

Torrance Unified School District
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WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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SAT/ACT/CEEB Code 053521

CEEB-SAT-ACT 053521



ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Ben Egan

Assistant Principals

- Pam Metz
- Karim Girgis

**Gerald Smith, School Site
Supervisor**

Bill Atkinson, Athletic Director

Patty Yoo, Activities Director

Tom Strong, Dean of Students



Graduation Rate for
West High for the
Class of 2008: **99.4%**

TORRANCE COMMUNITY

Torrance is a suburban community of 140,000 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 2,208 9th to 12th grade students with an additional 129 8th graders attending early morning sessions. The average class size is 32. Classes meet for 54 minutes daily with a 15-minute reading period included in the schedule each day. Students are expected to take a minimum of six classes. Some "0" 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 six-week summer school program. There are 87 certificated faculty, the majority of whom have a master's degree or doctorate. West High has been designated a California Distinguished School in 1984, 1994, 1999 and again in 2005, and received the Excellence in Education Award from the United States Department of Education in 1984. It was awarded the national designation of Blue Ribbon School in 1984.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the West High Staff to ensure that learning is meaningful and enjoyable so that students develop a dynamic curiosity about the world. We accomplish this by fostering students' best efforts at self-expression and using their unique talents. Concurrently, we develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving to help students become aggressive life-long learners. We further promote their acceptance of responsibility for actions as individual citizens and compassionate members of a diverse and collaborative society.

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. Passing scores on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in the areas of Mathematics and English/Language Arts.
3. 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) or 20 credits in Integrated 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

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

In February 2009, West High tenth graders took the CAHSEE for the first time. In **English Language Arts 96%** of the students passed and in **Mathematics 96%** passed.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

In the past several years West High School graduates have been admitted to a variety of colleges and universities, among them: the University of California campuses at Berkeley, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Irvine, Davis, Riverside and Santa Cruz; California State University campuses at Long Beach, Pomona, Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Fullerton, Northridge, San Diego, Monterey Bay, University of Michigan, Northwestern, Brigham Young, Boston University, Brandies, Cal Tech, Carnegie-Mellon, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Indiana University, Loyola Marymount, Notre Dame, Pepperdine, Pomona, Stanford, Swarthmore, Tufts, University of Chicago, University of Massachusetts, University of Oregon, Wellesley, University of Redlands, and University of Southern California.

In 2009, **127** West High seniors (23%) were awarded the California **Golden State Seal Merit Diploma** for high scores on state tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, History Social Science & Science.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Nine West High seniors were National Merit Finalists in 2008 and one senior has applied for National Achievement in 2009.

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.



CURRICULUM

A wide variety of classes are offered in academic, vocational, and fine arts areas to meet the needs of all students. 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 Educationally Handicapped students. Honors and/or Advanced Placement classes are scheduled in all academic areas.

West High offers a variety of Advanced Placement courses: Music Theory, U.S. History, MacroEconomics, U.S. Government-Politics, Psychology, English Literature, Spanish Language, Studio Art, Statistics, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Biology, Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry & World History. It also offers Honors classes: English (1, 2 & 3), Korean 4, Korean 5, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre Calculus, Anatomy, Biology 1 & Chemistry 1.

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 follows:

- 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; a two-period course successfully completed receives 10 credits for one semester and 20 credits to two semesters. 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.

EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRS)

West High will produce students who are:

- Effective Communicators
- Quality Producers
- Critical Thinkers
- Collaborative Workers
- Self-directed Learners

GPA / CLASS RANK

Grade 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.



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Counseling Staff

Grades 10 – 12

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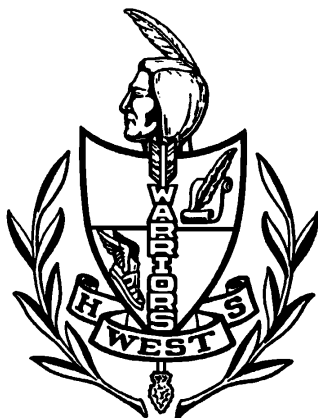
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9th Grade and Student
Support

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TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Post-secondary Test Results

SAT Reasoning Tests

West High seniors in the Class of 2009 scored above the California state mean on the SAT Reasoning Tests as follows (scored 200-800):

533 Critical Reading

596 Mathematics

554 Writing

In 2009, **362** seniors (approximately 67%) had participated in SAT testing.

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

Advanced Placement Exams

In 2009, **665** Advanced Placement Exams were taken by West High students.

Approximately **Eighty-three** percent of the scores were 3 or better (scored 1-5). Exams were taken in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Macro-Economics, Micro-Economics, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, European History, US Government/Politics, Music Theory, Physics B, Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism, Physics C: Mechanics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, US History & World History.

AP Equity & Excellence: **35.8%** of the Class of 2009 scored 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

SAT Subject Tests

West High seniors participated in **13** different SAT Subject Tests: Literature, US History, World History, Mathematics Level 1, Mathematics I2, Biology (Ecological), Biology (Molecular), Chemistry, Physics, Chinese with Listening, Japanese with Listening, Korean with Listening and Spanish.

ACT

Sixty-one West High students took the ACT in 2009, scoring well above the national average with the following results (scored 1-36):

24.4 English

27.0 Mathematics

24.9 Reading

24.2 Science

25.2 Composite

State & Federal Accountability

State Accountability

Academic Performance Index (API):

Based on the CAHSEE and State Standards Tests, the API is calculated by the California Department of Education. West High surpassed the statewide performance target of 800 with an API growth score of **853** in 2009—up 33 points from the previous year.

Federal Accountability

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

In 2009 West high **met all** federal targets per the No Child Left Behind Act in all areas: English Language Arts proficiency & participation, Mathematics proficiency & participation, API & graduation rate.