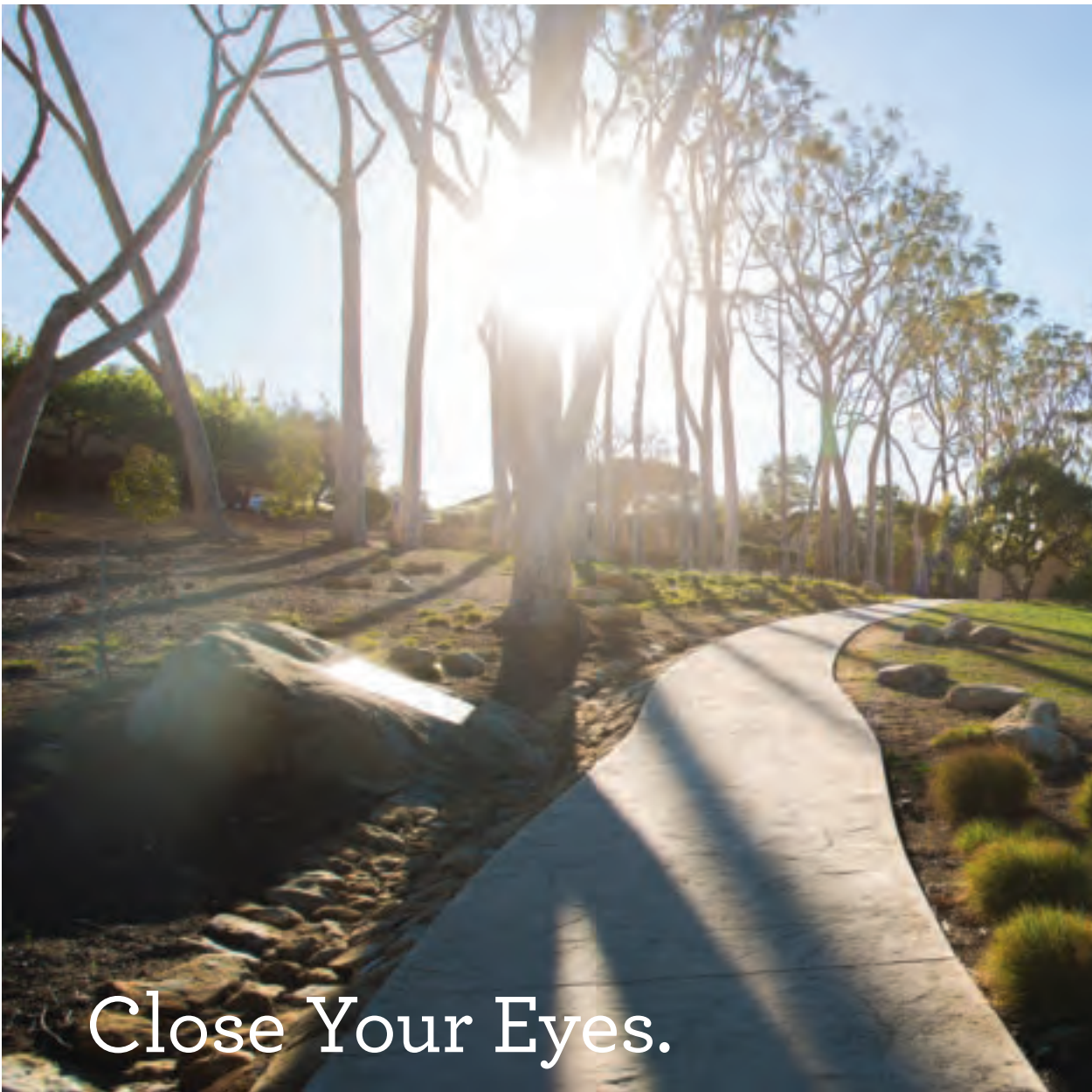




CATE

Life ON  
THE MESA



# Close Your Eyes.

WHAT DOES YOUR IDEAL SCHOOL look like? Are there tall trees and expansive views? Does the sun warm your skin as you walk across the campus? Do you feel the soccer ball coming off your toe. Do you feel the brush as it pulls paint across the canvas. Can you feel the book in your lap as you curl up in your dorm. What is it like to be in a place that's the best place for you — a place that combines the right balance of challenge and support, freedom and structure? A place that nurtures your self-awareness and independence so that you can become the architect of your *own* education?







# Open Your Mind.

FOR OVER 100 YEARS CATE has been combining the best of East Coast tradition and West Coast energy and innovation in the service of highly motivated, independent-minded kids – those who are comfortable in the company of adults, who believe in themselves and their own education, and who want something more than they can get anywhere else. They come to this place of eucalyptus trees and Newtonian mechanics, this place of sunsets, ceramics, and Salinger, this mesa between the mountains and the sea, and find it is the place for them. Maybe it is the place for *you*.



