

# WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Dedicated to Academic Excellence

2019-2020

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SAT/ACT/CEEB: 053521



## ADMINISTRATION

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### Assistant Principals

*Jim Evans*

*Michaele Scheerle*

*Eric Spotts*

*Kevin Knapp*

Site Supervisor

*Bill Atkinson*

Athletic Director

*Sue Eriksen*

Activities Director



## TORRANCE COMMUNITY

Torrance is a suburban community of 147,000 in the South Bay area situated below the beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsula on the beach front of southwestern Los Angeles County. It is located 17 miles southwest of Los Angeles Civic Center and 7 miles northwest of Los Angeles Harbor. Torrance boasts a particularly healthy economy, a near perfect weather pattern, two miles of white sand beach, an extensive financial center and a safe secure community. The school community consists of single-family residences, small business and apartments. Community support for West High has been a long-standing tradition and has assisted West in maintaining an equally long-standing tradition of educational excellence.

## WEST HIGH SCHOOL

West High School is a 4-year comprehensive high school with an enrollment of 2,014 9th to 12th grade students with an additional 64 7th & 8th graders attending early morning sessions. The average class size is 30. Class periods meet for 57 minutes daily. Students are expected to take a minimum of six classes and to enroll in A-G required courses. Zero period classes are offered permitting flexibility in starting and ending time of the school day and the option for some students to carry seven classes per semester. Two semesters comprise the academic year. A large number of students attend a summer school program to support or move ahead in their studies. There are 84 certificated faculty, the majority of whom have a master's degree plus 4 counselors, and 1 dean. West High has been designated a California Distinguished School in 1984, 1994, 1999, 2005, 2013 and again in 2019. West High received the CA Exemplary Program in Arts Education School in 2019. West High was named California Gold Ribbon School in 2015. It received the Excellence in Education Award from the United States Department of Education in 1984 and was awarded the National designation of Blue Ribbon School in 1984.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Warriors create a caring, collaborative community where all students engage in a rigorous learning environment to acquire essential skills and maximize their potential to become effective contributors to society.



In 2019, 242 West High seniors (50.1%) were awarded the California Golden State Seal Merit Diploma for high scores on state tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, History Social Science, & Science.

#### Achievement Awards Program

Eight West High seniors were recognized National Merit Finalists in 2019

**Visitation Policy:** Admission professionals from post-secondary institutions are welcome to visit with students on campus by appointment. A College Information Night is held in the fall; a district wide College Fair is held in February sponsored by Torrance Council of PTSA's.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A student who fulfills the following requirements shall be eligible for graduation from West High School:

1. Satisfactory citizenship as evidenced by six or more semesters of composite satisfactory or composite excellent citizenship.
2. Completion of a minimum of 220 credits detailed below:
  - 20 credits in Mathematics
  - 20 credits in Science (10 credits in Biological Science and 10 credits in Physical Science)
  - 40 credits in English
  - 30 credits in Social Studies (10 credits in World History, 10 credits in US History, 5 credits in US government and 5 credits in Economics)
  - 10 credits in Visual or Performing Arts/Foreign Language
  - 20 credits in Physical Education
  - 5 credits in Health
  - 75 unspecified elective courses



## COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

In the past several years West High School graduates have been admitted to a variety of colleges and universities, among them: Academy of Art University, American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), The Art Institute of California-OC, Augustana College, Babson College, Baylor University, Bethel University-MN, Biola University, Boise State University, Boston College, Cal Lutheran, Cal Maritime, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, San Luis Obispo; California State University-Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Marcos, Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz; Carnegie Mellon University, Chapman University, Colorado School of Mine, Columbia University, Concordia University-Irvine, Cornell University, Cypress College, DePaul University, Drexel University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emory University, Kyushu University, Occidental College, Purdue University, Ringling College of Art & Design, Yale, as well as many others including the Marine, Army, Navy and Coast Guard programs.





## CURRICULUM

A wide variety of classes are offered in academic, vocational, and fine arts areas to meet the needs of all students. West High teachers have transitioned to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as adopted by the State of California. In addition, English, as a Second Language and "sheltered" academic classes are available for English Language Learner Students. Special Day classes and a Resource Specialist Program are available for Special Education students. Honors and/or Advanced Placement classes are scheduled in all academic areas.

Advanced Placement courses: Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, English Language, English Literature, US Government, & Politics, Human Geography, Japanese Language, Macroeconomics, Physics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, Studio Art, US History, World History.

Honors courses: Algebra 2, Anatomy/Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, English 1 & 2, Geometry, Korean 4 & 5, Pre-Calculus, and Spanish 2 & 3.

