Mira Costa High School

PROFILE 2026-2027

CEEB: 051895

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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Tel 310-318-7337
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www.miracostahigh.org

Mission

The Mira Costa school community strives to maximize the unique potential of each student, to cultivate the skills essential for lifelong learning, and to nurture responsible citizenship. Our tradition of excellence provides a positive learning environment which includes: a wide range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities; clear expectations for academic achievement and responsible behavior; respect for people, property, and ideas; programs that develop communication, teamwork, problem-solving, technology, and information management skills; and dedicated and supportive teachers, staff, parents, and community partners who focus on "students first."

School and Community

Mira Costa High School is a comprehensive, 4-year public high school serving approximately 2,400 students in grades 9-12 and is nationally recognized for academic excellence. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Mira Costa was named a California Distinguished School in 2011 and a Gold Ribbon School in 2015. It is the sole high school in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and serves a student body from Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and students by permit from surrounding communities. One preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school accommodate the District's enrollment of approximately 5,900 students. Manhattan Beach is located southwest of metropolitan Los Angeles and draws predominantly middle to high-income business and professional residents. The District's reputation for having a superior educational system attracts many families to this suburban community.

The MBUSD Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the District's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any District school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, nationality, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Academic Program

Mira Costa High School expects academic excellence from all students. Students are required to complete 230 credits — with five credits earned for each class completed per semester. The school is on a traditional semester schedule with six periods and an optional zero period. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are required to take six classes. Seniors may take five classes. All classes meet for 55 minutes daily, with office hours scheduled periodically. The teacher-to-student ratio is 27 to 1. Mira Costa provides a wide range of rigorous courses for students including over 40 Advanced Placement/Honors courses, Career Technical Education and Dual Enrollment pathways, and a variety of elective options.

Staff

103 Teachers
95 Classified Employees
5 Administrators
8 Counselors
3 College and Career Counselors
5 Psychologists
3 Speech Therapists
1 Athletic Director
1 Activities Director

Student Enrollment: 2,392

9th Grade 544	**11th Grade** 559
10th Grade 627	**12th Grade** 662

ADMINISTRATION

Kimberlie Linz, Ed.D., Superintendent
Jennifer Huynh, Ed.D., Principal
Jessalyn Harris, Vice Principal
Michelle Lawrence, Vice Principal
Raeann Martí, Vice Principal
Kimberly Price, Vice Principal

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Keshia Simmons
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COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

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REGISTRAR

Sarah Moulton
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Honors and Advanced Placement Classes

2026-2027 School Year

ENGLISH

Honors English 10[3]
AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

AP Drawing[2]
AP 2D Art and Design[2]
AP 3D Art and Design[2]
AP Art History
AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
Honors Band Music Performance
Honors Broadcast Journalism 3
Honors Orchestra Music Performance
Honors Vocal Ensemble[1]

WORLD LANGUAGES

AP Chinese Language & Culture
Honors French 4[2]
AP French Language
Honors Spanish 4[2]
Honors Spanish Speakers
AP Spanish Language

MATHEMATICS

Honors Algebra 2
Honors Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Statistics
Honors Engineering Design & Development

SCIENCE

AP Biology
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Honors Earth Science
AP Environmental Science
Honors Physics
AP Physics C

SOCIAL STUDIES

Honors Modern World History
AP European History
Honors U.S. History
AP U.S. History
AP American Government
AP Microeconomics
AP Human Geography
AP Psychology

AP CAPSTONE

AP Research
AP Seminar

TOTAL AP COURSES OFFERED: 28
TOTAL HONORS COURSES OFFERED: 16

[1] Introduced or offered in 2026-2027
[2] Introduced in 2025-2026
[3] Introduced in 2023-2024

Graduation Requirements

230 credits required for graduation
5 credits for each semester completed

SUBJECT	# OF SEMESTER(S)	# OF CREDITS
English	8	40
Modern World History	2	10
United States History	2	10
American Government	1	5
Economics	1	5
Mathematics	4	20
Biological Science	2	10
Physical Science	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
Fine or Performing Arts or World Languages	2	10
Health/Ethnic Studies*	1	5
Electives	17	85
TOTAL	**46**	**230**

* As of 2030

Transcript Designations

COURSE TITLES

AP Advanced Placement Courses
H Honors Courses

CODES

a Advanced Placement courses qualifying for weighted GPA
r Repeated Course
***** Non-Academic

Grades of **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, **P** = Pass
CR = Credit/Passing Mark
Grade of **F** = Failure
NM = No Mark
W = Withdraw
I = Incomplete

Grading System and Class Ranking Policy

All credit courses taken in grades 9-12, including courses taken at accredited high schools outside of the District during the summer, are included in determining the cumulative GPA.

