



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

TOP RANKED

Ranked among the top 40 most influential private high schools in the U.S.
– Academic Influence

A+

Overall grade, Niche.com

16

school, college and wellness counselors

1 OF 4

Catholic IB high schools in the state, only Catholic IB school in the county

231

Courses offered

15:1

student-teacher ratio; average class size of 23

61

performing and visual arts courses, plus an additional 33 courses within the TAPA Conservatory

56,446

hours of community service by students in one year with an economic impact over \$1.5 million.
*2023-2024 school year

84

CIF team championships and 250 league championships

ELEVEN-TIME RECIPIENT

of the CIF-SS Commissioners Cup

MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL

for eleven consecutive years

2024-2025 SCHOOL PROFILE

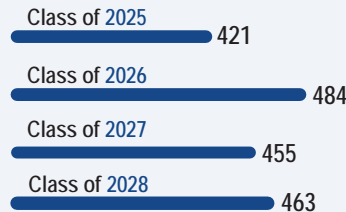
OVERVIEW

Founded in 1987 under the leadership of the Diocese of Orange, Santa Margarita Catholic High School offers a coeducational, college-preparatory education developing students who are people of faith, skilled lifelong learners, healthy individuals and involved citizens of the world. Santa Margarita provides a well-rounded educational experience known for the breadth and quality of its academic programs, innovative technology, student-centered classrooms, emphasis on service and social justice, nationally recognized athletic programs, award-winning arts programs and active student body. Centered in the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, students are called to live out the school's core principles of compassion, humility, justice and goodness.

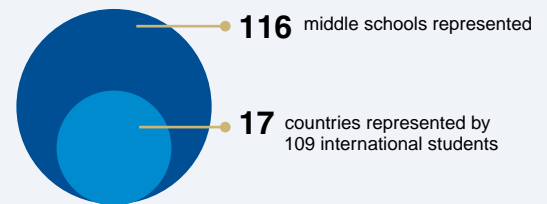
2024-2025 STUDENT BODY

- 55% Caucasian, 13% Asian/Pacific Islander, 10% Multiracial, 8% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Black/African American, 1% Native American/Alaskan Native, 11% Declined to state
- 48% male, 52% female
- 28% of Santa Margarita students receive tuition assistance/scholarships
- 94% U.S. citizen, 6% non-U.S. citizen

ENROLLMENT: 1,823



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



CURRICULUM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULE

- School year includes: Two semesters comprised of approximately 18 weeks
- Modified Block Schedule: 75-minute periods four days a week and one all-periods day per week with 45-minute periods/classes meet three times per week.
- All students must take seven courses per semester (9th-12th grade)

ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*Each semester class is 5 credits

Religion	4 years	40 credits
English	4 years	40 credits
Social Studies	3 years	30 credits
Science	3 years	30 credits
Mathematics	3 years	30 credits
World Languages	2 years	20 credits
Fine Arts	1 year	10 credits
Health	½ year	5 credits
Physical Education	2 year	20 credits
Electives	4 years	45 credits
TOTAL		270 credits

- Minimum GPA to graduate is 2.0
- First Honors: 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Second Honors: 3.5-3.99 (weighted)

GRADING SYSTEM

SMCHS is a non-ranking school

A 90-100 **C** 70-79 **F** 59 & below

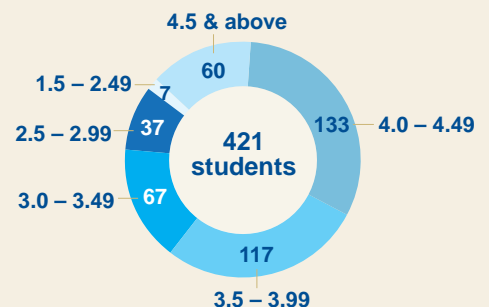
B 80-89 **D** 60-69

- Pluses and minuses do not affect GPA
- Honors/AP/IB receive an extra point for Cs and above
- Maximum number of credits for GPA calculation is 280
- All academic courses are counted on the transcripts with no exceptions
- Remediation is recommended for all Ds and required for all Fs
- SMCHS does not offer dual enrollment classes through online schools or community colleges. The transcript only includes courses taken at SMCHS or at other domestic high schools for transfer students.

