



# SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

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San Mateo is a city of approximately 104,000 located 20 miles south of San Francisco. It is an extremely diverse community, crossing all socioeconomic and ethnic lines. San Mateo High School is one of seven schools in the San Mateo Union High School District. Current enrollment in grades 9-12 is approximately 1,678, with the class of 2021 at approximately 417. SMHS is one of six comprehensive high schools in San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHS), and the most ethnically and socio-economically diverse of the SMUHS schools. SMHS's ethnic distribution in 2020-2021 is as follows:

Hispanic/Latinx	733	43.7%	Filipino	74	4.4%	Native American /	2	0.1%
Asian-American	423	25.2%	Pacific Islander	44	2.6%	Alaska Native		
Caucasian	374	22.3%	African American	28	1.7%			

San Mateo High School is dedicated to combining academic excellence, community service and hands-on learning to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded college and career preparatory program for all its students. School and community pride are an integral part of the school environment, where families and alumni spend countless volunteer hours on campus. In addition the SMHS SPED program contains 194 students.

### Curriculum

SMHS students participate in a rigorous, standards-based curriculum as part of an academically challenging, college preparatory program. SMHS recommends students enroll in a 6-period day; however, students have the opportunity to take advantage of a 7- period day for support and enrichment courses. The class of 2021 graduation requirements are:

English	40 credits	Physical Education	20 credits	Health	5 credits
Social Science	35 credits	Career Tech. Ed.	10 credits	Electives	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits	World Language	10 credits		
Science	20 credits	VAPA	10 credits	<b>Total</b>	<b>220 credits</b>

The academic calendar is two semesters, 18 weeks each. SMUHS does not rank its students. The **Academic GPA** covers Grades 9-12 and is cumulative of all courses taken. This GPA is **weighted** according to the California Public University system (an additional point is added for University-certified AP and Honors courses; e.g. A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0). Mid-year reports include the 7th semester. The **Total GPA** is **unweighted** for Grades 9-12 and covers the same coursework.

### Advanced Placement, Honors & Advanced Standing Courses

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| AP Biology                          | AP European History             |
| AP Calculus AB                      | AP Macroeconomics               |
| AP Calculus BC                      | AP Physics                      |
| AP Chemistry                        | AP Psychology                   |
| Chinese 4H, French 4H, Spanish 4H   | AP Spanish Language & Culture   |
| AP Computer Science A               | AP Spanish Literature & Culture |
| English 1 & 2 AS                    | AP Statistics                   |
| AP English Language & Composition   | AP Studio Art-Drawing, 2D, 3D   |
| AP English Literature & Composition | AP U.S. Government & Politics   |
| AP Environmental Science            | AP U.S. History                 |

### AP/Honors Progression

A typical progression in AP/Honors/AS courses for a traditional SMHS student, follows these recommendations from our academic counselors:

- Freshman year – Recommendation is up to 1 AS class
- Sophomore year – Recommendation is up to 2 AS/Honors/AP classes
- Junior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes
- Senior year – Recommendation is up to 3 AS/Honors/AP classes

Students interested in taking four or more AS/Honors/AP classes in a single year may petition to do so. Petitions are approved if a student has satisfied all prerequisite coursework and must enroll in additional advanced-level courses in order to maintain full-time status.

## Spring 2020

On March 16, 2020 schools in the San Mateo Union High School District pivoted from traditional in-person instruction to online learning under the direction of the San Mateo County Health Department's Shelter in Place Order due to rising COVID-19 cases and worsening public health conditions. The Board of Trustees voted to replace letter grades with assessments of Credit/No Credit for all courses for the Spring semester of 2020. This decision reflected the State of California's position to "do no harm to students," and helped to level the playing fields for families facing various challenges in light of the global pandemic.