As of the 2025-26 academic year, Mira Costa High School junior and senior students have the opportunity to supplement their high school course-work with an approved course at a community college for one class period.

Community college courses taken during the summer are included on the transcript only if they meet a graduation requirement.

Transcripts list both the UNWEIGHTED and WEIGHTED GPA. The WEIGHTED GPA is determined by adding an extra point to any grade point value in an AP or Honors course where the final grade is an A, B or C in a semester.

AP COURSES ARE LIMITED TO 4 PER YEAR FOR STUDENTS.

The current Course Description Book is available at www.miracostahigh.org

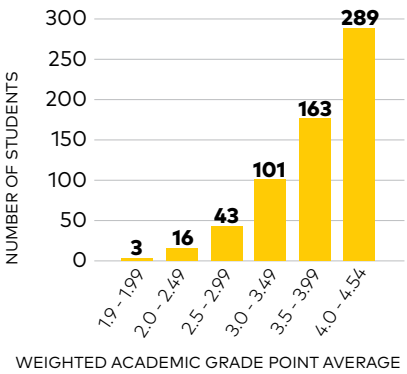
THE WEIGHTED GPA IS AVERAGED IN THREE WAYS:

CUMULATIVE GPA for all classes (including PE/Athletics)	Grades 9-12
ACADEMIC GPA (no PE/Athletics)	Grades 9-12
ACADEMIC GPA (no PE/Athletics)	Grades 10-12

Mira Costa High School does not rank its students per District policy.

Latin Honors are used to recognize and distinguish high academic performance of seniors based on the following GPA system:
Summa Cum Laude: 4.0 and above
Magna Cum Laude: 3.8 - 3.99

CLASS OF 2026 GRADE DISTRIBUTION



Mira Costa High School does not release student disciplinary records.

2026 Testing Profile

AP TEST RESULTS

AP Passage Rate of 3 or Greater: 91%

1,412 students took a total of 3,103 tests in 31 subjects

AP Score	# of Exams	% of Exams
5	843	27%
4	1,200	39%
3	725	23%
2	278	9%
1	57	2%

ACT TEST RESULTS

241 Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS 2026	National Benchmark by Section 2026
English	27.9	18
ELA	24.7	20
Mathematics	27.2	19
Reading	28.7	22
Science	28.7	23
STEM	28.9	26
Writing	8	—
California Composite	27.9	19.4

SAT TEST RESULTS

Students Tested (mean scores)

	MCHS 2026	State (CA) 2025
SAT Evidence in Reading and Writing	647	550
SAT Mathematics	649	540
Overall	1296	1090

CLASS OF 2026 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Reported September 2026

National Merit Finalists	8
National Merit Semifinalists	1
National Merit Commended Scholars	36

2022-2026 College Admission Data

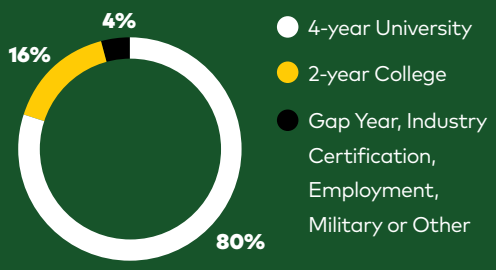
Mira Costa High School Class of 2026 students were offered admission to over 358 colleges, including California State, University of California, and Ivy League universities.

The first column represents the number of students admitted from the Class of 2026. The second column represents the students admitted over the past five years.