Everything at Cate—the curriculum, the arts and athletic programs, the residential life, the very size of the school—is centered around fostering your self-knowledge and your ability to make decisions based on that knowledge. Why? Because we’ve found that students who can discover their own strengths and are encouraged to pursue their own interests take bigger intellectual risks, reap greater academic rewards, and are more likely to thrive at the most selective and prestigious colleges and universities.

### THE CATE CURRICULUM

Any school—including Cate—can offer you a devastatingly challenging calculus class. Our goal is to get you to tackle challenges *beyond* calculus, to discover the variety of disciplines and activities at which you might excel, and to explore how your diverse talents and interests can be combined in an education that is unique to you.

**Freshman year** is designed to introduce you to living and learning in a residential setting. Your courses will focus on honing your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills while exposing you to the broad expanse of human thought and endeavor. The goal is to get you asking questions and to provide you with the intellectual foundation you need to find the answers.

By **sophomore year** you’ll know how to manage the challenges of Cate’s academic program and the responsibilities of living in the Cate community. You’ll have the freedom to choose some of your own courses and the opportunity to take high-level classes in different disciplines. Toward the end of the year, you’ll begin a series of conversations with your faculty advisor about your interests and talents and what you want to have achieved by the time you graduate.

In **junior year**, you begin to take charge of your own education. Working closely with your advisor and relying on the framework you established at the end of your sophomore year, you’ll begin selecting courses based on your unique goals and interests and start your college preparation.

**Senior year** is when you realize the full benefit of the Cate curriculum. You’ll have completed most, if not all, of the required courses and can choose from among Cate’s many challenging electives to create your own “year of personal inquiry.” Many seniors also take on faculty mentored research projects and assume leadership positions on campus.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Arts:** Foundation Arts in the first year and two additional upper level courses.

**English:** One course per year after the first year.

**Foreign Language:** Successful completion of a third-year course.

**History:** World History in the 10th grade and United States History in the junior or senior year.

**Human Development:** Freshman Seminar for 9th grades students and Sophomore Seminar for 10th grade students.

**Humanities:** One course in the freshman year.

**Mathematics:** One course per year through the junior year. All students are required to complete Algebra II.

**Science:** Physics in the freshman year, Chemistry in the sophomore year, and Biology in the junior or senior year.



Small classes, challenging courses, and engaged students and faculty are defining features of Cate.

10-11

the average  
class size





## ACADEMICS

### HONORS AND ADVANCED PROGRAMS

Cate's students are always looking for new and deeper challenges. Our small size, rich resources, and dynamic faculty enable us to constantly evolve our curriculum. In 2011, we replaced our AP classes with a much more rigorous and engaging set of Honors and Advanced courses in all of our departments. We've reviewed these courses with college admission counselors, and they've been duly impressed.

### ELECTIVES

At some schools, electives are like dessert. They're the "fun" classes you take as a reward for having dragged yourself through a curriculum that otherwise didn't interest you. At Cate, electives are the meat of the program. They're the challenging courses that let you tailor your education to your interests. That's why Cate offers such a variety of elective courses in so many disciplines. And our trimester schedule means you can take many of them.

### SENIOR INQUIRY

Cate is so confident in your ability to take charge of your own education that we ask you to take on a major inquiry project that runs the course of your senior year. Seniors have used this opportunity to pursue their interests in the history of musical theater, the influence of private money on political campaigns, or the process by which compelling photographs can evolve into iconic bits of cultural shorthand. At the end of the school year, you'll share your work with the rest of the campus community in the form of a presentation, performance, or exhibition. What subject will you explore?



At year's end, seniors present their capstone projects to the community.



### POPULAR ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Art History  
Advanced Choral Music  
Advanced English  
Comparative Revolutions  
Modern Middle East  
Hispanic Cinema  
Advanced Statistics  
Advanced Computer Science  
Modern Physics  
Molecular Genetics

### POPULAR ELECTIVES

The Business of Music  
Gender Matters (History/English)  
Neuroscience and Behavior  
Physical Oceanography

### RECENT SENIOR INQUIRY PROJECTS

What is Matter? Quantum Theory and the Revolution in Modern Physics  
Why Did Peruvian Indigenism Matter?  
What Themes Allow a Story to Stand the Test of Time?  
What Modern Understanding of Biology's Core Processes Means for Society  
Why is China's Influence in Africa Rising While America's Influence is Waning?  
Where Did God Come From and What of Him Endures?  
Astrophotography as Data and as an Art Form  
Colorism Within the Black Community: Origins of Dark Skin vs Light Skin Bias

“ A LOT OF SCHOOLS WILL TELL A TEACHER, 'HERE'S A COURSE WE'VE HAD FOR 20 YEARS. GO TEACH IT.' AT CATE WE SAY, 'HERE'S A COURSE WE'VE TAUGHT FOR 20 YEARS. HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER?' ”