CUMULATIVE ACADEMIC GPA DISTRIBUTION

Class of 2025 (after three years)

Maximum GPA possible after junior year (six semesters) is a 4.90



TESTING DATA & ADVANCED COURSES

AP TESTING (2024)

All SMCHS students took the AP exams in person – May 2024

- 1,232 total exams were administered
 - 242 exams received a score of 5 (20%)
 - 442 exams received a score of 4 (36%)
 - 332 exams received a score of 3 (27%)
- Total AP Courses Offered – 23 courses
- Total AP Enrollment – 656 students
- 50% of students in 10th-12th took at least one AP class in 2023-24
- Two Advanced Placement International Diploma recipients in the class of 2024
- 82% of exams taken received a 3 or higher

251 AP Scholars (2024)

Must earn a 3 or higher on at least three exams (10% nationwide receive this distinction)

PASS RATE BY SUBJECT (2024)

SUBJECT	PASS RATE	STUDENTS
Art History	65%	20
Biology	86%	80
Calculus AB	77%	52
Calculus BC	93%	27
Chinese Lang/Culture	97%	29
Computer Science A	82%	17
Drawing	67%	6
English Lang & Comp	83%	148
English Lit & Comp	89%	89
Environmental Science	69%	154
European History	83%	60
French Language	100%	1
Macroeconomics	86%	66
Microeconomics	82%	28
Music Theory	100%	7
Physics 1	51%	65
Physics C	92%	24
Psychology	80%	122
Spanish Language	80%	15
Statistics	88%	24
US Government	100%	38
US History	99%	66
World History	93%	89

ACT SCORES – 110 students tested

CLASS OF 2024	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	** 2 perfect scores, 5 perfect English scores, 2 perfect math scores, 4 perfect science scores, and 12 perfect reading scores
COMPOSITE	28*	26	20	

* 90th percentile nationally

SAT SCORES – 146 students tested

CLASS OF 2024	SMCHS**	STATE	NATIONAL	** 8 perfect math scores
COMPOSITE	1268*	1115	1060	

* 75th percentile nationally

ADVANCED COURSES

- 118 higher-level courses offered – twice the number of any Catholic school in Orange County
- Enrollment contingent upon department approval, placement exams, grades and teacher recommendations

- All students enrolled must take the AP and IB Exam.
- 9th graders may not take any AP or IB classes
- 10th graders may only take AP World, AP Euro, AP Art History (no IB classes)
- IB courses marked with (*) indicate the students can also sit for the corresponding AP test in addition to the IB exam.
- 11th/12th graders are permitted to take IB and AP classes. The full IB Programme starts junior year.

ENGLISH (11 classes)

- English 1 & 2H
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP Literature and Composition
- English IB HL1 & HL2*
- Theory of Knowledge (Two year class - offered only to Full IB Diploma Students. For 11th grade, class is offered as 8th period. For 12th, 8th period option due to scheduling conflicts only.)
- Advanced Debate/Argumentation H
- Journalism 1 H
- Advanced Journalism H

MATHEMATICS (14 classes)

- Algebra 1 & 2 H
- Geometry H
- Precalculus H
- Precalculus H AI IB
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Computer Science A
- Math AI IB HL1 & HL2
- Mathematics IB AA SL
- Mathematics IB AA HL1* & HL2

SCIENCE (14 classes)

- Biology H
- Chemistry H
- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics C
- Biology IB SL, HL1* & HL2
- Chemistry IB SL
- Physics IB HL1* & HL2
- Environmental Systems & Societies IB SL*
- Design Tech IB SL

SOCIAL STUDIES (20 classes)

- Cultural Geography MUN H
- World History MUN H
- United States History MUN H
- United States Government MUN H
- Economics MUN H
- AP European History
- AP World History
- AP U.S. History
- AP Government/U.S. Politics
- **AP Macroeconomics
- **AP Microeconomics
- History IB HL1* & HL2
- Economics IB SL*
- Global Political IB SL MUN (only offered to Full IB seniors)
- Business Mgmt IB HL 1 & 2
- AP Psychology
- AP Art History
- Modern & Contemporary Art H (**Each class is one semester. Students are required to take one AP exam but may choose to take both.)

WORLD LANGUAGES (30 Classes)

- Spanish 1, 2, & 3H
- AP Spanish Language
- Spanish IB SL, HL1 & HL2*
- French 1, 2, 3, 4 H

World Languages cont.