University of Alabama	1	87
American University	10	43
Arizona State University	47	289
The University of Arizona	81	540
Berklee College of Music	2	9
Boston College	2	21
Boston University	15	93
Brown University	3	7
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	47	281
California State University, Long Beach	21	100
University of California, Berkeley	45	198
University of California, Davis	36	211
University of California, Irvine	40	235
University of California, Los Angeles	36	160
University of California, San Diego	47	197
University of California, Santa Barbara	88	333
University of California, Santa Cruz	75	307
Chapman University	23	82
Clemson University	15	72
Colgate University	5	15
University of Colorado, Boulder	151	655
Colorado State University, Fort Collins	45	158
Columbia University	1	4
Cornell University	9	26
Dartmouth College	2	6
Duke University	4	16
El Camino College	57	228
Emory University	2	13
Fordham University	26	77
George Washington University	10	60
Georgetown University	4	17
University of Georgia	7	52
Harvard University	2	5
Indiana University, Bloomington	119	486
Johns Hopkins University	2	10
Loyola Marymount University	40	169
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	0	3
University of Miami	20	78
Miami University, Oxford	2	33
Michigan State University	52	311
University of Michigan	21	77
New York University	14	43
University of North Carolina	7	15
Northeastern University	37	136
Northwestern University	2	9
The Ohio State University	15	101
Oregon State University	22	136
University of Oregon	131	738
Penn State University	68	318
University of Pennsylvania	1	11
Princeton University	1	9
Purdue University	16	75
San Diego State University	65	327
San Francisco State University	6	39
Santa Monica College	8	45
University of Southern California	39	195
Southern Methodist University	40	146
Stanford University	5	18
Syracuse University	30	140
Texas A & M University	8	20
University of Texas, Austin	11	45
Tufts University	2	14
Tulane University	13	56
University of Utah	98	280
University of Washington	50	234
University of Wisconsin, Madison	70	270
Yale University	0	1

97%

College Matriculation for 2025-2026



Programs of Excellence

Associated Student Body

The Mira Costa ASB implements and oversees all student activities ranging from pep rallies and dances to awareness weeks and school-wide community service. Each activity engages students and creates a welcoming, spirited, enriched, and involved school community. The ASB Student Council also oversees 100+ student-run organizations in the areas of academics, politics, culture, athletics, special interest, and philanthropy. For a complete list of clubs, please visit Club Resources on the Activities tab of our website at www.miracostahigh.org.

Biotechnology Program

Biotechnology is a rigorous three-year pathway providing students with an opportunity for practical application of coursework, team problem-solving, and industry internships. Applied skills include DNA extraction and precipitation, GRAM staining, forensic DNA mapping, and many other skills applicable to paid internships and careers in biotechnology. Students can earn dual enrollment college and high school credit for Biotechnology I and II.

Diversity and Cultural Studies

Diversity and Cultural Studies courses were introduced in the 2024-25 school year and are designed to engage students in research and media literacy, enhance social and cultural awareness, strengthen analytical abilities, and foster a stronger ability to create positive change in the world. The courses meet state standards and reflect local priorities.

Dual Enrollment

Mira Costa High School students have access to a growing range of dual enrollment opportunities, allowing them to pursue advanced coursework while earning both high school and college credit. Offerings span multiple disciplines and may include courses within the biotechnology, engineering, math, music, and world language pathways. These opportunities allow students to deepen their academic interests, experience college-level coursework, and further prepare for postsecondary study.

Friendship Foundation

The Friendship Foundation supports parents and families who have children and young adults with special needs by providing a safe, accepting, and inclusive environment where they can enjoy sports, art, music, and many other social programs with their peers. This gift of friendship augments the standard educational system and professional therapies by creating a natural setting for individuals with special needs to practice their learned skills amongst their peers.

Link Crew Leadership

Link Crew focuses on empowering a diverse group of junior/senior leaders to help create smooth transitions for new students. All incoming freshmen are "linked" with two leaders who spend the year mentoring their Crew, extending invitations to campus events, answering questions, and providing support. Link Crew aims to heighten school spirit, inclusivity, and acceptance on campus. The Link Crew class focuses on leadership skills through units and activities that address everything from goal setting and post-project reflections, to public speaking and giving/receiving feedback.

Literary Magazine – *Papercut*

Papercut, the literary magazine of Mira Costa, offers a unique opportunity for students to showcase their poetry, prose, art, and photography. This compilation allows students to tap into the beauty of their imaginations and have a voice promoting creativity, collaboration, and most importantly, free expression. Students experiment in all facets of creativity and coordination of this annual publication.

Model United Nations

Model United Nations (MUN) is an international program that allows high school and college students to compete and engage in debate about global issues. Model UN conferences are held throughout the country and even overseas. MCHS competes in places as varied as UC Berkeley, Georgetown, New York, and Paris. Over its 25 year existence, Costa MUN is the most decorated program of its kind in the United States.

