts University (2)
Chapman University (6)	Montana State University (2)	Tulane University
University of Chicago	Monterey Peninsula College (2)	Universidad de Monterrey (4)
Clemson University	New York University (5)	University of St. Andrews
University of Colorado Boulder (3)	North Carolina State University	University of Utah (2)
Colorado School of Mines	Northeastern University (9)	Vanderbilt University
Colorado State University	Northwestern University	University of Vermont
Columbia University	University of Notre Dame	University of Virginia (2)
Dartmouth College	Oberlin College	Wake Forest University (2)
Davidson College	Occidental College (3)	University of Washington (5)
University of Denver (4)	Oregon State University	Wellesley College
DePaul University	University of Pennsylvania	Whitman College
Elon University	Pepperdine University (3)	University of Wisconsin (3)
	Pitzer College	Yale University