## School Year 2020/2021

Given the current health directive limiting large gatherings and the County of San Mateo's placement on the "watchlist," the Board of Trustees directed staff to begin the 2020-21 school year in Distance Learning. The District adopted a Synchronous Learning model in which students receive 180 minutes of Synchronous Online Learning per class per week. All students will receive letter grades (A-F) for all courses. Students were offered broader opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year such as concurrent enrollment at either WASC accredited institutions or Community Colleges. Learn more about these opportunities by visiting the District's [coursework outside of the District](#) webpage. The District placed a high priority on providing technology (Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots) to all students who requested them.

## Class of 2021 Standardized Testing

Due to county health conditions, the majority of SAT and ACT testing in the Bay Area region of Northern California was cancelled beginning in the middle of March 2020 through September 2020. With the scarcity of testing dates and sites available in the Fall 2020, we have advised families that the majority of students do not need to take the ACT/SAT as a condition for admission for Fall 2021.

<b>CLASS OF 2020 ATTENDING COLLEGES</b>
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### Private & Out of State

American University  
Arizona State  
Aurora University  
Azusa Pacific  
Babson  
Barnard  
Biola  
Boston University  
Bowdoin  
Butler  
Case Western  
Chapman  
Cogswell Polytechnical  
Colorado Christian  
Cornell  
Dartmouth  
Emmanuel  
Emory  
FL Inst. of Technology  
George Washington U.  
Georgia Tech.  
Indiana U Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins  
Louisiana State  
Loyola Marymount  
Menlo College  
Montana State  
New York University  
Oregon State  
Otis College  
Penn State

Purdue  
Reed  
St. Mary's of CA  
Santa Clara University  
Sch. of Art. Inst. of Chicago  
Seattle University  
Smith  
St. Olaf College  
Stanford  
Syracuse University  
U. of Arizona  
U. of British Columbia  
U. of Colorado Boulder  
U. of Hawai'i at Manoa  
U. of Michigan  
U. of Mississippi  
U. of New Hampshire  
U. of Oregon  
U. of Pennsylvania  
U. of San Diego  
U. of San Francisco  
USC  
U. of the Pacific  
U. of Toronto  
U. of Utah  
U. of Washington  
U. of Waterloo  
Virginia Tech

### UC Schools

Berkeley  
Davis  
Irvine  
Los Angeles  
Merced  
Riverside  
San Diego  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Cruz

### CSU Schools

Chico  
East Bay  
Fullerton  
Long Beach  
Northridge  
Cal Poly Pomona  
Sacramento  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Cal Poly SLO  
Stanislaus  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Cal Poly SLO  
Stanislaus

## Special Programs

**Leadership:** An award-winning student-run program

**Renaissance Leadership:** Teaching students the philosophies and strategies of the Renaissance system

**Biotechnology:** Nationally recognized two-year pathway program, including an industry internship

**Performing Arts:** Full offerings include a vocal program, dance program, musical theater, marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, and orchestra

**AVID:** Advancement Via Individual Determination

**ELD:** English Language Development program

**GATE:** Gifted and Talented Education

## Recognitions

Niche: 2020 Best Public High Schools in America - #76 in California

## Comparison of Mean SAT Scores for Class of 2020

SAT	EBRW	MATH	TOTAL
SMHS	613	618	1231
CA	527	522	1049
National	528	523	1051

## Comparison of ACT Scores for Class of 2019

(Still awaiting Class of 2020 data from ACT.)

ACT	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
SMHS	28.1	27.2	27.7	27.3	27.7
CA	22.4	22.3	23.0	22.2	22.6
National	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6	20.7

## Advanced Placement Exams

	2018	2019	2020
AP Scholars	64	71	75
AP Scholars with Honor	41	39	46
AP Scholars with Distinction	109	119	111
National AP Scholars	30	39	39
AP International Diploma	N/A	2	3

**In 2020, SMHS students took 1,168 AP exams. 82% of students who took an AP exam earned at least one three or higher on their exams, with a school average score of 3.7.**

## National Merit Recognition

National Merit Finalists	4
National Merit Commended Scholars	27

**College Placement:** Over the last four years the typical SMHS graduating class has seen 47% of graduates attend a four year college and 45% attend a community college.