Newspaper – *La Vista*

More than 40 students collaborate each year to publish the student-run newspaper, *La Vista*. The publication requires students to report, investigate, interview, write, photograph, film, and design newspaper content for the award-winning paper. Students write news, features, opinion, arts, and sports articles which are published monthly and online at www.lavistamchs.com. *La Vista*, a top-ranked hybrid news organization, has won the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Sliver Crown for many years.

SoCal ROC

Approved by the Board of Trustees and certified by the California Department of Education, SoCal ROC provides career technical education programs that meet the demands of today's job market and prepare students through relevant career training. Through hands-on learning and theory-based instruction, students have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to be successful in today's market and prepare for careers of the future.

Technology & Engineering

The Technology & Engineering classes and clubs give students hands-on learning in different STEM fields such as Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Engineering, and Robotics. The Computer Science track has three courses, including two APs, that prepare students to pursue an advanced degree in Computer Science. The Engineering courses use the Project Lead the Way curriculum which empowers students to step into the role of an engineer by adopting a problem-solving mindset. The Cybersecurity Club participates in competitions and off-season activities and the Robotics classes and club offer an opportunity to compete in a build/programming challenge using the VEX system.

Visual & Performing Arts

Mira Costa's award-winning Visual and Performing Arts program provides students with extensive opportunities to create, perform, collaborate, and develop their artistic voices through visual arts, theatre, and music. In 2026, Mira Costa was one of only 19 schools statewide to receive the **California Exemplary Arts Education Award**, recognizing the school's commitment to high-quality, accessible arts instruction. In 2015, Mira Costa was designated a **Gold Ribbon School** through the strength of its VAPA programs.

Visual Arts students explore drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, printmaking, 3D fabrication, and art history through beginning, advanced, and AP coursework. **Media Arts** includes graphic design, cinematic arts, and broadcast journalism. The Mustang Morning News is a nationally award-winning program where students learn how to research, write, and produce digital stories that have a positive impact on the world.

Theatre Arts students build skills in acting, directing, writing, technical theatre, design, and production through major annual productions, student-led performances, workshops, and regional adjudication. In 2023, Mira Costa Theatre Arts was one of only 12 schools in the nation to be awarded the Premiere Communities for Theater Award by the Educational Theater Association.

Mira Costa's **Band, Choir, and Orchestra** programs offer a broad range of ensembles and performance opportunities. The music department was named a 2014 GRAMMY® Signature Schools Gold Award recipient, recognizing it as one of the nation's top three high school music programs, and its ensembles have performed at renowned venues throughout the United States and abroad, including Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Beijing Concert Hall, Palau de la Música Catalana, and the Rudolfinum. Across all disciplines, students strengthen creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration while developing the technical skills needed to produce and present original work.

Yearbook – *Hoofprints*

The Mira Costa yearbook program, *Hoofprints*, boasts over 30 students dedicated to storytelling through photography, writing, and design. The student-run publication summarizes the school year in just under 450 pages, and consistently wins awards of excellence. Students learn skills in communication, time management, leadership, design, photography, writing, editing, and publishing.

Athletic Programs

Since Mira Costa opened in 1950, the athletic program has grown to include 39 Varsity teams. In 2025-2026, MCHS won 14 Bay League Titles, 7 CIF Southern Section Titles (Girls Cross Country, Girls Beach Volleyball, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Baseball, Boys Volleyball, Boys Track), 1 CIF State Title (Boys Volleyball), 1 National Title (Boys Volleyball), and the CIF-Southern Section Commissioner's Cup (Boys Athletics). Additionally, over 90% of all MCHS athletes were recognized as scholar athletes, achieving a GPA of 3.2 or above for the school year.

While winning and accolades are a source of pride, MCHS athletics seek to build student character, teamwork skills, and integrity.

The MCHS athletic program includes the following sports:

Badminton (B&G)
Baseball
Basketball (B&G)
Beach Volleyball (B&G)
Cheer
Colorguard
Cross Country (B&G)
Dance
Drumline (B&G)
Flag Football (G)
Football
Golf (B&G)
Ice Hockey
Indoor Volleyball (B&G)
Lacrosse (B&G)
Marching Band (B&G)
Rugby (B&G)
Soccer (B&G)
Softball
Surf (B&G)
Swimming (B&G)
Tennis (B&G)
Track and Field (B&G)
Water Polo (B&G)
Wrestling (B&G)