- AP French
- French IB SL*, HL1* & HL2*
- Latin 1, 2, & 3 H
- Latin IB SL, HL1 & HL2
- Ancient Greek 1, 2, & 3 H
- Greek IB SL
- Mandarin Chinese 1, 2, & 3 H
- Mandarin Chinese IB SL*
- AP Chinese

THEOLOGY (2 classes)

- Philosophy IB HL1 & HL2

VISUAL ARTS (9 classes)

- Broadcast Journalism H
- Screenwriting H
- Advanced Painting H
- Advanced Drawing H
- AP Drawing
- AP 2D Art & Design New 2024-2025
- Film IB HL1 & HL2
- Visual Arts IB HL1* & HL2

PERFORMING ARTS (17 classes)

- AP Music Theory (8th period class)
- Advanced Women's Chorus H
- Chamber Singers H
- Dance Production H
- Advanced Dance H
- Dance IB HL1 & HL2
- Steel Drum/Percussion Ensemble H
- String Orchestra H
- Wind Ensemble H
- Music Group Performance IB SL
- Music IB HL1 & HL2
- Advanced Theater H
- Theatre Arts IB, SL HL1 & HL2

OTHER

- ASB Leadership H
- New 2024-2025 (Class is required for the elected executive council, class representatives and appointed commissioners.)

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Finalists	TBD	2	5	3	4
Semifinalists	1	2	5	3	4
Commended	18	30	26	17	16

2

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS
(CLASS OF 2024)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	TOTAL
w/Distinction	91	69	63	51	274
w/Honors	64	61	40	47	212
Scholars	96	93	94	71	354

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

SMCHS is one of the four Catholic high schools in California to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The IB Diploma Programme is a two-year academic program for 11th and 12th graders that attracts a diverse group of learners committed to challenging themselves with a highly rigorous curriculum that focuses on in-depth critical thinking, balanced perspectives, global-mindedness, and acquisition of knowledge to prepare them for their current and future learning. IB Diploma students may qualify for advanced standing and/or earn credits at many colleges and universities. IB Diploma and anticipated candidates (11th and 12th grade), in addition to their coursework of six IB classes, complete the core requirements:



- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** – a seminar course to apply thinking and inquiry across all subject areas to address the ideas of how do we acquire knowledge and know what we know
- **Extended Essay (EE)** – a 4,000-word research paper based on a student chosen IB subject/topic centered on a student-generated inquiry/research question
- **Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)** – student chosen experiences on and off campus meant to encourage personal growth, engagement in the community, and self-reflection

UNIQUE IB PROGRAMME FEATURES AT SMCHS INCLUDE:

- IB students are often co-enrolled in AP courses and sit for both the IB and AP exams.
- Non-IB students can take IB classes as course candidates
- IB Philosophy replaces the SMCHS requirement for Theology 3 and 4

SMCHS International Baccalaureate Programme

- 53** – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2024 (16% of the Class)
- 34** – IB Diploma Candidates, Class of 2025 (8% of the class)
- 184** – IB Course Candidates, Classes of 2024 and 2025

Spring 2024 testing statistics and results:

- 49** – IB Diploma Candidates (92%) earned an IB Diploma (*world average 80.1%*)
- 30** – Points (out of 45) was the average score with the overall average grade of 4.3 (out of 7) for each exam.

Class of 2024 and 2025:

- 751** – Total Exams Taken
- 259** – Students Tested
- 80%** – Pass Rate Across All Subject Areas

SUBJECT	STUDENTS	PASS RATE
English A Literature	84	95 %
Classic Greek	2	100 %
French B HL	3	100 %
French B SL	7	57 %
French SL	8	100 %
Latin SL	9	100 %
Spanish AB SL	3	33 %
Spanish B HL	2	100 %
Spanish B SL	32	88 %
Chinese B HL	1	100 %
Chinese B SL	5	100 %
Business Management HL	61	66 %
Economics SL	28	61 %
Enviro Sys & Soc	11	90 %
Global Politics SL	16	100 %
Hist of the Americas HL	8	100 %
Philosophy HL	161	83 %
Philosophy SL	1	100 %
Biology HL	26	92 %
Biology SL	7	100 %
Chemistry SL	30	53 %
Design Tech SL	24	54 %
Physics HL	12	92 %
Math AA HL	13	92 %
Math AA SL	19	68 %
Math AI HL	42	69 %
Math AI SL	13	85 %
Dance HL	4	100 %
Film HL	9	91 %
Music SL	4	89 %
Theater HL	4	100 %
Theater SL	1	100 %
Visual Arts HL	3	33 %
Theory of Knowledge	53	100 %

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



SERVICE LEARNING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

In living out the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, SMCHS Campus Ministry offers its students a robust service learning program throughout all four years. Freshmen and sophomores participate in class service projects, uniquely designed within the theology curriculum to serve an underserved or vulnerable population. Sophomores partner with Second Harvest Food Bank and serve in a variety of capacities to the Orange County community. Juniors and seniors are given the freedom to complete their projects by participating in direct service work with a number of approved nonprofits in areas and issues they are interested in. Christian Service at SMCHS is integral in forming young women and men in our school's charism. Completion of grade-level service projects is a graduation requirement.