—LISA HOLMES,  
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES



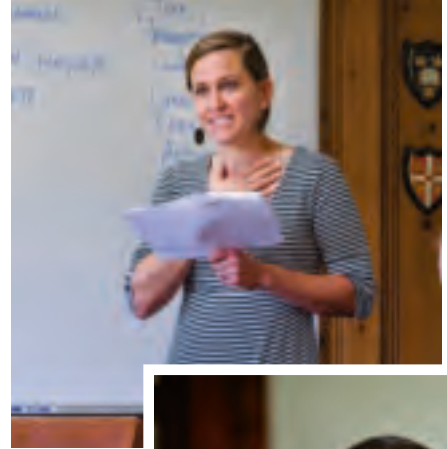
**159**

courses offered





“THE FACULTY HERE WILL GUIDE YOU TO DEEP LEVELS OF INQUIRY. THEY ARE AMONG THE MOST TALENTED IN THEIR FIELDS—NOT ONLY IN THEIR ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES, BUT IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE STUDENTS THEY TEACH. —**BEN WILLIAMS, HEADMASTER**”



Cate’s faculty members are among the most highly credentialed of any high school faculty in the nation. Nearly 80% hold advanced degrees, and a list of their undergraduate and graduate alma maters reads like the first entries in a *U.S. News* list: Williams, Amherst, Middlebury, Pomona, Wellesley, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, Georgetown. Many conduct their own research, produce their own creative work, or bring valuable experience from the fields of law and business. But their defining characteristic—and the one for which we hire them—is their passion for teaching. While thoroughly grounded in the traditions of their profession, they are endlessly curious about the latest theories and trends in education and are constantly pushing themselves and each other to try new things.

And Cate’s size means that you’ll have access to faculty in a way no other school can approximate. Our student faculty ratio is 5:1. Our average class size is 10-11. And 90% of faculty members live on campus. They’ll not only be your teachers, they’ll be your coaches and dorm heads. They’ll take you on hikes in the mountains and drives into town. They’ll know you as well as your parents and closest friends.

**ADVISORY PROGRAM**

All Cate students are assigned a faculty advisor and advisory group during their years here. Your advisory will meet at least once a week, sit together during assemblies, and see each other informally throughout the day. You’ll be like family within the broader Cate community. Your advisor will guide and mentor you and will keep track of your academic performance. Together you’ll set goals for graduation and choose the classes and activities needed to meet those goals. Your advisor will also keep in touch with your parents by phone and email. Most of all, your advisor will be someone who will celebrate your successes with you, console you when you have a bad day, and listen when you just need to talk.

Cate faculty members connect with students in every facet of life on the Mesa, both in and out of the classroom.



**51**

advanced and  
honors courses  
offered



## COLLEGE COUNSELING

Cate's college counseling program is successful for the same reasons the rest of the Cate experience is successful. First, Cate's small size and tight-knit community mean that our college counselors will know your needs and interests well. Second, Cate's wide-ranging academic and extra-curricular programs will allow you to explore and excel in a variety of subjects and activities, so that by the time you start thinking about college in earnest, you'll be able to make wise and well-informed decisions about your next step.

You and your advisor will begin laying the groundwork for your college exploration during freshman and sophomore years. You'll be able to start that exploration during our Fall College Night series, which brings representatives from nearly 100 colleges and universities to campus to describe their programs and meet Cate students.

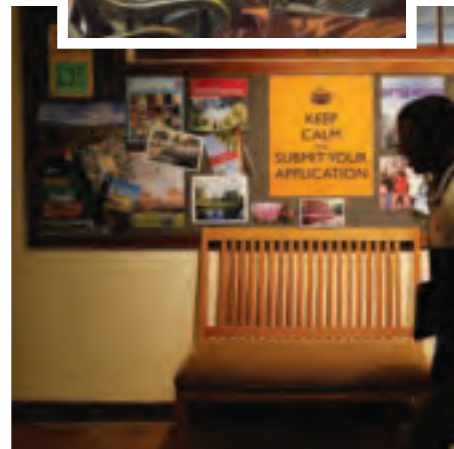
The formal college counseling process begins in your junior year, when you'll start taking "college classes." These workshops and seminars are run by the college counseling staff and are designed to prepare you for the college admission process. In the winter you'll begin meeting individually with one of Cate's college counselors to discuss your academic and extracurricular interests, learning style, and career goals. In the spring you'll attend our Case Studies program, during which you'll meet in small groups with admission deans from as many as 40 competitive colleges and universities to learn how the admission process works and how schools evaluate candidates. When you leave for summer break, your counselor will reinforce your progress with a letter that summarizes the college criteria you've discussed, lists the schools that best fit those criteria, and outlines the steps you can take to hit the ground running come application time.

During your senior year, you'll continue to receive regular guidance from your counselor as you narrow choices, complete applications, and receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers.

