



491 Summit Road • Watsonville • CA 95076 • 408.847.2717 • Fax 408.847.5633  
Email - [school@mountmadonna.org](mailto:school@mountmadonna.org) • [www.MountMadonnaSchool.org](http://www.MountMadonnaSchool.org)

# School Profile 2016-17

## The School

Founded in 1979, Mount Madonna School (MMS) is a small non-profit school serving all grades from preschool through high school. We are a rigorous college preparatory CAIS/WASC accredited school emphasizing a solid foundation in core academics, and meeting all requirements of demanding colleges and universities. Our academic core is supplemented by additional emphases on creative self-expression and the development of positive character.

Mount Madonna School is located on 355 acres of forested mountaintop property overlooking the Monterey Bay. We are hosted by Mount Madonna Center, a community founded on the principles of yoga and dedicated to compassion, self-development and service to society. The values of the Center and the beauty of the natural environment provide a supportive and inspirational context for our learning community.

## Student Body and Faculty

Mount Madonna School has 179 students from Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade with 59 students in the High School. We draw students from Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara counties.

42% of Mount Madonna's High School faculty has advanced degrees including 2 PhDs. Our small class size of 15 to 20 students allows us to address student needs and potential. Our low student/teacher ratio allows the development of strong personal relationships with academic, social and practical benefits for our students.

## Admissions/Financial Aid

Entry to High School is based on social, emotional and academic readiness. This includes a 3.0 overall average with no grade lower than C, satisfactory scores on standardized exams, and a record of good conduct and positive contributions to the school community. In addition, students are required to have completed at least one year of study of a foreign language, preferably Spanish, prior to enrolling in the 9th grade.

Mount Madonna School is committed to maintaining economic diversity within our community of families. The Bernice Arnold Scholarship Endowment and other special donations are allocated for scholarships. Financial scholarship awards are based on the family's economic needs and approximately 34% of the student body receives financial assistance.

## Mission/Philosophy

We are a community of learners dedicated to creative, intellectual, and ethical growth. We support our students to become caring, self-aware, discerning, and articulate individuals. We believe a fulfilling life includes personal accomplishments, meaningful relationships, and service to society. We pursue our values and mission through the integration of Academic Excellence, Creative Self-Expression, and Positive Character Development. These principles permeate all we do, and bring depth, meaning and enthusiasm to learning at MMS.

### Academic Excellence

We offer a balanced academic program that is developmentally appropriate and prepares students to become life-long learners. The school builds student independence by providing opportunities and challenges that develop initiative and discipline, preparing students for college and beyond.

### Creative Self-Expression

Creative self-expression is part of all academic coursework. We integrate creative arts and academics with the belief that they are mutually reinforcing. This allows students to discover new gifts and talents, and overcome self-perceived limitations. All students study acting, voice, dance, art, creative writing, and participate in the performing arts program. Our productions demonstrate and encourage the collaborative process. Here, individual effort and a willingness to contribute to the greater whole results in an inspiring and fulfilling experience.

Performance builds self-confidence, and collaboration prepares students for effective working relationships well beyond their school years.

### Positive Character Development

We recognize that each student's character is influenced at school by the interaction of the explicit and implicit curriculum. The explicit curriculum is found in the choice of content, activities, and materials that shape our program. The implicit curriculum is expressed in our school culture through relationships, teacher modeling, and classroom practices. These dynamic processes create a context that promotes learning and positive character development.

*Supriya McDonald, Head of School  
Shannon Kelly, Director of High School  
CEEB Code: 053711*



# Academic Program

## Curriculum

### ENGLISH (4 years required)

English 9 (Honors), English 10 (Honors), English 11, AP English Literature and Composition, English 12, English 12 Honors

### MATHEMATICS (4 years required)

(Listed in curriculum sequence beginning either 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Algebra I, Algebra II, Algebra II Honors, Geometry, Geometry Honors, Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, Calculus I, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Statistics and AP Statistics

### LABORATORY SCIENCE (4 years required)

(Listed in curriculum sequence)

Physics, Physics Honors, Chemistry, Chemistry Honors, Biology, Biology Honors, Science with Humanity (an Honors course), AP Physics: Mechanics

### SOCIAL STUDIES (3 years required)

World History and Geography, US History, AP US History, US Government and Politics, AP US Government and Politics, Comparative Politics, AP Comparative Politics

### COLLEGE-PREPARED ELECTIVES

American Women's History, Marine Biology, Oceanography (an Honors course), Values in American Thought I, Values in World Thought II, World Religions

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE (3 years required)

Spanish I (Honors), Spanish II (Honors), Spanish III, Spanish III Honors, Spanish IV, or other language by arrangement

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (4 years required)

Creative Performing Arts I-IV (4 year required series)

### ENRICHMENT CLASSES

21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Creative Writing, Dance, *including choreography*, Fine Arts, *including digital photography, digital design, digital and studio art*, Leadership, *including student governance, buddy/mentor programs*, Music, *including theory, voice, and choir*, Yearbook: Adobe Design & Production, *designed and produced by senior class*

## Honors

Honors courses are available based on the honors policy established by the University of California.

## Advanced Placement

All AP courses are open to interested students. Some courses are only offered to a particular grade. For example, only juniors can enroll in AP English Literature and Composition. If two AP math courses (AP Calculus AB/BC and AP Statistics) are offered in the senior year, students may only enroll in one of the courses due to our scheduling constraints.