## GRADING/CREDIT SYSTEM

Student progress is reported with the following grading system:

- A Excellent—4 grade points
- B Above Average—3 grade points
- C Average—2 grade points
- D Below Average—1 grade point

Citizenship is reported as :

- E Excellent
- S Satisfactory
- U Unsatisfactory

Credit is given at the rate of 5 credit points for each one-period course completed successfully each semester. A one-period course for two semesters receives 10 credits. The customary course load for a year is 60 credits.

A composite citizenship grade is entered on the transcript each semester and reflects the citizenship grade given by a majority of the student's teachers.

## GRAD LEVELS INCLUDED

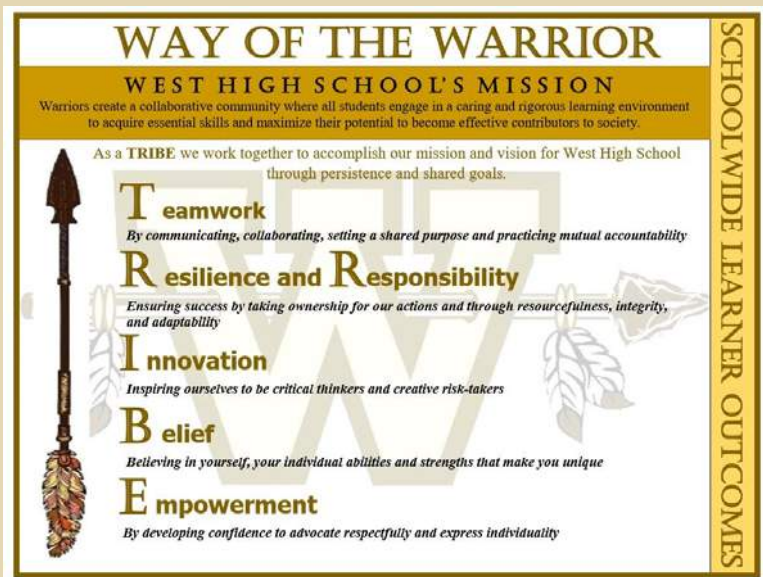
Transcripts reflect the grades earned by the student from grade 7 through 12 for classes taken at the high school.

## COURSES INCLUDED

Courses included in the GPA are all those in which grades are given except Physical Education and Athletics. All Honors and AP courses are weighted.

## RANK IN CLASS

Class rank is based upon weighted GPA. Senior class rank is calculated following the 7th semester of coursework.





Accredited by the Schools Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools.

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## TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### SAT

West High seniors in the Class of 2019 scored above the California state mean on the SAT as follows

- 680 Evidence Based Reading and Writing
- 639 Mathematics
- 30 Reading
- 31 Writing

SAT preparation classes, sponsored by the West High Parent/Teacher/Student Association, are offered during the year on the weekends.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

In 2018, 978 Advanced Placement Exams were taken by 481 West High students.

Approximately 83% of the scores were 3 or better (scored 1-5). Exams included Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Macro-Economics, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, Human Geography, US Government/Politics, Japanese Language & Culture, Music Theory Physics 1, Psychology, Spanish Language & Culture, Statistics, Studio Art Drawing, US History, World History, Computer Science Principles & Chinese Language & Composition.

Class of 2018

AP Equity and Excellence is 43.7%

### ACT

Thirty five West High seniors took the ACT in 2019, scoring well above the national average of 22 with the following results (scored 1-36):

- 28.5 English
- 26.7 Mathematics
- 28.2 Reading
- 26.5 Science
- 26.7 STEM

9 Composite (State mean is 7.8) (58%) participated in SAT testing. SAT preparation classes, sponsored by the West High Parent/Teacher/Student Association, are offered during the year on the weekends.

### SAT SUBJECT TESTS

West High seniors participated in 11 different SAT Subject Tests: Biology-Ecological, Biology-Molecular, Chemistry, English Literature, Japanese with Listening, Math L1, Math L2, Physics, Spanish, Spanish with Listening, U.S. History.



## STATE & FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The State Accountability measurement transitioned from API to the CA Dashboard in early 2018. The Dashboard includes the school's population and measurements of: CAASPP (Math, ELA and coming in the future the Science CAST exam), College & Career Index (CCI), A-G, Grad Rate, Attendance, English Language Learner Development and Suspension Rate.

### FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Federal Accountability Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): Per No Child Left Behind Act has been suspended and currently districts and schools are using the CA Dashboard: Previously under AYP, West High met all 9 AYP criteria in all areas with all significant subgroups for 2016. 2017.