

The Cambridge School 2024-2025 Profile

12855 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129 | 858.484.3488 | cambridgeclassical.org



The Cambridge School is pleased to announce its eighth graduating class — the Class of 2025!

The Cambridge School is a K-12 school in the classical, Christian tradition, and a model school within our peer association, serving 406 culturally and socio-economically diverse students in North County San Diego. We began in 2006 with nine students in kindergarten and first grade. By adding one new grade each year, we are now an established institution that uniquely combines classical education principles with a Christian worldview.

CEEB Code: 054785

Administration

Jean Chung Kim
Founder and Head of School

Dr. Melissa Gingrich
Upper School Principal

College Counselor

Becky Priest
bpriest@cambridgeclassical.org

Accredited by WASC

Members of SCL, NACAC,
WACAC

Test Scores

(Among the highest in our county)

SAT Mean: 1430

ACT Mean: 32

Admission

Our selective admissions process is based on the candidate's academic record, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, pre-admission assessments, and student/family interviews.

The classical curriculum is carefully sequenced and begins in 7th grade. Therefore, **no new students are admitted after 9th grade.**

36% of families receive tuition assistance.

More than 50% of our parent population have advanced degrees.

MISSION STATEMENT

Think Well. Love Rightly. Live Wisely.™

The Cambridge School seeks to provide a distinctly Christian education in the classical tradition which equips students to know, love, and practice that which is true, good, and beautiful and thus prepares them to live purposefully and intelligently in service of God and neighbor.

CURRICULAR & PEDAGOGICAL DISTINCTIVES:

- **All students complete the SAME, REQUIRED, ALL-HONORS, CORE of six subject area courses through ALL of HIGH SCHOOL**, with no elective choice in the core subjects, and with intentional, cross-disciplinary integration (e.g., everyone takes Calculus, etc.).
- **Students are required to carry a 7-credit (9 class) load each year** which includes the standard five disciplines (Literature, History, Science, Math, Foreign Language) plus half-credit classes in Rhetoric and Christian Studies, plus two half-credit elective classes.
- **All students are required to complete a year-long senior thesis** which asks them to interact with their readings and meaningful curricular experiences during high school, draw from their interdisciplinary training, and engage with the enduring ideas and timeless questions that the liberal arts have always explored (e.g., *What is the nature of man? What is truth?*) Students write a 10-page paper, give a 10-minute presentation, then interact with peers and faculty in a 30-minute conversation around these ideas in front of the entire school community.
- All humanities courses include **extensive primary source reading**, Socratic discussion, critical analysis, Toulmin argumentation, oral and written exams (never multiple choice or scanned), frequent 5-page essays, and class presentations.
- **All students are required to take math through Calculus and the following science courses: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics**—all of which focus on careful scientific argumentation in lab reports, frequent presentation and writing opportunities, and historical context for scientific and mathematical ideas.

Note: We intentionally do not offer many AP courses, with none in the Humanities, because our History, Rhetoric, and Literature classes are **more intellectually complex than the AP curriculum**. These courses are fully integrated and students read primary sources and Great Books. The rigor of our honors curriculum (defined as cognitive complexity and student autonomy) is confirmed by college professors in our community, at the colleges attended by alumni, and by our students' strong performance on AP exams in spite of not taking the corresponding AP class. **All of our honors classes have been recognized as honors by the University of California system.**

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National Merit Recognition

4 Semi-Finalists
4 Commended Scholars
1 CB African Am Recognition Award
1 CB Hispanic Recognition Award

Class Size: 27 (largest to date)

100% of the class is four-year college-bound.

Class Rank and GPA

Highest possible 9-12th weighted GPA is 4.88 on a 4.0 scale.
With only 27 students in the class, GPA distribution nor class rank are provided.

Three AP Classes Offered

Biology: 10th-12th Grade
Calculus AB: 11th Grade
Chemistry: 11th Grade
AP class participation only with teacher approval.

Accomplished Faculty

90% of our teachers hold a Masters or PhD in the discipline they teach.

Graduation Requirements

Humanities: 10 credits
Rhetoric, Literature, History, Senior Thesis

Math: 3 credits
Including Calculus

Science: 3 credits
Including Chemistry, Biology

Latin: 2 credits

Christian Studies: 2 credits

Fine Arts: .5 credit

Athletics: .5 credit
Two sports seasons

Electives: 1 credit (.5/year)

Total Minimum: 25 credits

CURRICULAR & PEDAGOGICAL DISTINCTIVES: (Continued)

- Students are required to **complete Latin to Level IV** (by 10th grade) so that they are translating Vergil and other classical authors with ease.
- With **an academic course load that is quantitatively and qualitatively heavier than most schools for all four years**, students must develop perseverance and excellent time management skills to fulfill their academic and co-curricular responsibilities. We have no early graduation, no early dismissal, and no dual enrollment.