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Over 90% of SMCHS students participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities, giving ample opportunities to develop leadership and management skills. Leadership roles include Peer Ministry, Associated Student Body, Link Crew, Student Ambassadors, Speak UP! peer advisors and team managers.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS Santa Margarita's award-winning Model United Nations (MUN) program catapults students into the world of diplomacy and international relations with students participating in mock United Nations meetings worldwide. Student participation is an extracurricular commitment, but also integrated into the honors social studies curriculum. Model UN is an activity that allows students to develop skills such as research, public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. Since 2000, the program has won over 10,722 individual awards and 112 delegation awards.



ROBOTICS/ENGINEERING The school's award-winning robotics teams, SMbly Required and SMbled, function like startups with students learning CAD modeling, CAM, marketing and project management. Students design, build, program and test competition-ready robots.



ARTS Visual and performing arts classes provide diverse opportunities for students to learn and express their artistic talents. Through regional and national competitions, international performances, and award-winning productions, SMCHS students share their talents with the community. The Talon Academy of Performing Arts offers an after school conservatory program.



ESPORTS The world champion Eagle Esports team plays different games each season and competes in several different arenas. Students learn how to shoutcast while streaming on a production crew, run their own livestream, and train and play like professionals.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY As one of 34 Microsoft Showcase Schools nationwide, SMCHS is a leader in utilizing technology to create collaborative student-centered classrooms and improve learning outcomes.



ATHLETICS Since the school opened over 37 years ago, SMCHS has earned more championships than any other school in Southern California with 15 state championships, 84 CIF championships, and 250 league championships. SMCHS offers 27 CIF and seven club programs.



AUXILIARY STUDIES PROGRAM The school's ASP program offers a comprehensive support program giving students with diagnosed learning differences the tools to succeed alongside their non-learning disabled peers.



EAGLE ONLINE ACADEMY SMCHS offers a fully asynchronous online school with UC Approved classes created and taught by Santa Margarita teachers. Students have access to all school activities, athletics and support services.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NHS membership at SMCHS is highly selective. Juniors and seniors must demonstrate how their actions meet the four NHS pillars of scholarship, character, service and leadership along with a GPA requirement of 3.5. Only 15% of each class earns this distinction.



MEDIA Students produce a daily news broadcast show (Eagle Television), a news website (SMCHSEagleEye.com), and the award-winning Eagle Eye student newspaper. Using state-of-the-art production equipment, ETV students edit, film, write and produce content.



WELLNESS SMCHS offers a comprehensive student support program comprised of mental health education, training, resources, and referrals to meet the challenges of adolescence. Four wellness counselors offer on-campus resources.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST - CLASS OF 2024

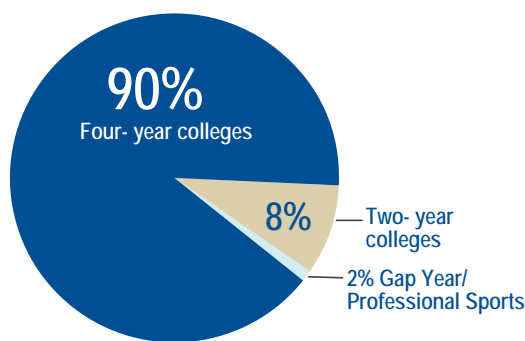
This is the complete matriculation list, with the number of students attending for the class of 2024 as of August 2024. For our complete list of college acceptances and matriculation for the past 5 years, please visit: www.smhs.org/collegeplacement or scan the QR code.



