

Bret Harte Union High School

School Profile

Main School Office: (209) 736-2507

CEEB Code: 050100

Website: <https://www.brethartebullfrogs.org/o/bhhs>



Principal-Jacob Holt: jholt@bhuhdsd.k12.ca.us

Superintendent-Scott Nanik: snanik@bhuhdsd.k12.ca.us

Academic Counselor-Sherryl Godfrey: sgodfrey@bhuhdsd.k12.ca.us

Community Profile

Bret Harte High School is a four-year public high school operating on a seven-period day with an alternating block schedule. For the 2025-2026 school year, there are 597 students, with 124 seniors. **The school district welcomes all 9-12th grade students from over 450 miles of cattle ranches and agricultural lands**, including Angels Camp, Arnold, Avery, Hathaway Pines, Murphys, Douglas Flat, Vallecito, Copperopolis, Dorrington, Camp Connell, and Bear Valley. Students may spend up to 1 hour each way to and from school, and when the weather is too severe, students must remain at home. Located in **Calaveras County**, a region rich in history and scenic beauty; Angels Camp, founded in 1849 by George Angel, was a prosperous mining hub in the Mother Lode, with gold production in the area exceeding \$100 million. Mark Twain's renowned short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," was inspired by a tale he reportedly heard at the Angels Hotel in 1865. The county honors this legacy each year with the County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee, which features a frog-jumping contest.

Bret Harte's staff consists of 40 fully accredited teachers, nearly half of whom hold a master's degree or higher. In addition, the school has a strong administrative team, all of whom are fully credentialed, licensed and work full time for Bret Harte High School:

- 3 Administrators: Principal, Assistant Principal, Learning Director
- 1 School Resource Officer
- 1 School Psychologist
- 1 Mental Health Counselor
- 1 Mental Health Clinician
- 1 Wellness Coach (Runs the wellness room)
- 1 Academic/College/Career Counselor

Accreditation: Bret Harte High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) and is a member of CollegeBoard.

Educational Options

Bret Harte High School provides educational programs that fulfill the unique needs of our students:

- **CTE program:** Five career pathways are available: Business and Marketing, Engineering and Industrial Technology, Transportation/Automotive Technology, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services.
- **Medical Science Program:** Bret Harte students travel to a neighboring high school to complete courses in the medical field, gaining hands-on experience in the community at local clinics and hospitals, preparing them for a future in medicine.
- **Independent Study Program:** Students can attend high school full time on an independent study basis or choose to take some courses online and others in class on campus.
- **Vallecito Continuation High School:** Students who are deficient in credits can enroll in VHS and continue their courses to receive a high school diploma. As of 2024, Vallecito has received WASC accreditation.
- **Special Education/Accommodation Services:** Bret Harte has 5 Special Education Case Managers, supporting 15% of the student population on IEPs. In addition to these services, 15% of Bret Harte students have active 504 plans and receive classroom accommodations.

Advanced Placement/Honors/Dual Enrollment Courses (CEEB CODE: 050100)

Dual Enrollment Program: Students may earn high school and college credits by enrolling in Community Colleges. Students take courses online, through hybrid learning, or in person. Bret Harte currently offers Community College courses on campus through a partnership with a local Community College in English C1000 and C1001, Conceptual Physics, Forestry, Digital Media, and United States History 16 and 17.

Bret Harte offers open-enrollment **AP courses** to all students. In 2025, 49 students took 57 AP exams across six subjects, with 63% scoring 3 or higher. Students must take the AP exam for each course, and the district pays for up to three exams per student. AP subjects: Spanish Language, English Language and Composition, Government and Politics, Human Geography, and Environmental Science. **Honors courses** include Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, Calculus, World History, Anatomy/Physiology, and Spanish 3.

Future Plans – Class of 2025

4-year college	42%	Armed Forces	.01%
2-year college/Technical	47%	Employment/Other	11%

In the past 3 years, students from Bret Harte have been accepted to the following schools:

CSU Channel Islands	UC Berkeley	Colorado State University	Pacific University	University of Oklahoma
CSU Chico	UC Davis	Duke University	Penn State University	University of Oregon
CSU Fresno	UC Irvine	Flagler	Pepperdine University	University of Portland
CSU Fullerton	UC Merced	Florida Institute of Technology	Point Loma Nazarene	University of Sioux Falls
CSU Humboldt	UC Riverside	Franciscan Univ of Steubenville	Purdue University	University of Southern California
CSU Long Beach	UC San Diego	Gonzaga University	Saint Mary's College	University of Sioux Falls
CSU Los Angeles	UC San Francisco	Grand Canyon University	South Dakota St. University	University of Southern California
CSU Maritime	UC Santa Barbara	Hawaii Pacific University	Syracuse University	University of Southern California
CSU Monterey Bay	UC Santa Cruz	Hawaii University	Texas A&M	University of Southern Florida
CSU Northridge	Alfred College	Holsby Bible School Sweden	University of Alabama	University of Wyoming
CSU Sacramento	Arizona Christian College	Idaho State University	University Of Colorado	Westmont University
CSU San Bernardino	Arizona State University	Jessup University	University of Florida	Whitman College
CSU San Diego	Belmont University	Knox College	University of Hawaii Manoa	Williams College
CSU San Francisco	California Baptist University	Lesley University	University of La Verne	St. John's University
CSU San Jose	Chaminade University	Nebraska State University	University of Miami	Santa Clara University
CSU San Luis Obispo	Chapman University	New York University	University of Michigan	Belmont University
CSU San Marcos	Clemson University	Northern Arizona University	University of Nevada Reno	
CSU Sonoma	College of Southern Idaho	Oklahoma State University	University New Hampshire	
CSU Stanislaus	Colorado Mesa University	Oregon State University	University Northern CO	