CLASS OF 2025 CURRICULAR CHOICES: (See chart on fourth page)

- For 11th grade math, students had a choice between AP Calculus AB or non-AP Calculus AB. For 11th grade science, students had a choice between Honors Physics or Physics.
- For 12th grade math, students chose between Statistics, Honors Statistics, or Honors Statistics with Advanced Calculus Principles (preparing them for optional AP exams in Statistics and/or Calc BC.)
- In 11th grade, after completing 4 years of Latin, students choose to continue the next two years either with another language (Honors Greek I/II & III) or additional science (AP Chemistry in 11th and Honors Computer Science: Principles & Practice in 12th.)
- Class was given one general elective choice in 10th-12th grades, and one fine arts elective choice in 11th-12th grades. (See chart on page 4 for elective options.)

CO-CURRICULAR DISTINCTIVES:

- **Required Athletics participation.** Two seasons of interscholastic competitive, team athletics (CA CIF) for Physical Education credit.
- **Required Debate Team participation.** All students participate in competitive Public Forum Debate with a choice to continue as an elective after the first year.
- **Required participation in the House Program.** Our House Program intentionally fosters community across 7th-12th grades. House life encompasses all aspects of student culture with entirely student-led weekly assemblies, retreats, service days, academic and athletic competitions, and social events.
- **Advisory Program.** Students work closely with a faculty mentor twice weekly on a variety of endeavors—special study topics, hands-on projects, fellowship—including explicit intellectual virtue education modeled after the *Framework for Character Education in Schools* published by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.
- Our **House Leadership Program** allows students to focus on administrative and strategic planning skills, creating healthy culture and teams, and mentoring and nurturing relationships across grades.
- For our students who are **House Leaders**, weekly responsibilities rise above 15 hours per week, making participation in outside ECs more difficult.
- **Few organized clubs exist** through the school. All class members have heavily and selflessly volunteered and served as student ambassadors who were critical to the growth of our young school.

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96 Alumni with 100% College Matriculation and 100% College Graduation

63%

Percentage of alumni who are attending college out of state

28%

Percentage of alumni who received full-tuition merit or college's top merit scholarship

33%

Percentage of alumni who are part of an Honors College/Program

COLLEGES OF ATTENDANCE FOR 2018-2024

Arizona State University Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College ^	Georgetown University Gordon College, Honors Program ^ (5) Grand Canyon University, Honors College ^	Rutgers University, Business School Honors San Diego State University, Weber Honors College ^ (2) St. John's College, Annapolis ^	University of Chicago University of Notre Dame University of Portland ^ University of Puget Sound ^ University of Richmond ^ University of Tulsa ^ University of Utah Wesleyan University
Baylor University, Honors College ^ (6) Belmont University, Honors College ^ Biola University, Torrey Honors College ^ (4) Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (2) CSU, Long Beach Calvin University ^ Chapman University ^	Grove City College ^ (3) Hillsdale College ^ (7) Indiana University, Kelley School of Business Johns Hopkins University Kansas State University ^ (2) Lehigh University Loyola University, Chicago ^ (2) Northern Arizona University, Honors Program ^	Texas Christian University, Honors Program US Coast Guard Academy University of Alabama, Huntsville University of Arizona, Honors Program ^ UC Berkeley+ ^ (4) UC Irvine+ ^ (2) UC Los Angeles (8) UC San Diego+ ^ (3) UC Santa Barbara UC Santa Cruz ^	Westmont College, Augustinian Scholars Program ^ (3) Whitworth University ^ (2)
Claremont McKenna College College of William & Mary ^ Colorado State University, Fort Collins (2) DePaul University, Theater School ^ George Washington University ^	Olivet Nazarene University Patrick Henry College ^ Pitzer College ^ Princeton University		(+) Denotes UC Regents and Chancellors Scholarship/ UC Honors College (-) Denotes significant Merit Scholarship or Honors College

COLLEGES OF ACCEPTANCE FOR 2018-2024 (PARTIAL LIST)

