

Oakwood High School



Oakwood High School is founded on the belief that learning should be a positive and rewarding experience that challenges students to achieve their highest potentials and explore their individual interests. Our mission is to create an enriching, nurturing educational environment in which students advance within a rigorous academic core, while also developing intellectual maturity, self-confidence, and strong character. Our intent is to provide each student with the skills necessary for success in top-tier universities and beyond. What's more, we help young scholars become self-motivated, disciplined, principled individuals fully prepared to lead lives of purpose, integrity, and concern for their communities.





Oakwood High School provides Morgan Hill and neighboring communities a local, private, independent high school. Growing from roots that run nearly fifty years deep, Oakwood is led by a family in its third generation of running successful private schools. As you'll discover, Oakwood's rigorous academics are balanced with a rich experience in the arts, athletics, and community involvement. Our small class sizes provide maximum opportunity for individual attention and help uncover and develop individual strengths. We also take great care to create a wholesome environment in which character, values, and compassion are priorities.

As an independent, college-preparatory school, you'll find that Oakwood High School provides students with a challenging academic environment, a vibrant campus experience, and lessons that last a lifetime.



Oakwood High School CAMPUS LIFE

Campus Life

Oakwood High School encourages its students to make the most of their four years by providing a broad range of activities and social opportunities. High school is about much more than fulfilling graduation requirements — high school is a time for students to live! That's why campus life plays such a central role at Oakwood. Whether it's designing the high school's daily schedule so that athletes rarely miss an important class, providing truly substantial school-wide leadership roles for student government officers, or simply giving students the time and resources to plan spectacular events, Oakwood High School is committed to helping students express their individualism and pursue their passions. Because of the school's tight-knit community and supportive atmosphere, students truly have the ability to maximize their high school years.

Student Government

Oakwood High School's elected student government organization goes beyond the scope of most high schools' student councils. Student government officers take leadership positions in many of Oakwood's affairs, including advising the administration, planning the high school's event calendar and social activities, working with Oakwood's Parent Service Auxiliary, managing a substantial budget, and running a fundraising business. Student participants gain significant leadership experience, providing them with real-world skills and powerful evidence of their abilities for use on college applications.

Community Service

Oakwood High School requires students to become involved members of their communities. Participating in community service helps students understand their responsibilities as citizens, develop character and com-

passion, accept new challenges, and acquire life skills.

Acknowledging that it is sometimes difficult for students to know where to start with community service projects, Oakwood High School provides structured community service experiences and opportunities, while still giving ambitious students the chance to develop their own endeavors.

Activities & Clubs

Oakwood High School enthusiastically gives students support to form their own student clubs based on their interests and passions. Chartered through the student government, student clubs can range from a few students who share a common enthusiasm to the student activities club that plans many of the high school's social events. Oakwood's student clubs offer students a way to share their individualism with the high school community and receive funding from the student government to plan activities for their classmates. Oakwood High School encourages every student to be involved with at least one student club, as working collaboratively with classmates toward a common goal can be one of the most fulfilling and rewarding of high school experiences.



Oakwood

asks: Who do you
want to be?

Oakwood High School asks, "Who do you want to be?" This question challenges students to look deep within themselves and think not only about academic success and their options for college and future careers, but also about what kinds of people they want to become.

High school at a college-preparatory school is a time to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for gaining acceptance to and succeeding at college. At the same time though, it is a period of great change in the lives of students and the beginning of a transition into adulthood. Oakwood supports students' families in their efforts to instill their children with high moral character. With that in mind, Oakwood High School is committed to empowering students to be responsible participants in their own educations and savvy decision-makers about their lives. The experiences students have during their high school years play a vital role in laying the foundations for their future successes.

Students are strengthened most effectively by being pushed to their potentials in an environment designed to nurture them to their goals.

Oakwood's curriculum is built to foster intellectual curiosity and academic confidence, and the school's tight-knit community helps students to develop their own identities, as they prepare for the world after high school.

Undoubtedly, graduates of Oakwood High School will be exceptionally well-prepared for the rigors of college academics, but, even more importantly, they will be secure with themselves and thoroughly ready to become compassionate, contributing members of society.

The Oakwood Freshman Experience

In many ways, freshman year is an opportunity to reinvent oneself. Whether a student is continuing on from middle school at Oakwood Country School or is new to the Oakwood family, freshman year at Oakwood High School is a time of new beginnings.

A Fresh Opportunity

The Oakwood Freshman Experience takes place during the first week of the fall semester and is unlike anything students have ever experienced at school. During these memorable days, freshmen spend time getting to know their classmates and themselves more deeply than ever before. They engage in thinking, discussing, and writing about what they want to get out of high school, both academically and socially. Students share their strengths with new friends and explore areas where they would like to improve. The experience allows Oakwood freshmen to carefully consider the parts of their individuality that they value and wish to preserve, and the pieces that they are ready to leave behind in middle school.

