



MENLO SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

50 Valparaiso Avenue
Atherton, CA 94027

Phone: 650.330.2000
Fax: 650.330.2004

CEEB Code: 051960

Than Healy

Head of School
Ext. 2520

John Schafer

Director of the
Upper School
Ext. 2222

Lisa Giarratano

Director of
College Counseling
Ext. 2234

Grace Hartman

Associate Director of
College Counseling
Ext. 2593

David Melena

Associate Director of
College Counseling
Ext. 2591

Elena Wong

Associate Director of
College Counseling
Ext. 2595

Bridget Allard

Assistant to the
College Counselors
Ext. 2590

Ava Petrash

Registrar
Ext. 2210

*Menlo School is accredited
by the Western Association of
Schools and Colleges and is a
member of the National and
California Associations of
Independent Schools.*

THE SCHOOL

Established in 1915, Menlo School is a highly-selective independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school situated in the heart of Silicon Valley. The School inspires students to lead lives of meaning, impact, and joy. Through our relevant, responsive curriculum, students in grades 6-12 explore diverse points of view and are encouraged to think globally and act with compassion. Our talented educators lead with enthusiasm and curiosity, challenging students in their learning while ensuring the support each student needs to thrive. We believe that learning is a journey that should be enjoyed. Our students are encouraged to chart their own paths through a broad array of exceptional academic, artistic, and athletic programs that spark wonder and launch wider exploration.

MENLO BY THE NUMBERS



CLASS OF 2026 BY THE NUMBERS



GRADING AND CLASS RANK

In the Upper School, GPA is cumulative from freshman year using all courses with the exception of Physical Education (PE). Menlo reports yearlong grades, with the exception of a few electives where semester grades are reported on the weighted and cumulative transcript. Plus and minus grades are weighted (e.g., B+= 3.33, B-= 2.67). Upper School students receive an extra .5 of credit for each Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP), or Advanced Topics course, as all three designations are considered equally rigorous. Students are not ranked.

! As of August 2024, Menlo has discontinued the AP Curriculum and replaced it with more relevant, rigorous Honors and Advanced Topics offerings. AP Physics 2 was the only AP course offered.

When requested by a college or university to which a student has applied, Menlo School will report incidents that occurred in grades 9 through 12 that resulted in the student being dismissed, suspended, or placed on citizenship probation. Menlo School will also report voluntary withdrawals when disciplinary action is possible or pending whenever such information is requested by a college or university.

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS AND COURSES

Applied Science Research (ASR)

ASR is a capstone class. Students learn how to design and build something, do experiments, analyze and graph their data, and compute the errors on their experiments. Students work on campus and/or intern at a local university or company under a mentor. At the conclusion of the second semester, each student writes a science or engineering paper, gives a final presentation, and has the opportunity to publish their work in a science or engineering journal.

BioTech Research

BioTech Research is a capstone class. Students learn key lab techniques in molecular biology, protein biochemistry, immunolocalization, and cell culture. They then use these skills to design and carry out an authentic, independent research project, either in our lab or in a local industry or academic lab.

Menlo Interdisciplinary and Personalized Scholars Program (Menlo IP)

Menlo IP is designed to allow interested students to shape a deep and personalized approach to their studies, which we believe will help them to create more meaningful learning explorations and chart new paths of distinction. The IP provides an opportunity for students to examine root causes of societal problems, envision possible solutions to said challenges, and supports them in creating their own original work or producing original scholarly criticism.

Global Online Academy

Students may take online classes through the Global Online Academy, a consortium of domestic and international independent schools. Students receive Menlo credit for the courses, and the course grade is calculated into the student's GPA.

MTerm

MTerm has two interrelated and primary purposes: to find new ways to foster joy in learning and engagement and to honor student interest and initiative by providing experiences and opportunities that may not routinely exist in the Menlo School curricula. During the last two weeks of the school year, regular classes are suspended, and students partake in immersive MTerm experiential courses designed to get students out into our local and global communities while fostering awareness, empathy, and citizenship.

Menlo Abroad

Three-week international travel programs that feature facilitated curricula, service-learning, language immersion, and homestays. Students develop meaningful relationships with people in distant places, make friends, and use their skills to address common problems.

Current offerings include Malaysia, Costa Rica, and Tanzania. Past trips have included Cambodia, China, Guatemala, and India.

