

Torrance Unified School District
2335 Plaza del Amo
Torrance CA 90509
(310) 972-6000
Dr. George W. Mannon, Superintendent
WWW.TUSD.ORG

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WEST HIGH SCHOOL

20401 Victor Street, Torrance CA 90503
Phone: (310) 533-4299 Fax: (310) 972-6483
www.whs.tusd.org
SAT/ACT/CEEB Code 053521
CEEB-SAT-ACT 053521



ADMINISTRATION

Principal
Pam Metz

Assistant Principals
Mark Roulette
Jim Evans

Kevin Knapp, School Site
Supervisor
Bill Atkinson, Athletic Director
Sue Eriksen, Activities Director
Keita Kadono, Dean of Students



2015 Graduation Rate
(Class of 13-14)
98%

TORRANCE COMMUNITY

Torrance is a suburban community of 145,000 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 2151 9th to 12th grade students with an additional 82 8th graders and 1 7th grader attending early morning sessions. The average class size is 28. 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 summer school program. There are 88 certificated faculty, the majority of whom have a master's degree. West High has been designated a California Distinguished School in 1984, 1994, 1999, 2005 and again in 2013. 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

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 2015, West High tenth graders took the CAHSEE for the first time. In **English Language Arts 94.5%** of the students passed and in **Mathematics 95.8%** 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, Columbia, 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 2015, **83** West High seniors (34%) 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

Three West High seniors were National Merit Finalists in 2015.

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. 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 Educationally Handicapped students. Honors and/or Advanced Placement classes are scheduled in all academic areas.

Advanced Placement courses: Music Theory (last offered 2014-15), Studio Art, World History, US History, MacroEconomics, Government-Politics, Psychology, English Language, English Literature, Spanish Language, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Biology, Environmental Science (not offered 2014-15), Physics 1 (new beginning 2014-15), Physics B (last offered 2013-14) & Chemistry.

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

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 8 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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Association of Schools and Colleges
Western Association of
Schools and Colleges,
Accrediting Commission for Schools,
533 Airport Blvd., Suite 200,
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: (650) 696-1060

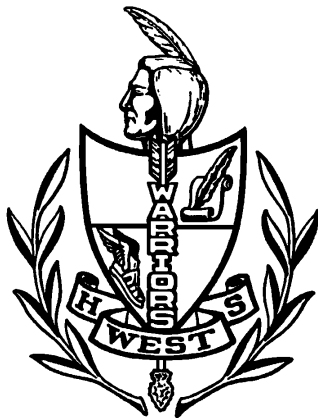
Counseling Staff

Tiffany Garcia
A – Fe x7609
tgarcia@tusd.org

Lianne Lau
Fi – K x7610
llau@tusd.org

Yoko Druten
L – Ra x7611
ydruten@tusd.org

Tania Barricklow
Re – Z x7612
tbarricklow@tusd.org



TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Post-secondary Test Results

SAT Reasoning Tests

West High seniors in the Class of 2015 scored above the California state mean on the SAT Reasoning Tests as follows (scored 200-800):

557 Critical Reading
628 Mathematics
574 Writing

In 2015, 203 seniors (approximately 62%) 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 2015, 422 Advanced Placement Exams were taken by West High students.

Approximately **86%** of the scores were 3 or better (scored 1-5). Exams were taken in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Macro-Economics, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, US Government/ Politics, Japanese Language & Culture, Music Theory, Physics B, Physics C, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, Studio Art Drawing, US History, World History, Computer Science A & Chinese Language & Composition.

Class 2015 AP Equity & Excellence:
32.4%

SAT Subject Tests

West High seniors participated in **13** different SAT Subject Tests: English Literature, US History, World History, Mathematics Level 1, Mathematics Level 2, Biology (Ecological), Biology (Molecular), Chemistry, Physics, Chinese with Listening, Japanese with Listening, Korean with Listening and Spanish.

ACT

One hundred seventeen West High seniors took the ACT in 2014, scoring well above the national average with the following results (scored 1-36):

26.0 English
28.4 Mathematics
26.4 Reading
26.5 Science
26.8 Composite

State & Federal Accountability

State Accountability

State Accountability remains suspended in California from the beginning of 2013-2014 through 2014-2015 school year.

Federal Accountability

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

Per No Child Left Behind Act: West High did not meet AYP targets in all areas with all significant subgroups. West High has met 16 out of 17 of the criteria.