Bret Harte Students have also been accepted to: Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, University of Chicago, George Washington University, and Baylor.

Enrollment

School Demographics

Student Group	Total	Percentage
English Learners	19	3.2%
Foster Youth	2	0.3%
Homeless	8	1.4%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	264	45%
Students with Disabilities	91	15.5%

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
African American	4	0.7%
American Indian	6	1%
Asian	6	1%
Hispanic	139	23.7%
Two or More Races	29	4.9%
White	403	68.7%

Minimum Requirements

A total of 260 credits are required to receive a diploma:

English	40 credits	Fine Arts/Foreign Language/CTE	10 credits
Math	30 credits	Health/Physical Education	20 credits
Social Studies	30 credits	Freshmen Requirements	10 credits
Science	20 credits	Electives	100 credits

Grading Scale

All courses factor into GPA and class rank calculations. Honors, dual enrollment, and AP courses are weighted. Class rank is determined by calculating grades from 9th through 11th grades, plus the first semester of 12th grade, on a 5.0 weighted scale.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Honors</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>Community/Junior College Coursework</u>
A = 90 - 100	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (10 credits for each course)
B = 80 - 89	3.0	4.0	4.0	
C = 70 - 79	2.0	3.0	3.0	
D = 60 - 69	1.0	1.0	1.0	
F = 0 - 59	0	0	0	

SAT scores 2025 (all grades)

Total	Mathematics	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing
2025 California Mean 1132/1600	2025 California Mean 560/800	2025 California Mean 572/800
BHHS Mean: 1092/1600	BHHS Mean: 526/800	BHHS Mean: 566/800

Clubs and Organizations

• Academic Decathlon	Auto Shop	California Scholastic Federation	Chess
• Christians on Campus	Circle of Friends	Cybullfrogs	Drama
• Bret Harte Bakehouse Culinary	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Future Farmers of America	Friday Night Live
• Gender Sexuality Alliance	Interact	Intramural Sports	Music
• Pond Patrol	Renaissance	Science/Forestry	Sources of Strength
• Ski/Snowboard	Spanish Honor Society	Bret Harte Floriculture/Sweet Peas	Yearbook

Athletics

Bret Harte competes in San Joaquin Division 5 in several sports, including swimming, water polo, track and field, cross country, wrestling, tennis, golf, football, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. The school also has a cheer squad and dance team. In 2024, the track and field team secured its 66th, 67th, and 68th championships over the past 47 years, with one student setting a new personal record in the high jump at 5'4", earning the title of G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) in the event. In 2023, the girls' basketball team won the Division 5 State Championship, with one player receiving the prestigious Dale Lackey Award for being the most outstanding player in California.

Special Recognition/Awards

Agricultural Education: A core program at Bret Harte High School, with over 75% of graduates either pursuing agriculture degrees at colleges such as Texas A & M, Cal Poly, UC Davis, Duke, Purdue, and Cornell, or entering the agricultural workforce. Students have achieved FFA state/national championships, with 5% earning the prestigious State FFA Degree, the highest state-level honor.

Automotive Technology: Students have earned recognition in the Ford/AAA state competition and NorCal's UTI top tech competitions. They've dominated the county's Occupational Olympics, maintaining the highest team score for the past six years. Graduates are employed by prominent companies like BMW, Caterpillar, and other local and national firms.

Theater Arts: Drama students at Bret Harte have competed in numerous festival competitions, earning awards such as "Excellent Production" and "Superior Individual Performance." Many go on to pursue theater arts degrees at colleges both in and out of California.

Other Achievements: Bret Harte students have gone on to become Olympians (downhill skiing), Naval Academy graduates, and musicians in well-known bands. Tiana Epps-Johnson, a 2004 graduate and Stanford alum, is an Obama Foundation Fellow and founder of the Center for Tech and Civic Life, and is associated with the Emerson Collective. [Tiana Epps-Johnson - Emerson Collective](#).

Cindy Medina-Cervantes, a 2008 graduate and George Washington alum, received her Juris Doctor from DePaul U of Law and is now a Senior Associate Attorney specializing in toxic torts litigation and is President-Elect of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI).

Edward Schwartz, a 2025 graduate, received the National Mike Rowe WORKS foundation scholarship.

Peyton Heermance (Class of 26) was named the 2025 National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Champion in Veterinary Science at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, after also earning the California State title in the same category. He is the first Bret Harte student to achieve a National FFA Proficiency title.