Borderlands

One-week domestic travel opportunities to the Southwestern United States to study Indigenous America, immigration, and sustainability.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF 2023-2025

Amherst College (2)	Dartmouth College (8)	Rutgers University (New Brunswick) (1)	University of Denver (3)
Babson College (1)	Davidson College (1)	Saint Mary's College of California (1)	University of Hong Kong (1)
Barnard College (3)	De Anza College (2)	San Francisco State University (1)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1)
Bates College (1)	DePaul University (1)	San Jose State University (1)	University of Miami (3)
Baylor University (1)	Duke University (7)	Santa Clara University (4)	University of Michigan (10)
Boston College (12)	Emory University (2)	Scripps College (4)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)
Boston University (7)	Fashion Institute of Technology (1)	Skidmore College (2)	University of Notre Dame (2)
Bowdoin College (1)	Foothill College (1)	Southern Methodist University (4)	University of Pennsylvania (4)
Brandeis University (1)	George Washington University (1)	Stanford University (30)	University of Puget Sound (1)
Brigham Young University (1)	Georgetown University (5)	Syracuse University (3)	University of Redlands (1)
Brown University (4)	Georgia Institute of Technology (1)	Texas Christian University (2)	University of Southern California (10)
Bryn Mawr College (1)	Grinnell College (1)	The University of Texas at Austin (3)	University of St Andrews (1)
Bucknell University (1)	Hamilton College (1)	Trinity College (1)	University of Toronto (1)
California Institute of Technology (1)	Harvard University (7)	Tufts University (8)	University of Utah (1)
California Lutheran University (1)	Johns Hopkins University (3)	Tulane University of Louisiana (11)	University of Washington (Seattle) (7)
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) (2)	Lehigh University (8)	Union College (1)	University of Waterloo (1)
California State University (Long Beach) (1)	Lewis & Clark College (1)	United States Military Academy at West Point (2)	University of Wisconsin (Madison) (7)
Carleton College (2)	Loyola Marymount University (4)	University of British Columbia (2)	Vanderbilt University (10)
Carnegie Mellon University (5)	Loyola University Chicago (2)	University of California (Berkeley) (20)	Vassar College (1)
Case Western Reserve University (1)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (3)	University of California (Davis) (3)	Villanova University (2)
Chapman University (7)	Middlebury College (2)	University of California (Irvine) (2)	Wake Forest University (5)
Claremont McKenna College (2)	New York University (6)	University of California (Los Angeles) (8)	Washington University in St. Louis (11)
Colby College (1)	Northeastern University (6)	University of California (Merced) (5)	Wellesley College (6)
Colgate University (3)	Northwestern University (10)	University of California (Riverside) (1)	Whitman College (1)
College of San Mateo (1)	Occidental College (3)	University of California (San Diego) (1)	William & Mary (1)
Colorado College (6)	Pitzer College (1)	University of California (Santa Barbara) (4)	Williams College (4)
Columbia University (2)	Princeton University (4)	University of California (Santa Cruz) (5)	Yale University (3)
Connecticut College (1)	Purdue University (Main Campus) (2)	University of Chicago (17)	
Cornell University (9)	Reed College (1)	University of Colorado Boulder (5)	
	Rice University (4)		



UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

ENGLISH (4 yrs required)

- English 1
- English 2
- Junior English Seminar (H): Literature
- Junior English Seminar (H): Rhetoric
- Junior English Seminar: Literature
- Junior English Seminar: Rhetoric

Advanced English Seminars:

Non-exhaustive list, topics vary year to year

- 5 Months, 4 Books
- Argumentation & Communication (H)
- Café Society
- Contemporary World Literature
- Creative Nonfiction Workshop (H)
- Dystopian Fiction & Film
- East Asian Pop Culture
- Fairy Tales
- Global Mythologies
- Humanities I, II
- Investigations
- Literature and Science
- Literature in the Age of AI
- Literature of the American Wilderness (H)
- Lyric & Lifeline
- Media & Cultural Studies (H)
- Medicine & Narrative
- Modernist Poetry Workshop (H)
- Novella Workshop (H)
- On Being
- Poetry Workshop
- Science Fiction and the Classics (H)
- Shakespeare Now (H)

Beginning in 2024-25, all juniors will be placed into either a junior English Seminar in Rhetoric or Literature in their first semester. Second semester, they choose an Advanced English Seminar. All seniors take at least two Advanced English Seminars, which are equally rigorous and in-depth, with only a few honors options.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (3 yrs required)

- Modern World History
- U.S. History
- U.S. History (H)
- Adv. Topics in History:
 - Government and Politics
- Adv. Topics in History: Modern Europe