Amherst College Boise State University Boston College Brown University California Baptist University ^ CSU, Fullerton Carnegie Mellon University ^ Case Western Reserve University ^ College of Wooster ^ Colorado School of Mines Concordia University, Irvine ^ Cornell University Davidson College Duke University Emory University Fordham University ^ Georgia Institute of Technology Gonzaga University ^ Grinnell College Harvey Mudd College Hope College ^	Kenyon College ^ Lafayette College LeTourneau University ^ Loyola Marymount University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Messiah University Miami University Ohio, Honors College ^ Northwestern University Oregon State University Pepperdine University Point Loma Nazarene University ^ Pratt Institute Reed College Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ^ Rhodes College ^ Rice University ^ Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology ^ Samford University ^	Santa Clara University School of the Art Institute of Chicago Scripps College Seattle Pacific University Southern Methodist University ^ St. John's College St. John's University, NYC ^ St. Mary's College of California ^ St. Olaf College ^ Steven's Institute of Technology ^ Swarthmore College Union College ^ US Military Academy at West Point UC Davis UC Merced ^ UC Riverside+ University of Colorado, Boulder University of Dallas Univ of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign University of MD, College Park	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Honors College ^ University of Michigan University of MO, Columbia ^ University of New Mexico ^ University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh ^ University of Southern California University of Texas, Austin, Honors College ^ University of Washington University of Wisconsin, Madison Vanderbilt University Vassar College Villanova University Washington & Lee University Washington University in St. Louis Wheaton College ^ Williams College Worcester Polytechnic Institute ^ Yale University
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UPPER SCHOOL REQUIRED COURSES

	Humanities (Lit & History)	Christian Studies	Liberal Arts (English)	Math	Science	Foreign Language	Fine Arts/ Electives
9th	<i>Honors Medieval (European and Arabic)</i>	<i>Honors Systematic Theology</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric I: Speaking and Writing Rhetorically (Informal & Formal Logic, 7th/8th)</i>	<i>Honors Algebra II (Geometry, 8th)</i>	<i>Honors Biology</i>	<i>Honors Latin III (Latin I and II, 7th/8th)</i>	Required for 9th: <i>Novice Debate Visual Art I</i>
10th	<i>Honors Modern European</i>	<i>Honors Church History</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric II: Rhetoric in History</i>	<i>Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry</i>	<i>Honors Chemistry</i> AP Biology as a 10th-12th elective option	<i>Honors Latin IV (final year of required language)</i>	10th-12th Main Elective Options: (Graded) <i>Adv. Latin Reading AP Biology House Leadership (by application) JV or Varsity Debate Visual Art II, III, IV</i>
11th	<i>Honors American</i>	<i>Honors Apologetics</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric III: Contemporary Rhetoric</i>	<i>AP Calculus AB or Calculus AB</i>	<i>Honors Physics or Physics (all)</i>	AP Chemistry or Honors Greek I/II or Late Start	10th-12th Fine Arts Elective Options: (Pass/Fail) <i>Choral Music Creative Writing Latin Poetry & Prose Photography I, II, III Mixed Media Art Speech Living Well</i>
12th	<i>Honors World Literature; Economics; Government</i>	<i>Honors Ethics and Aesthetics</i>	<i>Honors Senior Thesis</i>	<i>Honors Statistics and Advanced Calculus Principles, or Honors Statistics, or Statistics</i>	<i>Honors Neuroscience Seminar or Honors Art History (for all who elect non-science option)</i>	Honors Computer Science: Principles and Practice or Honors Greek III or Late Start	
Required Credits	8	2	2	3	3	2	1

THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Numerical Grade (Percentile)	Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Numerical Grade (Percentile)	Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Unweighted Value (Regular Course)	Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Unweighted Value (Regular Course)
A+	98-100	B-	80-82	A+	4.00	B-	2.67
A	93-97	C+	77-79	A	4.00	C+	2.33
A-	90-92	C	73-76	A-	3.67	C	2.00
B+	87-89	C-	70-72	B+	3.33	C-	1.67
B	83-86	F	0-69	B	3.00	F	0.00**

**** Please note that anything below a C- is considered failing. There are no Ds. AP and Honors courses are weighted by one point.**

GRADE INFLATION: Grade inflation is minimized because of evaluation through the Apprentice/Journeyman/Master rubric, translated to letter grades for purposes of transcript. If an A is reported, it means the student has done more than turn in assignments. It means they have mastered the material and expressed it well, both orally and in writing.