Being a freshman at Oakwood High School means making a fresh start. The Oakwood Freshman Experience gives students the tools to help them to begin shaping their high school identities. **Who do you want to be?**

Stretch and Challenge

Each individual possesses academic areas of relative strength and relative weakness. The perfect educational balance would be an environment that encourages one to challenge the boundaries of one's strengths and to stretch to improve one's weaknesses. This ideal forms the core of Oakwood High School's pedagogical philosophy. Because of small class sizes and a nurturing atmosphere, the school is able to offer students the kind of personalized attention that is so rare in larger high schools, both public and private.

Small class sizes

Small class sizes create an educational environment where students feel confident to express pride in their successes and to take intellectual risks. With Oakwood High School's low student to faculty ratio, teachers have the chance to become familiar with each student's unique balance of talents and limitations and to use methods to connect curricula and projects in powerful, personal ways.

Nurturing atmosphere

No matter how academically or socially gifted, every high school student occasionally faces daunting challenges. Oakwood accepts this reality and works to create an atmosphere where students feel empowered by their peers and their teachers. Students can use these times as opportunities for personal growth and feel confident that school is a place where they are supported.



DEPARTMENTS

English Oakwood High School's four-year, college-preparatory English curriculum is designed to create an atmosphere wherein students learn to appreciate and understand literature and use this understanding as a tool to develop critical thinking and writing skills. Students use literary models to explore written expression and to broaden their understanding of vocabulary and grammar concepts, while mastering the abilities to interpret the ideas of others and effectively communicate ideas of their own.

Mathematics Oakwood High School gives students the opportunity to take four years of pre-collegiate and collegiate-level mathematics courses. The Mathematics Department offers a diversified program to fit the range of abilities and background needs of each student, including helping some students to overcome their aversion to math and providing students the option of taking a college-level AP calculus course during their senior year. Students develop problem-solving skills, learn to be critical and creative thinkers, and become life-long users of math.

Social Studies Oakwood High School is committed to preparing students to have an exceptional understanding of the historical and political heritage of our nation and the world, as well as to be active participants in civic affairs and citizens capable of making decisions with historical perspective. During their freshman and sophomore years, students complete a comprehensive exploration of geography and world history, from ancient to modern. With this global perspective as a foundation, juniors and seniors thoroughly examine United States history, economics, and government. Learning throughout the social studies curriculum is enhanced through lecture, debate, role-play, simulations, multimedia presentations, research projects, and travel.

Science With the recommendation of the National Science Foundation, Oakwood High School offers a science course sequence beginning with conceptual physics for freshmen. Students are then able to apply their understanding of conceptual physics to more complex subjects such as chemistry and biology. The goal is to provide science curriculum that is both engaging and hands-on, so that students will enjoy science, while they develop their abilities to think critically, interpret data, and work cooperatively.

World Languages The World Languages Department provides a challenging and comprehensive program, encouraging students to explore the world of languages and discover the adventure of communication. Five levels of study in French and Spanish are offered from beginning to Advanced Placement courses. Focus is placed on the acquisition and application of skills needed to capably understand, read, write, and speak in the target language, while emphasizing the language's diverse cultural aspects.

Physical Education Oakwood High School provides an opportunity for students to develop optimum health and physical fitness by assisting each student in gaining knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem through individual and team sports and physical activities. The Physical Education Department also strives to teach students the core aspects of lifetime physical fitness and how to maintain a healthy body and mind throughout their lives.

Fine and Performing Arts Oakwood High School's Fine and Performing Arts Department provides a competitive program allowing for both breadth of experience and freedom of choice, designed to build a strong background in the arts, while encouraging individual exploration. The Introductory Arts Program (IAP) provides an initial comprehensive foundation in the arts, with students choosing between a visual arts or performing arts semester-long introductory class. These foundation classes unlock a set of elective course opportunities. Students are able to take both the Visual IAP and the Performing IAP, if they decide to pursue a greater variety of elective choices.

Computers and Technology Oakwood High School recognizes the role that computers and technology play in the lives of today's students. The Computers and Technology Department offers elective courses for students who wish to pursue deeper knowledge of computer programming, graphic design, web development, or digital publishing. Students are exposed to the latest theories, techniques, and equipment within a project-based curriculum, allowing them to advance at their own pace and challenging them to stretch the limits of their abilities.