Albion College 1	Grand Canyon University 1	San Diego State University 4	University of Idaho 1
Arizona State University 7	High Point University 1	San Jose State University 2	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1
Auburn University 1	Holy Cross College 1	Santa Barbara City College 2	University of Kansas 1
Azusa Pacific University 1	Indiana University 7	Santa Clara University 2	University of Kentucky 1
Baylor University 3	Irvine Valley College 5	Southern Methodist University 4	University of Massachusetts-Amherst 1
Belmont University 1	John Cabot University 1	Southwestern University 1	University of Miami 4
Boise State University 7	Lehigh University 1	St. Edward's University 1	University of Michigan 3
Boston College 5	Loyola University 8	St. Lawrence University 1	University of Mississippi 4
Boston University 1	Loyola Marymount University 8	Stanford University 4	University of Missouri 1
California Baptist University 2	Loyola University Chicago 1	Syracuse University 2	University of Nevada-Reno 1
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 6	Manhattan College 1	Texas Christian University 10	University of Notre Dame 3
CSU-Chico 1	Menlo College 1	The University of Alabama 1	University of Oklahoma 6
CSU-Fullerton 5	Miami University (Oxford) 1	The University of Tampa 1	University of Oregon 1
CSU-Long Beach 1	Michigan State University 3	The University of Tennessee 3	University of Oxford 1
Carleton College 1	New York University 3	The University of Texas at Austin 3	University of Pennsylvania 1
Carnegie Mellon University 1	North Carolina State University 2	Trinity College 1	University of San Diego 5
Case Western Reserve University 1	North Central College 1	Trinity University 2	University of San Francisco 1
Chapman University 4	Northeastern University 4	Trinity Valley Community College 1	University of South Carolina 1
Citadel Military College of South Carolina 1	Northern Arizona University 1	Tulane University of Louisiana 1	University of Southern California 8
Citrus College 1	Northwestern State University of Louisiana 1	United States Air Force Academy 3	University of St Andrews 1
Clemson University 1	Northwestern University 1	United States Military Academy at West Point 2	University of Utah 13
Colgate University 2	Oberlin College 1	United States Naval Academy 1	University of Washington 8
Colorado State University 3	Oklahoma State University 2	University of Alabama in Huntsville 1	University of Waterloo 1
Columbia University 1	Orange Coast College 3	University of Arizona 13	University of Wisconsin 2
Concordia University 2	Oregon State University 1	UC Berkeley 11	Villanova University 1
Cornell University 1	Otis College of Art and Design 1	UC Davis 5	Wake Forest University 1
Creighton University 2	Pace University 1	UC Irvine 11	Wake Technical Community College 1
Dartmouth College 1	Penn State University 2	UCLA 16	Washington State University 1
East Texas Baptist University 1	Pepperdine University 1	UC Riverside 3	Washington University in St. Louis 2
Eastern Washington University 1	Point Loma Nazarene University 4	UC San Diego 7	Wellesley College 1
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University 1	Purdue University 1	UC Santa Barbara 6	Westminster University 1
Emory University 3	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 1	UC Santa Cruz 3	Westmont College 1
Florida State University 1	Rice University 1	University of Colorado Boulder 5	Xavier University 1
Fordham University 1	Rutgers University 2	University of Georgia 1	
Gonzaga University 2	Saddleback College 18	University of Hawaii at Manoa 2	
	Saint Mary's College of California 2		

COLLEGE STATISTICS: CLASS OF 2024

- 385 students in the class of 2024
- 138 colleges and universities attended
- 98 percent attending college
- 345 colleges and universities applied to
- 4,182 college applications
- 2,295 college acceptances
- 55 percent total acceptance rate
- 100 percent acceptance rate at 187 schools
- 5 students serving at a military academy
- 66 recruited college student-athletes



COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

35 U.S. states, 5 International countries

40%
CALIFORNIA

59%
OUT OF STATE

1%
INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC vs PRIVATE

62%
PUBLIC

38%
PRIVATE

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J. Andrew Sulick '91 President
Cheri L. Wood Principal

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT: (949) 766-6010

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Each student is assigned a college counselor during December of their junior year to provide guidance and support throughout their college preparatory and application process.

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Mrs. Melissa Fosdick fosdickm@smhs.org

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

Mrs. Christa Crafts craftsc@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS OF COLLEGE COUNSELING:

Ms. Rachel Kim kimr@smhs.org

Ms. Megan Olivor olivorm@smhs.org

Ms. Eva Hester hestere@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS (Athletics)

Mr. Mike Hiserman hisermanm@smhs.org

COLLEGE ESSAY SPECIALIST/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McKenna Sulick sulickm@smhs.org

REGISTRAR

Mrs. Roza McCartan mccartanr@smhs.org

SCHOOL COUNSELING & WELLNESS:

Seven school counselors advise, support and encourage students academically and personally throughout their four years at SM. The school's four wellness counselors provide additional support upon request as well as offer a robust educational program for families.