The goal of all this preparation and attention is to get you into the college of your choice—a college that is the perfect fit for your unique needs and interests. And one final word: after living up to the academic challenges of Cate, don't be disappointed if college seems a little . . . easy.

“THROUGH A COMBINATION OF EXPERIENCES LIKE OUTINGS WEEK, DORMITORY LIVING, AND AN EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC SERVICE CATE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO GAIN A REAL SENSE OF THEMSELVES AND DEVELOP CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CATE EXPERIENCE TRANSLATES WELL TO THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS.”

—TAMAR ADEGBILE  
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE  
COUNSELING



### TOP COLLEGE DESTINATIONS 2012-2016

Barnard College	New York University
California State Polytechnic University	Santa Clara University
Colorado College	Stanford University
Columbia University	University of Chicago
Emory University	University of Pennsylvania
Georgetown University	University of Southern California
Johns Hopkins University	University of St. Andrews

**104**  
colleges and  
universities visit  
Cate each fall





The Mesa buzzes with creativity. We stage two major theatrical productions every year, as well as several student one-acts and improv performances. The Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, Camerata, and Chorale have frequent concerts on and off campus. Planned and spontaneous drumming is a frequent soundtrack at events. And there's always new student work in the Bruno and Hooker Art Galleries.

Much of this artistic energy is inspired by Cate's productive and engaging arts program. In your freshman or sophomore year you'll take a Foundation Arts course that will introduce you to different forms of creative expression. As an upperclassman, you'll choose electives that let you dive deeper into the medium that interests you most.

One reason Cate wants you to create and to learn about art is that artists are problem-solvers. Each new work they make is an attempt to use a medium—clay, film, paint on canvas, words on paper—to convey an idea, a feeling, or a story. Knowing how artists solve creative problems will make you a better problem solver and teach you new ways of thinking that you can apply to math, science, business, or life in general. And the more you know about how to think and create like an artist, the more joy and appreciation you'll find in different kinds of art.

Another reason Cate wants you to learn about art is that even if you already dance, draw, or make music, there's still undiscovered territory inside you to explore. You may be a poet, a potter, or a pianist and not even know it yet. And of course, we also want to nurture the creative passions you already have. Here, you'll find caring instruction, mentorship, and ample opportunity to perform or exhibit your work.



“ I'D CHARACTERIZE CATE AS A COMMUNITY FOR CREATORS AND ARTISTS. THERE ARE ALWAYS THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, STUDENT ART EXHIBITS... EVERY FORM OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION IS REALIZED.

—MONICA FURMANSKI, PHOTOGRAPHY TEACHER

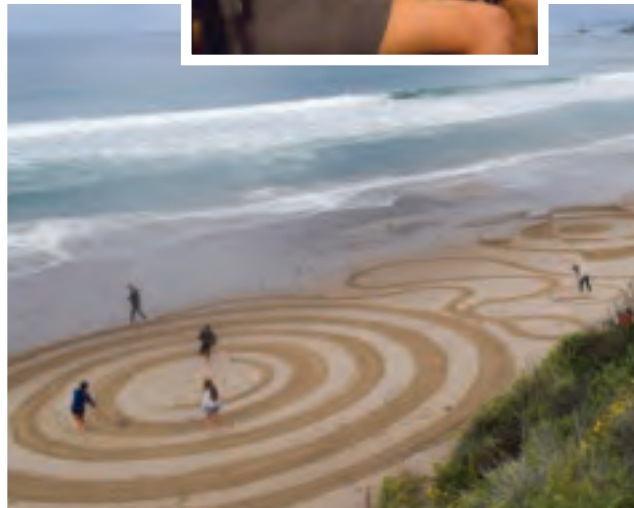


#### FACILITIES

Beverly Burch James Art Loft  
 Roger Firestone Family Ceramics Studio  
 Digital Lab  
 Hitchcock Theatre  
 Wiegand Stage  
 Bruno Gallery  
 Hooker Gallery  
 Class of '81 Amphitheatre

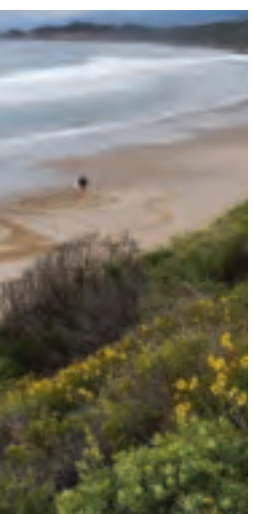
#### CLUBS AND ENSEMBLES

Cate Artists Theater Ensemble  
*Cate Review* (literary magazine)  
 Camerata (vocal group)  
 Chamber Orchestra  
 Chorale  
 Dance Club  
 Jazz Band  
 No Strings Attached  
 Pandemonium (improv group)  
 Photo/Video Club  
 Poetry Smackdown  
 Writing Dangerously



# 1 in 3

students sing  
in Chorale









Imagine competing against some of the best high school athletes in the country. Imagine incorporating an ocean swim or a mountain run into your training routine—year round. Imagine playing a new sport—or maybe any sport—for the first time and finding out you’re good at it. Imagine heading from the fields to the dining hall with teammates, sweaty and laughing. Imagine becoming a team leader—someone to whom younger players look for advice and whom coaches trust to help them out on the field. That’s the Cate athletic experience.