Travel That Makes Learning Come To Life

Sophomore & Senior Trips

Some of students' most cherished memories of Oakwood High School will likely be related to their sophomore and senior trips. Oakwood believes that travel is an exceptional way for students to deepen their understanding of the world and broaden their perspectives. Furthermore, by directly integrating the trips with the content being studied in their courses, students have the opportunity to truly bring their lessons into the real world. The extraordinary aspect of Oakwood High School's trips is the degree of the students' involvement in the planning, budgeting, scheduling, and implementation of their adventures.

Students in Charge

The members of each freshman class begin planning their sophomore trip soon after they start at Oakwood High School. They learn the basics of researching travel options and develop the project management and teamwork skills they need to jointly manage an undertaking of such scope. With the guidance of a faculty sponsor and approval of the school and parents, they set objectives and milestones to keep the project on track. Eventually, they complete the entire eighteen-month process of budgeting, scheduling, implementing, and experiencing their journey. Students begin a similar planning process at the start of their junior year, but challenge themselves even further by seeking out meetings and interviews with influential thinkers and leaders in society as part of their trip.

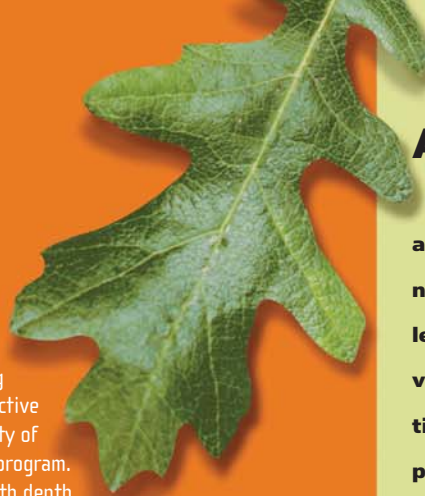
World History

Students research and plan their sophomore trip to visit locations taken directly from the world history curriculum. Whether it be Greek ruins, French castles, or Aztec temples, students have the unforgettable experience of stepping into their history books and making their curriculum come alive.

U.S. History & Government

Students choose the theme of their senior trip (i.e., Civil War battlefields, the Oregon Trail, etc.) based on their U.S. history and government courses. As part of their experience, they gather information and documentation during their trip to use in the creation of a curriculum unit.

RIGOR & CHOICE



Building on a tradition of academic excellence, Oakwood High School offers a strong core of rigorous academic subjects, while providing students with a wide array of elective courses from which to choose. The Oakwood tradition of exposing students to a variety of enrichment choices also drives the shape and substance of the high school academic program. Ultimately, Oakwood High School produces well-rounded graduates who possess both depth and breadth of knowledge.

Rigorous Academic Core

Oakwood High School students are immersed in a rich core of traditional, college-preparatory classes in which they develop skills in the areas of language arts, history and civics, mathematics, and the sciences. Classes are designed to strengthen students' critical thinking and writing skills, while fostering enthusiasm for learning and deep intellectual curiosity. Oakwood High School believes that students' mastery of these academic core subjects, along with the skills to successfully continue their educations, will make the school's graduates uniquely poised for success in their future endeavors.

Opportunities for Exploring Interests

Continuing in the tradition of Oakwood Country School, Oakwood High School students have an abundance of opportunities to explore their passions in academic core subjects, as well as in the many available elective choices. Oakwood High School is dedicated to the concept that the more students feel a personal connection with a particular subject, the more likely they will be to take ownership of their learning. Small class sizes allow Oakwood High School teachers to actively work with students to make the curriculum more meaningful through customized assignments, projects, performances, and research. To further supplement students' exploration of their interests, Oakwood offers a wide array of elective classes in each of its eight departments.

Communications Track

Oakwood High School is committed to nurturing each student's ability to effectively communicate through both writing and speech. Excellence in communications skills, perhaps more than any other single ability, directly impacts students' future successes. Oakwood High School students take at least one semester of a communications track class each year. During their freshman year, students take a required semester course that focuses specifically on writing-success in high school. During their junior year, students take a second required semester course that refines students' analytic writing skills, as well as prepares them for successful completion of college application essays. In their other two years, students choose from a variety of elective classes in several different departments to fulfill their communications track requirement.



Athletics

Oakwood High School provides athletes with the support they need to compete at the highest levels, while instilling in them the values of sportsmanship, dedication, and self-discipline. Athletics plays a major role in many high school students' lives, and Oakwood strives to maximize the value of this experience by offering a variety of sports in competitive leagues. By structuring the school's daily schedule so that athletes rarely miss an important class, Oakwood helps students to strike a powerful balance between sports and academics, reaching the highest levels of achievement in both.

Graduation Requirements

Oakwood High School graduates will be excellently prepared for the transition to college, as the academic program exceeds both California state graduation requirements and University of California entrance qualifications.

