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School Profile 2017-18

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 175 students from Pre-K to 12th grade with 63 students in the High School. We draw students from Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara counties.

50% of Mount Madonna's High School faculty have 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.

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 36% 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. Students are provided with opportunities to develop initiative, discipline, and critical thinking.

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

Each student's character is influenced by the interaction of explicit and implicit curriculum. The explicit curriculum is found in the choice of content, activities, and materials that shape our program, including community outreach and international service work. 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.

Mary Supriya McDonald, Head of School

Shannon Kelly, Director of High School

CEEB Code: 053711



Academic Program

CURRICULUM

Honors

Honors courses are available based on the honors policy established by the University of California. Underscore indicates UC approved honors.

Advanced Placement

All AP courses are open to interested students in 11th and 12th grades. 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 scheduling constraints.

ENGLISH (4 years required)

English 9, 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 8th or 9th grade)

Da Vinci Algebra 1 – Math, Algebra I, Algebra II (Honors), Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Statistics and AP Statistics

LABORATORY SCIENCE (4 years required)

(Listed in curriculum sequence)

Green Up and Go: The Physics of “Clean” Engineering, Chemistry, Chemistry Honors, Biology, Biology Honors, Science with Humanity, AP Physics C: Mechanics

SOCIAL STUDIES (3 years required)

World History and Geography (Honors), US History, US History Honors, US Government and Politics, AP US Government and Politics, Government and Politics Comparative, AP Government and Politics Comparative

COLLEGE-PREPARATORY ELECTIVES

American Women’s History, Marine Biology, Oceanography, 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

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (4 years required)

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

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Creative Writing, Dance, *including choreography*, Fine Arts, *including digital photography, digital design, digital and studio art*, Music, *including theory, voice, and choir*, Yearbook: Adobe Design & Production, *designed and produced by senior class*, and Yoga

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 enrichment of the experience through intergenerational cooperation.

Sports

Mount Madonna School provides excellent cross country, track and field, and volleyball activities for all genders. Our athletic department is exceptional in that 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 2016 & 2017

(n=23 students, scores from pre-2016 converted to new scoring)

	Middle 50%	Mean
ERW	580-680	630
Math	520-630	579
Total	1110-1320	1218

Advanced Placement Results 2013-2017

- 120 students took AP Exams
- total of 186 exams
- 31% of the AP Exams received scores of 3 or higher

Awards and Distinctions 2013-2017

3 Commended Students, National Merit Scholarship Program, 6 AP Scholars

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 Averages (GPAs)

GPAs – Combined classes 2016 (n=18), 2017 (n=11)

Quartile	Weighted	Unweighted
1st	2.92-3.64	2.69-3.35
2nd	3.65-3.96	3.35-3.64
3rd	3.97-4.31	3.65-3.82
4th	4.32-4.51	3.82-4.00

A minimum of 240 credits is required for graduation.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

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

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