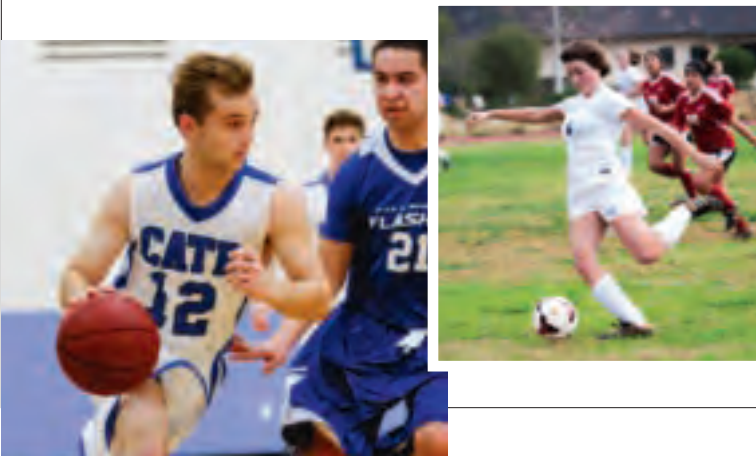
Cate fields 22 varsity athletic teams, and our quality of play is so high—eight titles and championships in 2012-2013, nine in 2013-2014—that we entered the more competitive Tri-County Athletic Association in 2014. Rising to the challenge, Cate teams took home five titles and championships in 2014-2015. There are junior varsity and even 3rds teams for many sports, allowing less experienced players to try new sports without the pressure of intense competition. Cate also offers intramural options like dancing and surfing, so no matter what your interests or current level of play, you’ll find opportunities to have fun and improve your skills.

If you’re already a seasoned athlete, Cate’s coaches will help you reach your performance goals. If you’re trying team sports for the very first time, they’ll be patient teachers, eager to share their love of the game. And Cate’s athletic requirement ensures that every student at every level is always trying—and learning—something new.



“ I LOVE WATCHING THE KIDS WALK OFF THE FIELD AFTER A HARD-FOUGHT GAME AND SEEING THEIR CAMARADERIE AND SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. ”

—WADE RANSOM, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



**FACILITIES**

**Fleischmann Gym**

- 2 squash courts
- Basketball court

**Sprague Gym**

- 2 regulation basketball courts
- 2 volleyball courts
- Harcourt Fitness Center

**Robert Bonning Tennis Center**

- 8 tennis courts

**Emmett Horowitz Aquatic Center**

- 2 pools
- Brittingham Family Athletic Training Center

**Additional Facilities**

- Jackson Baseball Field
- Man Softball Field
- Nion Tucker, Jr. '40 Field
- Thayer Peck Athletic Field
- All-weather track
- Dance studio

**FALL SPORTS**

- Boys Water Polo, V, JV
- Girls Tennis, V, JV
- Girls Volleyball, V, JV
- Cross Country, V
- Football, V, JV

**WINTER SPORTS**

- Boys Basketball, V, JV
- Boys Soccer, V, JV, 3rds
- Girls Basketball, V, JV
- Girls Soccer, V, JV
- Girls Water Polo, V, JV
- Squash, V

**SPRING SPORTS**

- Baseball, V
- Softball, V
- Boys Lacrosse, V, JV
- Boys Tennis, V, JV
- Boys Volleyball, V, JV
- Girls Lacrosse, V, JV
- Swimming, V, JV
- Track, V, JV

**INTRAMURAL OPTIONS**

- Dance
- Fitness
- Outdoors
- Surfing
- Tae Kwon Do
- Ultimate Frisbee







## OUTDOORS



During fall Outings Week, students and faculty head to the mountains and sea. Outdoor exploration continues all year long.



There's no better place than Cate to develop—or continue—a love of the outdoors. California is home to a staggering variety of natural beauty, some of the best of which is in Cate's backyard. Here, you're just minutes away from a swim in the ocean, a run on the beach, or a hike in the mountains, and just a short drive from some of the best backpacking, surfing, and rock climbing in the nation. And while the country surrounding the Mesa is beautiful—our sunsets are spectacular—the real benefit of living and learning in the midst of such natural grandeur is the sense of perspective it provides—the reminder that we are part of a world much bigger than ourselves.

Your experience of the outdoors at Cate will begin with Outings Week in September, when you'll explore California's wilderness. As a freshman you'll stay at Pyles Camp in Sequoia National Forest for a week of hiking, swimming, and team-building activities with your classmates. As a sophomore you'll backpack in Yosemite, and as a junior you'll trek along the Kern River. In your final year you'll have your choice of serving as a leader on one of the underclassmen trips, camping on the Channel Islands just off the coast, or visiting colleges.

