

# WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Dedicated to Academic Excellence

2022-2023

20401 Victor Street Torrance, CA 90503 ~ Ph: (310) 533-4299 Fx: (310) 972-6483 ~ www.whs.tusd.org

SAT/ACT/CEEB: 053521



## ADMINISTRATION

### Principal

*Jenna Murata*

### Assistant Principals

*Ian Eddy*

*Laurie Chandley*

*Eric Spotts*

*Kevin Knapp*

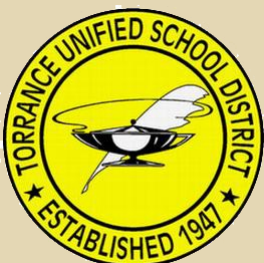
Site Supervisor

*Jason Drueten*

Athletic Director

*Sue Eriksen*

Activities Director



## TORRANCE COMMUNITY

Torrance is a suburban community of 148,126 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 1,842 9th to 12th grade students with an additional 135 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.

### **\*\*SEE PAGE 5\*\* for COVID-19 Impact on Grading Procedures used in 2020-2021 School Year**

West High School started the 20-21 school year using a 100% online model of instruction in a block schedule format. We will be online until further notice

## 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 2022, 267 West High seniors (53.83%) 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: Arizona State University, Art Center College of Design, Biola University, Brigham Young University, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, El Comino College, Long Beach City College, San Luis Obispo; California State University-Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Marcos, University of California - Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz; Claremont McKenna College, Clemson University, Columbia College Chicago, Concordia University-Irvine, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emory University, Grand Canyon University, Howard University, Otis College of Art and Design, Pepperdine University, Seton Hall University, Texas Christian University, Vanguard University, Washington State University, as well as many others including the Marine, Army, Navy and Air Force 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, French 3, 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.



## WAY OF THE WARRIOR

**Creativity:** Warriors apply critical, analytical, and strategic thinking skills to create innovative products and seek solutions to complex problems.

**Character:** Warriors look beyond themselves and work collaboratively to employ trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

**Resilience:** Using a growth mindset, Warriors respond to challenges with positivity, resourcefulness, integrity, and determination to succeed.





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

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### Counseling Staff

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## TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### SAT

West High seniors in the Class of 2022 scored above the California state mean on the SAT as follows

- 663** Evidence Based Reading and Writing
- 693** Mathematics
- 31** Reading
- 31** Writing

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

### ACT

**Seventeen** West High seniors took the ACT in 2022, scoring well above the national average of 22 with the following results (scored 1-36):

- 30.6 English
- 28.2 Mathematics
- 30.0 Reading
- 28.2 Science
- 28.5 STEM
- 29.5 Composite (State mean is 23-31)

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

In 2022, **1,019** Advanced Placement Exams were taken by **539** West High students.

Approximately **84%** of the scores were 3 or better (scored 1-5), and the mean average for all exams was 3.83 (out of 5). The exams taken included Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Chinese Language & Composition, Computer Science Principles, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, Human Geography, US Government & Politics, Japanese Language & Culture, Macroeconomics, Physics 1, Psychology, Spanish Language & Culture, Statistics, Studio Art Drawing, US History, & World History.

Class of 2022  
AP Equity and Excellence is 47.7%

### SAT SUBJECT TESTS

West High seniors participated in **13** different SAT Subject Tests: Biology-Ecological, Biology-Molecular, Chemistry, Chinese with Listening, English Literature, Japanese with Listening, Korean with Listening, Math L1, Math L2, Physics, Spanish, U.S. History, World 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.





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## West High Profile Addendum for 2020-2021

### COVID-19 Impacts on the 2019-2020 Torrance Unified School District Grading Procedures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, California's Governor closed all schools on March 13, 2020, and they remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. TUSD began Distance Learning after March 13, and made the following changes to our schedules and grading practices:

- 1) Letter grade scale limited to A, B, C, D
- 2) Students who received a "B" or a "C" had the opportunity to elect to change their letter grade to a "P" indicating "pass" with credit earned. "P's" are not included in GPA calculations.
- 3) "I" grades were issued for students who did not meet the standard of a "D" or better for 2nd semester. Students who received an "I" grade were placed on a contract to complete the course. Completing the contract will result in changing the "I" grade to a "P" indicating a "pass" and credit will be issued. Students who do not fulfill their contract may be issued an "F" grade. Students have until January 2021 to fulfill their contract.

## West High Profile Addendum for 2021-2022

### AB 104 on the 2020-2021 Torrance Unified School District Grading Procedures

### GRADE CHANGES (Pass/No Pass)

Education Code section 49066.5 (AB 104) establishes that a parent, which includes the natural or adoptive parent or guardian, the person having legal custody, or other educational rights holder, or a student who is age 18 or older and enrolled in high school during the 2020-21 school year, **may apply for one or more of their child's letter grades for a course, taken during the 2020-21 school year in high school**, to be changed to a Pass or No Pass on the student's transcript. There is no limit as to the number or type of courses eligible for this grade change application. The grade change application shall not negatively affect the student's grade point average or result in the forfeiture of a student's eligibility for athletics or school programs.

**The grade change application must be made prior to October 1, 2021.** A school will not accept applications after that date. The school is required to make the change of a student's grade from a letter grade to a Pass (A-D) or No Pass (F) within 15 days of the request and will notify the student and student's parent or guardian that the grade was changed.

Absent an application to change a transcript by this date, a letter grade earned in the 2020-21 school year will remain on the student's transcript. Please note some postsecondary educational institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass or No Pass grade instead of a letter grade for admission purposes. For additional information, including the application for the Pass/No Pass grade change and the list of postsecondary educational institutions, please visit the link below.



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