

HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS 101

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

A PRESENTATION OF THE
PASADENA EDUCATION NETWORK



PASADENA EDUCATION NETWORK

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL?

FEATURES & TERMINOLOGY



MORE COURSE OPTIONS

Electives – including choices within the core subject areas such as science, math and social studies as well as world languages and the arts

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB)

College and Career Academy-specific courses – as well as the opportunity to take core courses with students in your cohort

Dual Enrollment & Concurrent Enrollment



COLLEGE & CAREER “ACADEMIES”

8 theme-integrated programs of study that provide:

- Specialized electives exposing students to career-technical knowledge and skills
- Students can take core courses with academy “cohort” or choose honors or AP courses along with general ed. students
- Substantive internship opportunities in related fields
- All Muir students choose or are assigned to one of 3 pathways; at other high schools about 20-40% of students choose a pathway
- Can choose or change pathway, but generally not after 10th grade

Learn more about PUSD’s linked learning academies:

<https://www.pusd.us/Domain/97>

SPORTS, CLUBS/ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP

Sports – Baseball, basketball, football, soccer, track & field and more– all high schools have sports programs, but specific offerings vary

Clubs & Activities – Typically based on student interest, so may vary from year to year as well as school to school

Leadership Opportunities – All schools have student government (ASB), but clubs and activities also offer opportunities for leadership and for community service



PREPARING FOR GRADUATION & BEYOND

Graduation Requirements –

- Students must earn 220 course credits in required categories with a *passing grade* (D or better) to graduate
- 40 hours of community service or work-based learning
- Senior defense/ portfolio
- PUSD offers specialized diplomas recognizing specific student accomplishments

A-G Requirements – To be eligible for a 4-year college or university, students must earn at least 150 credits (15 year-long high school courses) in specific subjects *with a grade of C or better!*



PREPARING FOR GRADUATION & BEYOND

High School counselors focus on helping students schedule the courses they need to graduate as well as those they need for college. But students (with support from their parents) also need to take initiative and advocate for themselves.

College Access Plan staff operate drop-in centers on all high school campuses. CAP's advisors can help students:

- Find right-fit colleges
- Write great college essays
- Complete college or professional resumes
- Submit standout college applications
- Submit FAFSA or Dream Act
- Evaluate financial aid offers
- Apply for scholarships
- Explore careers and majors
- collegeaccessplan.org





Katlyn Ong, Blair High School
University of the Pacific (pre-dental)



Anton Perez, PHS
M.I.T.

Christina Leyva, John Muir
Dickinson College



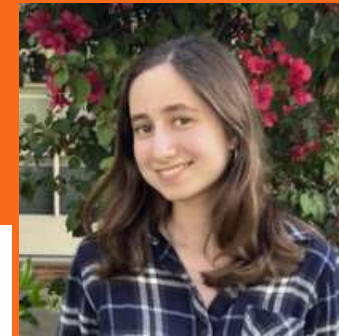
Celeste Sharp, John Muir
UC Santa Cruz (agroecology)



Lucine Ekizian, Blair
- UCLA (Philosophy, Law)



Roman Sailes, CIS
Cal Poly Pomona (computer science)



Maia Rosenbaum, Marshall
- UCLA (Economics)

OVERVIEW OF THE OPTIONS

[HTTPS://WWW.PUSD.US/PAGE/10481](https://www.pUSD.us/page/10481)

JOHN MUIR

EARLY COLLEGE MAGNET

Stand-alone HS (1,012 students, grades 9-12)

100% of students enrolled in one of

3 Pathways:

- Arts, Entertainment & Media
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Engineering & Environmental Science

Early College partnership with Pasadena City

College allows ALL students, starting in the 9th grade, to earn college credit. Students are enrolled in PCC classes during the school day at PCC's satellite building on Muir's campus. Students can earn up to 2 years' college credits while in high school for free. Motivated students have the opportunity to earn the equivalent of an AA degree concurrent with their HS diploma.

KLRN state-of-art broadcast studio



Recent college acceptances include: Amherst College, Azusa Pacific, Brown University, All CSU campuses; Chaffey, Clark Atlanta University, Columbia University, Dartmouth, Drexel, Harvard University, Howard University, Lehigh, LA Film School, PCC, University of Arizona, University of La Verne, USC, U.S. Air Force, Marines & Navy; Whittier College, Woodbury University, All University of California campuses

PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL

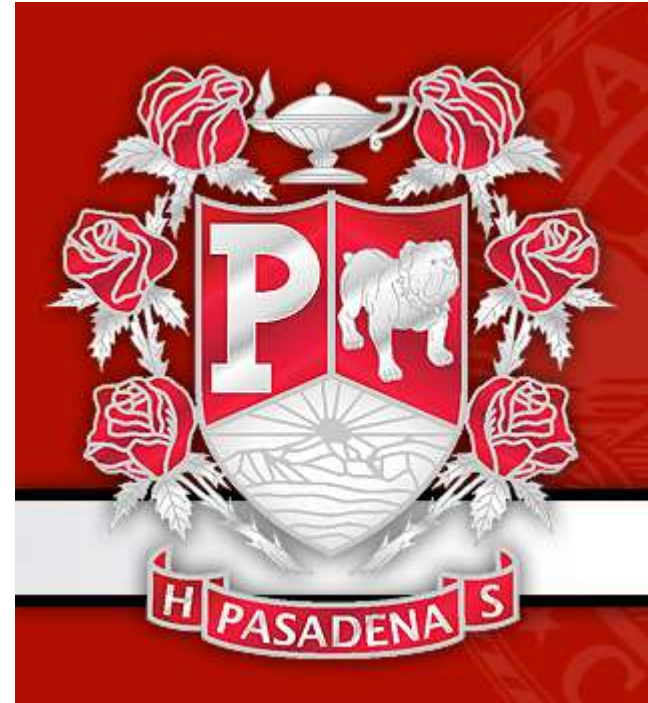
Stand-alone high school
(~1,609 students in grades 9-12)

About 33% of students enrolled in one of
3 Pathways:

- App Academy
- Creative Arts, Media & Design
- Law & Public Service

Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program
feeds from Sierra Madre MS to PHS; current 8th graders can register
during priority registration

Math Academy Advanced college-level coursework for students coming
out of the middle school Math Academy program.



Recent college acceptances include: Amherst College, Arizona State, Art Center College of Design, Azusa Pacific, Boston University, Cal State University campuses, Caltech, Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Howard University, Johns Hopkins, Loyola Marymount, MIT, Michigan State, New York University, Occidental College, Ohio State, Penn State, Pepperdine, Pitzer, Scripps, Stanford, Tuskegee University, University of California (all campuses), University of Southern California, Vanderbilt

BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

High school is part of 6th -12th secondary school (adjacent campuses)

(~616 students in grades 9-12)

All Blair students (6th -10th grade) are part of International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program – students may choose to pursue rigorous IB Diploma Program in 11th-12th grade

Dual Language Immersion Program – PUSD’s Spanish DLIP feeds to Blair for high school; an Armenian Language Academy was added in Fall 2020, offering a language course sequence, with literature, history & culture classes anticipated as the program expands. Blair also hosts PUSD’s International Academy.

Health Careers Academy (HCA) now authorized as an IB Career-related Program (IBCP). Students complete two IB Diploma courses, in addition to HCA career-related courses and hands-on experience to earn an IBCP certificate.



Recent college acceptances include: Arizona State, Azusa Pacific, Berklee College of Music, all the Cal State and Cal Poly campuses, Clark University, Harvard University, Howard University, Johns Hopkins, the Juilliard School, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, Occidental College, Pepperdine, Syracuse University, Tuskegee University, University of Arizona, University of California (all campuses including UC Berkeley and UCLA), Washington State

MARSHALL FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL

High school is part of 6th -12th secondary school (~1,048 HS students)

About 25% of HS students enrolled in a Pathway:

- Academy of Creative Industries
- ~70% of students engaged in some form of visual or performing arts

Emphasis on access to Advanced Placement courses

Marshall is a permit-only school – interested students must apply through Open Enrollment; the number of openings at 9th grade varies from year to year



College acceptances include: Azusa Pacific, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown University, all Cal State University campuses, Carleton, Carnegie-Mellon, Clark University, Dartmouth, Howard University, Loyola Marymount, Macalester College, MIT, Michigan State, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Oberlin, Occidental, Ohio State, Stanford, Swarthmore, Syracuse University, Tufts, Tulane University, Tuskegee University, University of California (all campuses including Berkeley and UCLA), Wesleyan

CIS ACADEMY

The Center for Independent Studies is a WASC-accredited high school that offers: an independent student program for those students who for varying reasons (work, medical, family) are unable to attend a mainstream high school

Other services include:

- dropout recovery program;
- credit recovery program
- teen parent program; and
- K - 8th grade independent study program.

CIS Academy also offers individualized learning plans for students whose needs may be met through study outside of the regular classroom setting.



**PREPARING TO "VISIT"
SCHOOLS**



GET THE MOST OUT OF TOURS

There is no substitute for visiting schools!

Take the opportunity to ask school-specific questions during a tour. If you cannot make the scheduled tour time, contact the school to see about arranging a visit.

Prepare for your visit:

1. Discuss your student's interests – academic, athletics, activities, social – what opportunities are they hoping to get?
2. Look at listed course, athletics, and special program offerings*
3. Make a list of questions – what do you hope to learn from your “visit”?

* Check the school's website as well as PEN's High School Feature Matrix for info like enrollment numbers, programs offered, course offerings, sports and more. See also “course offerings” by school at pusd.us/Page/250.)

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO LEARN?

General questions vs. school-specific questions -

- Focus on school-specific questions during your tours.
- Ask if tour leader can share specific examples of [what you want for your student]

“How does this work?” vs. “Will this work for my student?” -

“Is this a place where my child can be and become his/her/their best self?”

If you don't feel comfortable asking during a tour about how the school will support a particular aspect of who your child is, follow up with an email or ask to speak offline with the principal.

The principal (or PEN) may be able to connect you with current parents and students willing to share their perspectives.