Throughout the year, faculty members lead weekend kayaking, backpacking, and diving trips. You can even choose the Outdoor Program for your afternoon athletic activity and learn to surf, rock climb, kayak, and paddle board. And those are just the sweatier things you can do. The natural landscape around Cate also serves as a great biology lab and study space and provides ample inspiration for art making.

### RESOURCES

- Bee Camp
- Ropes Course
- Rock Climbing Tower
- Bouldering House
- Los Padres National Forest

### GEAR FOR:

- Backpacking
- Camping
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Paddle boarding
- Surfing



**1200**

acres of  
backcountry  
surround the Mesa



Why are we here? On this planet? In this country? On this Mesa? We think at least part of the answer is this: to make a difference in the lives of others. That's the basic idea behind Cate's one-word motto, *Servons*. It means "let us serve." Graduating seniors often tell us that service was among their most rewarding experiences at Cate.

We all want to change the world, but sometimes we can make the biggest difference right at home. As an underclassman, you and your classmates—all of your classmates—will share responsibility for basic chores around the Mesa, much the same way you'd have chores at home. Freshmen typically help out in the kitchen, while sophomores and juniors help maintain the dorms, classrooms, and grounds.

In addition to participating in the chore program, you'll have a chance to serve as a peer tutor or student librarian, or to belong to one of the many service and civic organizations on campus. You can go on weekly service outings to organizations in and around Santa Barbara, where you can tutor school children, visit the elderly and disabled, and work on local environmental improvement projects. You'll also spend a day devoted to service in the fall of your freshman year, and each spring your advisory group will tackle an off-campus service project together.

Service is a particularly rewarding way to learn about different places and people. For more than 30 years, Cate students and teachers have traveled to Mexico to help out with community construction projects and work with children and their families in the Los Niños program. And in 2007, Cate joined Round Square, a global network of high schools with shared ideals surrounding service and sustainability. Round Square sponsors an annual conference as well as service and student exchange programs around the world.

“THIS IS A REWARDING COMMUNITY TO BE IN. WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS WE CAN GIVE STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKE THEM SUCCESSFUL. THEY RESPOND BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS.”

—KATHERYN PARK,  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR



#### SERVICE & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

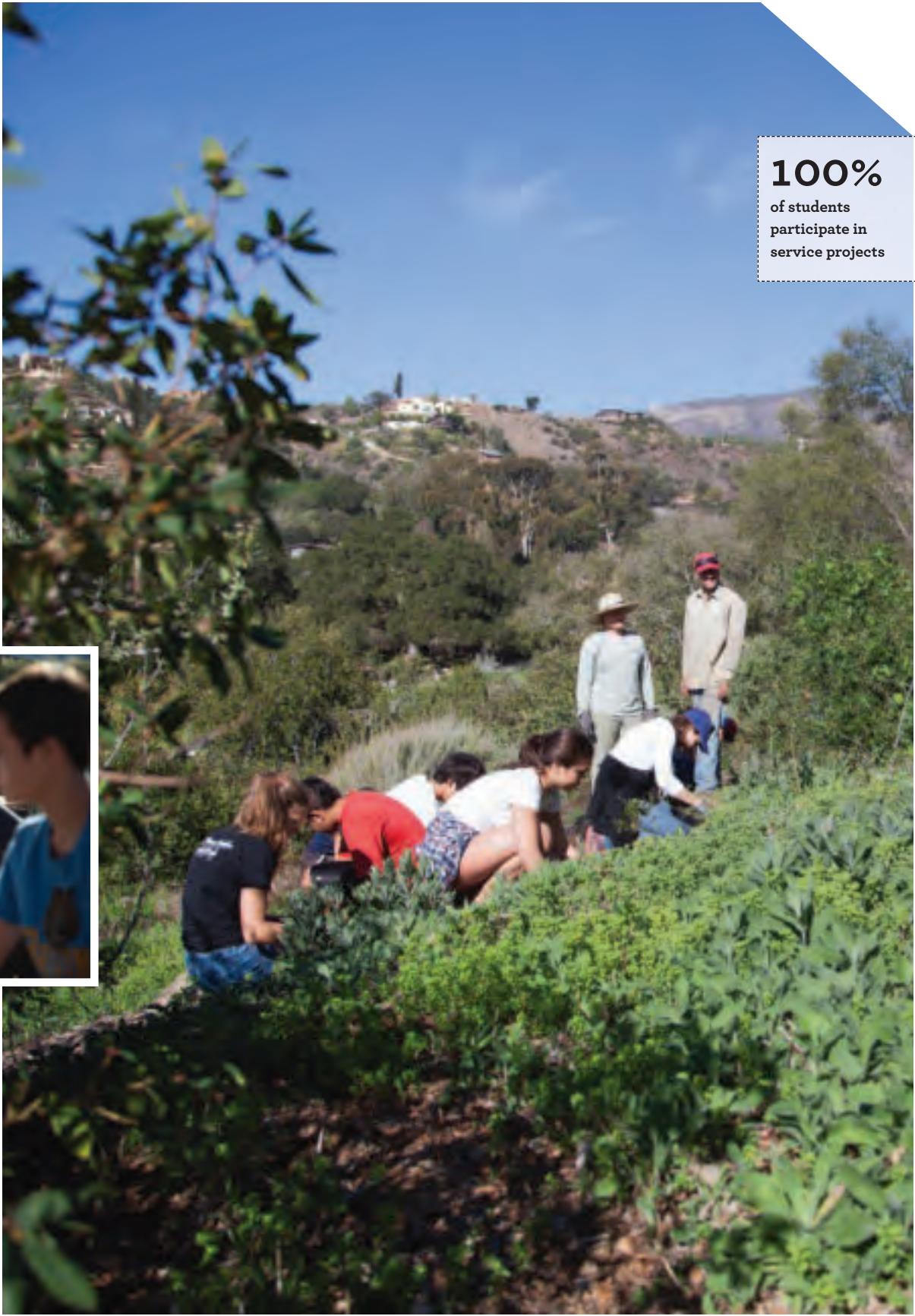
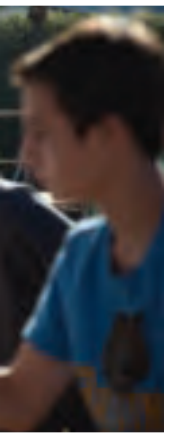
- Black Student Union
- Caps for Good
- Cate Liberals League
- Cate Republicans
- Environmental Club
- Gay/Straight Alliance
- International Club
- Junior Statesmen of America
- Model UN
- Public Service Club
- Stream Team
- Women's Forum
- Young Men's Forum