Advanced History Seminars:

Non-exhaustive list, topics vary year to year

- American Economic History
- Comparative Legal Studies
- Current Affairs and Civil Discourse
- Economic Theory
- Environmental and Development

- Economics
- Ethnic Studies I, II
- Gender Studies
- Global Issues for Global Citizens
- History of U.S. Foreign Relations
- Humanities I, II
- In Gods We Trust
- Philosophy I, II
- Psychology I, II
- Pursuit of Happiness: The Psychology, Anthropology, and Philosophy of Happiness
- Sultans, Shahs, and Sovereigns

Our history seminars are designed to be rigorous and include in-depth studies of various topics. All include an Honors option.

MATHEMATICS (3 yrs required)

- Adv. Topics in Math (H)
- Adv. Topics in Statistics (H):
 - Probabilistic Modeling
- Adv. Calculus I (H)
- Adv. Calculus II (H)
- Algebra 2
- Algebra 2 w/ Trig.
- Algebra 2 w/ Trig. (H)
- Analytic Geometry & Algebra
- Analytic Geometry & Algebra (H)
- Applied Statistics & Epidemiology
- Calculus
- Integrated Geometry & Algebra
- Intro to Applied Math & Data Science
- Introductory Calculus
- Introductory Calculus (H)
- Pre-Calculus
- Probability & Statistics (H)

SCIENCE (3 yrs required)

- Adv. Topics in Biology (H)
- Adv. Topics in Chemistry (H)
- Adv. Topics in Physics (H):
 - Electromagnetism & Relativity
- Adv. Topics in Physics (H):
 - Quantum Mechanics
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Physics 2 (H)
- Applied Science Research (H)
- Molecular Mechanisms in Biology
- Living Systems: Biology in Balance
- BioTech Research (H)
- Chemistry
- Chemistry (H)
- Conceptual Physics
- Design
- Environmental Science
- Mechanical/Electrical Engineering
- Neuroscience

- Physics 1
- Sustainable Engineering

WORLD LANGUAGE (2 or 3 yrs required, based on starting placement)

- Adv. Topics in French (H): The Unknown and Contemporary Francophone World
- Adv. Topics in Latin (H): Intro to Literature
- Adv. Topics in Latin (H): Epistolography
- Adv. Topics in Mandarin (H): Contemporary Issues in Mandarin-Speaking Countries and Communities
- Adv. Topics in Spanish: Voces Vivas - Exploring Spanish Through Story, Sound, and Screen
- French 1, 2, 3, 4 (H)
- Latin 1, 2, 3, 4 (H), 5
- Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4 (H), 5
- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4 (H)
- Heritage Spanish 3, 4

CREATIVE ARTS (2 yrs required)

- Adv. Topics in Art (H)
- Adv. Topics in Music Theories (H)
- Adv. Art
- Adv. Dance
- Adv. Media Production
- Adv. Photo
- Adv. Topics in Photography (H):
 - Portfolio
- Adv. Vocal Technique & Performance
- Art Foundations
- Chamber Orchestra
- Dance Foundations
- Drama
- Fundamentals of Media Production
- Fundamentals of Photo
- Jazz Band
- Knight Singers
- Production: Page to Spieker Stage
- Push Play: Electronic Music
- Story Lab
- Fundamentals of Yearbook
- Advanced Yearbook
- Yearbook Leadership

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Adv. Topics in CompSci (H)
- Game Design
- CS1: Intro to Computer Science*
- CS2: Data Structures & Algorithms (H)

**CS1 is Pass/Fail only.*

JOURNALISM

- Fundamentals of Journalism
- Adv. Journalism
- Journalism Leadership

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND PERSONALIZED (IP) SCHOLARS

The IP provides an opportunity for students to examine root causes of societal problems, envision possible solutions to said challenges, and supports them in creating their own original work or producing original scholarly criticism.

TEEN HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND LIFE SKILLS SEMINAR

Beyond the discussion-based component of the class, students will take on a peer leadership role in sharing their learnings outside of the classroom by running a workshop, class meeting, or guiding an advocacy lesson. The course (offered Pass/Fail) covers various health and wellness topics, such as mental health, nutrition, body image, relationships, consent, gender roles, substance education, social media, stress management, CPR and first aid, self-care, and mindfulness.

FRESHMAN SEMINAR PROGRAM (required)

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- MTerm
- Life Beyond Menlo Senior Programming
- Community Engagement
- Physical Education

(H) = Honors Course or Honors Option

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