



SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

Cate School, founded in 1910, is a grade 9-12 coeducational boarding school on California's Central Coast. A demanding and engaging academic program, a diverse student body, and a residential emphasis make Cate a distinctive community where talented students continue their intellectual, physical, and social growth. Our motto is Servons (let us serve), and learning to contribute positively to the life of the school is essential.

Mission: 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."

ABOUT THE STUDENTS

311 total students (78% boarding)
71 students in the Class of 2026
19% boarding students from abroad
56% students of color
\$4.9 million in financial aid for 26% of students

16 nations:

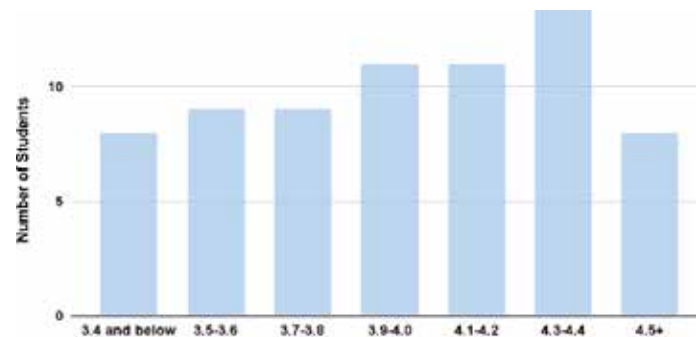
China, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States, United Kingdom

22 states and the District of Columbia:

Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington

Class of 2026 GPA

GPA is cumulative for grade 10 and higher and comprised of Cate courses and approved program courses only. Weighting adds 1.0 for Advanced and 0.5 for Honors courses. Cate does not rank. The highest grade earned is an A.



Class of 2026 Testing	SAT R/W	SAT M	ACT COMP
Mid 50%	650-750	660-760	29-35
Mean	690	701	32

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES OFFERED

Requirement is five academic courses per trimester plus the art requirement. Most students do not take Advanced courses until 11th or 12th grade.

Arts

Advanced Art History
Advanced Instrumental Music
Advanced Multidisciplinary Performing Arts
Advanced Technical Theater Production
Advanced Theater
Advanced Visual Art
Advanced Vocal Music

English

Advanced English 11
Advanced English 12 Electives

- Banned Books
- Climate Fiction
- Comparative Religions
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Everything's An Argument
- Introduction to Film
- Introduction to Journalism
- Introduction to Modernism
- Much Madness
- The Art of Memoir
- The Fog of War (and Peace)

History

Advanced United States History
Advanced History Electives

- After Violence - Truth, Justice, and Social Repair
- Anthropological Perspectives
- Global History of Sports and Society
- Immigration Experiences in the US
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Modern Japan
- Modern Middle East
- Modern Nigeria
- Politics in Contemporary America
- Sociological Understanding of "Otherness"
- Supreme Court and Civil Liberties

Mathematics

Advanced Calculus 1
Advanced Calculus 2
Advanced Computer Science
Advanced Math 4/5
Advanced Multivariable Calculus, Statistics, and Linear Algebra
Advanced Statistics

Modern Language

Advanced Chinese: Idioms, Cinema, and Literature
Advanced French: Language Studies
Advanced Spanish: Language Studies
Advanced Spanish: Literature Studies
Honors Japanese 4
Post-Advanced Chinese
Post-Advanced Spanish Electives

- Hispanic Film
- Magical Realism
- One Hundred Years of Solitude

Science

Advanced Biology Electives

- Climate Biology
- Coastal and Marine Ecology
- Human Transmission Genetics
- Marine Evolutionary Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Neurobiology
- Toxicology and Health

Advanced Chemistry
Advanced Physics

UNIQUELY CATE

Cate's CULTURE OF INQUIRY is central to our work in the classroom and animates our community. Each school year is organized around a school-wide question that fosters inquiry across the disciplines. Senior Inquiry Projects are presented and celebrated at Inquiry Day in the spring. Convocation – a weekly series of speakers and performers – adds breadth and depth to our curriculum.