**100%**

of students  
participate in  
service projects





“ I WANT TO MATTER... TO SOMETHING, TO SOMEONE. I WANT EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY TO FEEL LIKE THEIR DAY, THEIR WEEK, THEIR CATE EXPERIENCE WAS BETTER FOR HAVING HAD ME IN IT. ”

—JAMIE KELLOGG,  
SCIENCE TEACHER AND DORM PARENT



Life plays out in Cate's dining hall and dormitories, framed by an idyllic landscape.

You may never live in a place more beautiful than Cate. Several dorms overlook the ocean. The beach is close enough for a morning swim or surf. There's a special bench just for watching sunsets, though some would argue that the views from the "Pizza Lawn" are just as spectacular. Behind campus a series of trails lead you to the splendor of the Los Padres National Forest. And you share this space—150 acres of trees and light—with fewer than 350 other people. It's like having a world all to yourself.

You'll live in one of eight remarkably home-like dorms. In addition to your bedroom, there will be places to study, play games, watch movies, and just hang out. Faculty members and their families live in the dorms as well, so you'll always have an adult to talk to, or the occasional kitchen table to do your homework. You'll also have a senior prefect—a kind of big brother or sister—to offer guidance and support as you get the hang of living in your home away from home.

But the dorms at Cate are more than a place to live. They're also a place to learn and grow. In fact, your interactions with your dorm parents and prefects and the talks and activities they plan for you are an integrated part of the curriculum. We call it PARK—Persistence, Awareness, Responsibility, and Kindness—and it's all about learning how to cooperate and collaborate with others.

And then there's the food. The chefs at Raymond Commons prepare meals from scratch and buy as much of their produce, meat, and dairy as possible from local farmers. There's always a waffle bar at breakfast, sandwich and salad bars at lunch and dinner, as well as frequent theme nights—Italian, Mexican, Breakfast for Dinner. There are always bowls of fruit out for snacking, and many students (and faculty) find themselves wishing for the occasional cold snap just for the pleasure of sitting by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate.

#### SAMPLE JUNIOR SCHEDULE

7:00-8:00 Breakfast  
 8:00-8:45 English 11  
 8:45-9:15 Flex Time  
 9:20-10:05 Advanced U.S. History  
 10:10-10:25 Campus-Wide Gathering  
 10:35-11:20 Japanese 3  
 11:25-12:10 Biology  
 12:10-12:40 Lunch  
 12:40-1:25 Calculus 1 (AB)  
 1:30-2:15 Open  
 2:15-2:45 Flex Time  
 3:15-4:45 Sports  
 4:45-5:30 Free Time  
 5:30-7:00 Dinner  
 7:00-8:00 Clubs and Activities Meet  
 8:00-10:00 Study Hours  
 10:30 In-dorm  
 11:00 Lights Out



**18**

seniors serve as  
dorm prefects









## CAMPUS TRADITIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

The Cate community loves new things. New movies. New music. New foods. New experiences. New ways of doing things. But as you can imagine at a place that's more than 100 years old, we also love our traditions—things we've always done and will always do because of the way they bring us together, because of the way they make us think and feel, and also because they're fun. Here are just a few:

### TRADITIONS

**Sunset Ceremony:** We begin each school year by gathering on the lawn outside Parsonage dormitory. We ring the school bell, Macbeth, and the headmaster reads from a letter written by William Shepard Biddle, who graduated from Cate in 1918. Then the entire school—students and faculty alike—forms a receiving line to shake hands with the new seniors.