### Values in American/World Thought & Travel Program

*"Through study, reflection, dialogue and action, we seek to develop our capacities as responsible and compassionate world citizens."*

Our travel programs are conducted as part of the Values in American/World Thought curriculum taught in the Junior and Senior years. This program aims to develop capacities of self-awareness and an ongoing inquiry into values that inform our actions and our life purpose. The students spend months preparing, through reading, writing, dialogue, reflection and projects, for an extended service/learning trip.

Every other year both classes go together to Washington, D.C. to interview national leaders in government and NGOs. On alternate years each class travels to India or South Africa, combining service, meaningful engagement with peers in high schools of those regions, and interviews with spiritual and political leaders. It is our intention to support the development of citizens the world most needs now: those who can respond with creativity and care in these changing and challenging times, and those who can balance their own needs in relationship to others in the communities of which they are a part.

### Integrated Performing Arts

All students study acting, voice, dance, and creative writing as part of Mount Madonna School's well-developed performing arts program. Our productions nurture collaboration and community building for the greater whole, resulting in an inspiring and fulfilling experience. The High School sponsors two major dramatic events each year. Each year there is an all high school musical production, and a school-wide production of *The Ramayana*, an ancient Indian classic depicting an adventurous struggle between the forces of good and evil. Each year, the High School students lead the entire school in this musical drama, which is attended by over 1500 people annually. The Ramayana production brings students, family members and community together in a joint effort and demonstrates the many fruits of intergenerational cooperation.

## Sports

Mount Madonna School provides excellent cross country, and volleyball activities for both boys and girls. Our athletic department is exceptional in that 90% of our high school population participates and competes successfully against much larger schools that have a very "deep bench." MMS athletes exemplify concentration, hard work and heart.



# Academic Program

## SAT Reasoning Results Combined Classes of 2015 & 2016

(n=28)	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	530-590	579
Math	530-570	556
Writing	530-590	560
Total	1590-1750	1695

## Grade Scale

A+ =	97-100%	The minimum passing percentage is 73%.
A =	93-96%	
A- =	90-92%	Grade points awarded on the transcripts:
B+ =	87-89%	All A's = 4
B =	83-86%	All B's = 3
B- =	80-82%	All C's = 2
C+ =	77-79%	All D's = 1
C =	73-76%	All F's = 0
C- =	70-72%	
D+ =	67-69%	
D =	63-66%	
D- =	60-62%	

## Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

GPA is computed using the above grade points. AP and Honors classes are weighted by one point.

## Advanced Placement Results 2012-2016

- 121 students took AP Exams
- total of 198 exams
- 29% of the AP Exams received scores of 3 or higher

## Awards and Distinctions 2012-2016

4 Commended Students, National Merit Scholarship Program, 1 National AP Scholar, 3 AP Scholars with Honor, 2 AP Scholars with Distinction, 5 AP Scholars

## Grade Point Averages (GPAs)

### GPAs – Combined classes 2015 (n=19), 2016 (n=18)

Quartile	Weighted	Unweighted
1st	2.92-3.69	2.69-3.35
2nd	3.71-4.09	3.40-3.66
3rd	4.12-4.35	3.67-3.88
4th	4.38-4.51	3.90-4.00

Valedictorian and Salutatorians are chosen for each class.

A minimum of 240 credits is required for graduation. Students engage in school organized community outreach as well as international service work.

## College Attendance

After graduation from Mount Madonna School, **nearly 100%** of our students choose to attend a four-year university.

Alumni of Mount Madonna have **attended** the following colleges and universities:

Amherst College	Marlboro College	Union College
American University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States Military Academy at West Point
Antioch University	Menlo College	University of Arizona
Bard College	Mills College	University of British Columbia
Barnard College	Monterey Peninsula College	University of Buffalo
Belmont University	Muhlenberg College	University of California, Berkeley
Bennington College	Naropa University	University of California, Davis
Berklee College of Music	New York University	University of California, Irvine
Boston College	Northeastern University	University of California, Los Angeles
Boston University	Oberlin College	University of California, Merced
Brown University	Occidental College	University of California, San Diego
Cabrillo College	Pitzer College	University of California, Santa Barbara
California College of the Arts	Pomona College	University of California, Santa Cruz
California Institute of the Arts	Portland State University	University of Colorado, Boulder
California Polytechnic State University, SLO	Pratt Institute	University of Miami
California State University, Long Beach	Princeton University	University of Puget Sound
California State University, Monterey Bay	Reed College	University of Oregon
California State University, Northridge	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Redlands
Carleton College	Saint Mary's College	University of San Diego
Central St. Martins College of Design, London	San Diego State University	University of San Francisco
Chapman University	San Francisco State University	University of Southern California
Claremont McKenna	San Jose State University	University of the Pacific
Cogswell Polytechnical College, Silicon Valley	Santa Clara University	University of Texas, Austin
Columbia College Chicago	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Vermont
Cooper Union	Seattle University	Vassar College
Cornell University	Sonoma State University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
De Anza College	Scripps College	Whitman College
DigiPen	Seattle Art Institute	Whittier College
Eugene Lang College of New School	Skidmore College	Willamette University
University	Sonoma State University	Yale University
Evergreen State College	Southern Oregon University	
George Washington University	St. John's College	
Georgia Institute of Technology	St. Lawrence University	
Harvard University	Stanford University	
Kalamazoo College	Suffolk University	
Lewis and Clark College	Tulane University	
Loyola Marymount University	Tufts University	