Faculty rely on SENIOR LEADERSHIP to accomplish the School's purpose, program, and operations. Seniors hold positions with unusually high leadership expectations that support every facet of campus life. Roles include Prefect, Teaching Assistant, Peer Tutor, Servons Speaker Coordinator, Public Service Head, and student body president and vice president.

In keeping with the Cate motto, Servons, SERVICE is a fundamental way of life both on and off campus. Service hours are not required, yet each week Cate students volunteer at local food banks and shelters for Public Service Night. Cate also connects to outside communities through Public Service Days, holiday donation drives, and after-school tutoring at local schools. Since the 1970s, Cate students have traveled to Mexicali for Los Niños service learning trips, working with local residents to enhance community centers and neighborhoods.

The Cate ARTS PROGRAM is a core part of the curriculum and provides opportunities to express creativity, develop problem-solving skills, and have a fundamental impact on the vibrancy of our community. Ninth graders take Foundation Arts, an introductory course covering all art forms, and then choose two additional yearlong art courses based on their interests. Many students continue in advanced electives across the disciplines.

Servons is key to Cate's membership in ROUND SQUARE, a network of 160 high schools in 40 countries with six shared ideals: internationalism, democracy, environmentalism, adventure, leadership, and service. Cate participates in conferences, service projects, and student exchanges worldwide including Australia, India, Jordan, Peru, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Cate's OUTDOOR PROGRAM, rooted in the natural beauty of the California wilderness, is a constant reminder that we are part of a world much bigger than ourselves. Daily opportunities to surf, hike, bike, rock climb, kayak, paddle board, and camp abound. Outings Week, a rigorous backcountry expedition, is anchored by senior volunteers who assist trip leaders.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 2021-2025

American University	4	Davidson College	3	Queen's University	2	University of Chicago	13
Amherst College	3	Duke University	5	Reed College	1	University of Colorado, Boulder	3
Babson College	3	Emory University	7	Rice University	2	University of Florida	1
Bard College	1	Eugene Lang College	1	Santa Barbara City College	3	University of Iowa	1
Barnard College	9	George Washington University	3	Scripps College	7	University of Miami	3
Bates College	10	Georgetown University	5	Skidmore College	1	University of Michigan	2
Beloit College	1	Gettysburg College	1	Smith College	1	Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	1
Binghamton University	1	Glendale Community College	1	Southern Methodist University	5	University of Notre Dame	3
Boston College	2	Hamilton College	2	Stanford University	5	University of Oregon	1
Boston University	2	Harvard University	5	Suffolk University	1	University of Pennsylvania	7
Bowdoin College	4	Harvey Mudd College	1	Syracuse University	2	University of Puget Sound	1
Brown University	10	Howard University	1	Temple University	1	University of Richmond	1
Bucknell University	1	Indiana University	1	The American University of Paris	2	University of Southern California	12
California Institute of Technology	1	Johns Hopkins University	1	The University of Texas	1	University of St Andrews	6
Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo	5	Kenyon College	2	Trinity College	1	University of the Pacific	1
Carleton College	1	Loyola Marymount University	6	Tufts University	5	University of Toronto	1
Carnegie Mellon University	4	Massachusetts Inst of Technology	1	Tulane University of Louisiana	10	University of Vermont	1
Case Western Reserve University	6	Middlebury College	5	Union College	2	University of Virginia	5
Catholic University of America	1	New York University	9	United States Military Academy	1	University of Washington	1
Chapman University	1	Northeastern University	12	United States Naval Academy	1	University of Wisconsin	4
Claremont McKenna College	5	Northwestern University	4	Universidad de Navarra	1	Vanderbilt University	1
Colby College	4	NYU Shanghai	1	University of California:		Vassar College	1
Colgate University	1	Occidental College	2	Berkeley	11	Villanova University	1
Colorado College	6	Parsons School of Design	2	Irvine	1	Washington University in St Louis	3
Columbia University	7	Pennsylvania State University	1	Los Angeles	2	Wellesley College	6
Connecticut College	1	Pitzer College	3	San Diego	1	Wesleyan University	4
Cornell University	3	Pomona College	2	Santa Barbara	2	Williams College	1
Dartmouth College	5	Princeton University	3	Santa Cruz	2	Yale University	7

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