**Convocations and Formal Dinner:** “Convocation” means “a gathering,” and every Monday evening everyone convenes at the theater for a lecture or performance. It might be Cate’s jazz band or improv troupe that takes the stage, or a visiting scholar or artist. Storytellers and a hypnotist are popular. Afterward, students and faculty sit down together for an elegant meal in Raymond Commons. It’s meant to be a time to talk and relax. Seating assignments vary from week to week to give everyone a chance to meet new people.

**Tuesday Talks:** Every Tuesday morning, Cate students and faculty meet in the chapel to hear a personal story presented by someone in the community, often a Cate senior. Many underclassmen have found it helpful—even moving—to hear about the growth and changes their older peers have experienced.

**Assemblies:** There’s so much going on at Cate—so many interesting people with compelling things to say and important information to share—that we meet for assembly three times a week. It’s when we make campus-wide announcements, watch student skits, and celebrate birthdays, awards, and athletic wins.

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Another great Cate tradition is participation. Students run more than 30 clubs and organizations on campus. Some popular examples are listed below, but feel free to start one of your own.

#### STUDENT-RUN CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bible Study	Jewish Club
CateNet Masters (student tech support)	Kayaking Club
Chicken Club	<i>Mesan</i> (school yearbook)
Chinese Club	Ross Robins Club for Equality
<i>El Batidor</i> (school newspaper)	Student Book Club



Spirited skits and inspiring stories bring the community together.

“THERE IS JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL, NOVEL AND TRADITIONAL, TO KEEP LIFE ON THE MESA TRULY LIVELY.”

—JUAREZ NEWSOME,  
HISTORY TEACHER







**5**  
times a week  
the entire school  
gathers together





“PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME WHAT CATE LOOKS FOR IN AN APPLICANT. OF COURSE WE LOOK FOR A STRONG ACADEMIC HISTORY, BUT WE’RE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN THE QUALITIES THAT LEAD TO SUCCESS HERE: CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, AND RESILIENCE.”

—CHARLOTTE BROWNLEE '85  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION



Words and pictures can only capture so much about life on the Mesa. To get a true feel for the school, come see it. Learn something new in a class, cheer on the Cate Rams during a game, and sit in on a spirited assembly or inspiring Tuesday Talk. Meet our students and teachers, and take in our expansive views. Call one of our admission officers to schedule a visit and talk about the application process.

Admission to Cate is very competitive. We receive roughly 2,000 inquiries and almost 700 applications each year, and we enroll only 75 students. That’s roughly 8 applicants for every opening.

We strive to enroll exceptional students who bring a wide variety of skills, interests, and backgrounds to the Cate community. Our Admission Committee considers a student’s previous academic record, recommendations from teachers, personal references, scores on the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT), extracurricular interests and strengths, and impressions and information obtained in a personal interview.

#### AFFORDING CATE

Financing an independent school education is a major investment in a student’s future. Each year Cate offers more than \$3,000,000 in need-based financial aid to 30% of the student body. Awards range from \$5,000 to full tuition and expenses.

For further information, reach us at 805-684-4127, extension 217 or visit us online at [www.cate.org/admission](http://www.cate.org/admission).

Cate is characterized by diversity. Students of all backgrounds come from around the world to experience and shape a vibrant community.

#### HOW TO APPLY

- Schedule a visit
- Register for testing
- Complete the application

Visit [www.cate.org/admission](http://www.cate.org/admission) or scan the QR code to view key application dates.





**1 in 3**  
students receive  
financial aid





AT A GLANCE

Number of students:

**280**

(223 boarding/57 day)

**54%**

of boarding students are from outside California

**18%** of students are international

**45%**

are students of color

Median SSAT percentile:

**83<sup>rd</sup>**

Number of faculty:

**57**

Faculty members with advanced degrees:

**80%**

**5:1**

Student-teacher ratio

Average class size:

**10-11**

**159** Courses offered

Advanced and honors courses offered:

**51**

**50% boys | 50% girls**

Distance to the beach: **2 miles**

Acreage of the campus:

**150**

**90**

Miles to Santa Barbara:

**10**

Miles to Los Angeles





# CATE SCHOOL

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Through commitment, scholarship, companionship, and service, each member of the Cate community contributes to what our founder called “...the spirit of this place...all compounded of beauty and virtue, quiet study, vigorous play, and hard work.”