English	8 Semesters
Mathematics	6 Semesters
Social Studies	9 Semesters
Science	6 Semesters
World Languages	6 Semesters
Fine and Performing Arts	2 Semesters
Physical Education	4 Semesters
Communications	4 Semesters
Computers and Technology	Proficiency

Honors and AP Classes

Oakwood High School encourages students to push the boundaries of their academic potentials. By offering a wide variety of courses, as well as substantial depth in each field of study, the school enables students to distinguish themselves both broadly and deeply. The college-preparatory curriculum provides students with numerous honors courses and an extensive Advanced Placement (AP) Program. Oakwood Academic Advisors work closely with students and their families to create customized schedules that fit each student's individual strengths and ambitions. (Some course offerings require sufficient student interest.)

<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophomore English (H) Junior English (H) AP English Literature <p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry (H) Algebra II (H) Trig & Pre-Calculus (H) AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC 	<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP European Studies AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry (H) AP Biology AP Physics 	<p>World Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> French 4 (H) Spanish 4 (H) French 5 AP Spanish 5 AP <p>Computers and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Computer Science
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COLLEGE & BEYOND

Academic Advisory Program

The Academic Advisory Program is one of the highlights of Oakwood High School. Each enrolling student is assigned a teacher as an Academic Advisor during the summer before freshman year begins. The Academic Advisors meet with students and their families to get to know them and their personalities, as well as begin to understand their strengths and areas they would like to improve.

Each student is likely to form a tighter connection with this faculty member than anyone else on the Oakwood Staff, as this teacher is the student's Academic Advisor for all four years at Oakwood High School. The Academic Advisors assist students in navigating the "ins and outs" of the college application process, including arranging appointments with Oakwood's college counselor and helping students to keep track of testing dates, application deadlines, and graduation requirements. This teacher is the primary source of academic support, the family's faculty point-of-contact, and an excellent person to ask for a thoughtfully written letter of recommendation for college.

Each Academic Advisor is responsible for a few students from each grade, and the Advisor and Advisees meet together as a group once a week during Advisory period. With Advisory groups consisting of mixed ages, Oakwood High School seeks to build camaraderie among upper and lower classmen and cohesiveness across the grades. Because the Academic Advisors are with students throughout their years at Oakwood High School, these teachers are able to help their Advisees through the ups and downs of high school, as the students make the transition all the way from wide-eyed freshmen to college-bound seniors.

As a college-preparatory school, Oakwood High School understands that students and their parents have college on their minds from the moment they start their first week of freshman year. By providing students with the guidance and resources to make sure they find the colleges that are a good fit for them, Oakwood helps seniors maximize their chances for gaining acceptance to the schools to which they apply and gives students the knowledge and skills to make the most of college once they arrive.

Finding The Right College

The College Prep Center at Oakwood High School offers access to computer-based tools providing career survey and college-matching assistance, as well as a comprehensive library and an opportunity binder with up-to-date scholarship information and applications. Oakwood's college counselor is available to answer specific questions and set up appointments with college representatives.

Getting In

The college application process is famous for being a stressful experience for most high school students. Oakwood High School is committed to making the process less hectic for students and their families. Academic Advisors are with their Advisees every step of the way, helping to make sure that students are aware of what they should be doing to prepare for the process at every point of their high school careers and helping to keep track of the progress of students' applications as seniors.

Succeeding Once You're There

Oakwood High School graduates will be among the best-prepared students when they enter college. Oakwood's graduation requirements surpass the entrance qualifications for even the most elite universities in the United States. Not only will students be prepared with critical thinking and writing skills and advanced knowledge of core academic subjects, they will be ready to become conscientious and contributing members of their college communities.

How To Apply

Admission to Oakwood High School is competitive. Applicants should be motivated, hard-working students who want to be contributing members of a vibrant academic community. Students should aspire to attend college and understand the commitment that accompanies that goal.

Students interested in admission must submit the following:

- **\$50 nonrefundable application fee**
- **completed application form, including personal statement**
- **two teacher recommendations**
- **current academic record**
- **Oakwood-administered test**
- **informal interview with the Admissions Committee**

Applications are available in November, and the deadline for submission is January 31st. Admission tests are given by special appointment. Admission decisions are mailed by mid-March. Decisions on late applications are made on an individual basis.



High school shapes a young person's life. Choosing a school that fits a student's personality, character, and ambitions is one of the most critical decisions of adolescence. Interested students and their families are invited to find out more about the enriching academics, nurturing environment, and exciting leadership opportunities available at Oakwood High School. Call or email the school to arrange a personal meeting with Oakwood's warm and welcoming staff.



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