



KIRBY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

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International Dean
and Admissions

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College Counselor

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Registrar

MISSION STATEMENT

Through intellectual challenge in a responsive environment, Kirby empowers students to shape their futures with confidence. Our students learn to think critically, develop their creativity, and engage diverse communities with thoughtfulness and respect.

Core Beliefs:

- Offering academic challenge across the disciplines at all age levels maximizes the growth of each Kirby student
- Kirby's inspiring faculty cultivate and model lifelong curiosity
- Our commitment to small class sizes enables us to be responsive to every learner
- Student confidence is supported by our close-knit culture of kindness and mutual respect
- Young people who have an active voice in their own education and community will be motivated and enthusiastic learners
- When adolescents are taught and encouraged to lead healthy, balanced lives, their learning capacity and happiness increase
- Development of creativity and adaptability are crucial to a growth mindset and enhanced through exploration of a wide variety of arts, electives, and experiences
- Collaboration among parents, faculty, and students is fundamental to student success
- Culturally responsive education is a conscious, ever-deepening process of recognizing, exploring, and embracing our differences

THE SCHOOL

Kirby School is an independent, co-educational day school for grades 6 through 12 and is a member of, and is accredited by, the California Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Kirby's CEEB Code is 053290. Established in 1994, Kirby was named for a Santa Cruz pioneer who devoted her life to education, freedom, and enfranchisement. The School was founded on the belief that students who are respected and encouraged will exhibit great enthusiasm for learning and achieve at the highest levels.

FACULTY

Over 50 percent of Kirby's 36 faculty members hold advanced degrees, including 3 Doctorates and 16 Master's Degrees. Fine and performing arts teachers have augmented their formal degrees with extensive professional experience.

STUDENTS

Kirby enrolls 209 students: 70 in the middle school (6-8) and 139 in the high school (9-12). The graduating Class of 2021 had 37 students. Kirby's average class size is 12. The school admits students on their ability to be successful in a rigorous academic environment without regard to race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical disability, national origin or other legally protected status.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Kirby's commitment to tuition assistance which is designed to support a highly qualified and diverse student body, is a fundamental part of the school's mission. For the 2021-2022 academic year, 31% of Kirby's students received tuition assistance, totaling \$1,328,775.



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Academic Program

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Kirby's graduation requirements exceed the "a-g" admissions requirements of the University of California system. Honors and AP courses are listed in **bold**. Semester-long courses are marked with an *.

ENGLISH

(4 years required)

English 9

English 10

English 11 and English 12 choices:

**AP Multicultural English Literature
& Composition**

Applied Ethics *

Creative Writing *

Graphic Novels *

History, Literature, Art: Indigenous
US Literature *

History, Literature, Art: South Africa *

Queer Voices in Literature *

Personal Narratives *

HISTORY

(3 years required)

History 9: World History of the Middle
Ages

History 10 or **Honors History 10**: Modern
World History

US History or **Honors US History
Practicum**

AP US Government

Macroeconomics *

Government Cabinet (1 unit/sem)

LANGUAGES

(2 years of one language required)

American Sign Language 1, 2, 3 & 4

Latin 1, 2, 3 & **Honors Latin: Special
Topics**

Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4 & **Honors Spanish 5**

MATHEMATICS

(3 years required)

Algebra 1

Geometry

Algebra 2

Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus A/B

AP Calculus B/C

AP Statistics

Honors Multivariable Calculus

Financial Mathematics with Advanced
Algebra Applications

LABORATORY SCIENCES

(3 years required)

Biology

Chemistry

Forensic Chemistry

Human Biology *

Marine Biology *

Honors Advanced Biology

Honors Physics

Honors Environmental Science

AP Physics

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Intro to Programming

Introduction to Quantum Computation

Music Technology: Mixing *

Music Technology: Recording *

Yearbook (1 unit/sem)

PERFORMING ARTS

(1 year required)

Chorus (1 unit/sem)

Chamber Choir (by audition)

Jazz Choir (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

String Methods (1 unit/sem)

Orchestra (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Jazz Ensemble (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Drama 1 & 2

Intro to Dance

Dance Company (by audition) (1 unit/
sem)

AP Music Theory

VISUAL ARTS

(1 year required)

Art 1: Foundation

Art 2: Intermediate 2D Art

Photography

Photo: Portfolio Preparation

FITNESS, WELLNESS & HUMAN DEV.

Health and Wellness * or Health and
Wellness A * (1 semester required)

High School Fitness * (2 units/sem) or
Contract Fitness * (1 unit/sem) (4
units total required)

Psychology *



Academic Achievement

INTENSIVE ACADEMIC PATHS

In addition to Honors and AP courses, Kirby offers four elective high school Intensive Paths for students wishing to pursue in-depth study in a specific academic or artistic field. All paths meet or exceed the 94-unit graduation requirement.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE PATH (STIP)

STIP provides a program for students interested in intensive study of science, math, and/or computer sciences, with the goal of reaching a high level of mastery and positioning themselves for advanced college-level work. STIP students' coursework includes four years of laboratory science, four years of mathematics (including Pre-calculus), a research project or internship, and additional elective units in science, math, and computer science.

HUMANITIES INTENSIVE PATH (HIP)

HIP enables students who are passionate about history, writing, and/or literature to explore those areas in depth. HIP coursework includes five years of history or English and culminates in a focused senior project advised by a faculty mentor.

LANGUAGES INTENSIVE PATH (LIP)

LIP offers students intensive study of foreign languages and cultures. LIP students use their elective options for focused study in world cultures, including four years of one foreign language and two additional years in a second language.

ARTS INTENSIVE PATH (AIP)

AIP emphasizes the study of fine or performing arts. Under the mentorship of a faculty advisor, AIP students choose a general arts program or concentrated study in a specific discipline, supported by a total of 18 additional units in the arts and a creative, culminating project presented in the senior year.

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated using all courses. In high school, final GPAs are cumulative from the fall semester of freshman year. For transfer students, all courses from the previous school are used (except when transferring from an International School). Advanced Placement, Honors, and University of California transferable college-level courses are weighted. Class Rank: Students are not ranked.

ACT AND SAT TEST SCORES

SAT REASONING TEST SCORES
AVERAGE COMBINED SCORES (OUT OF 1600)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
KIRBY	1310	1332	NA	1402*
NATIONAL	1068	NA	NA	NA

SAT Reasoning combined scores include math, critical reading and writing scores.

* Only 10% of the class of 2021 were able to take the SAT. This average combined score does not reflect a majority of Kirby Students.

ACT REASONING TEST SCORES
AVERAGE SCORES

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
KIRBY	29	26*	NA	NA**
NATIONAL	21	NA	NA	NA

* Scores are from tests taken through June 2019. Scores from tests taken after June 2019 are not available at the time of printing.

** No Kirby students from the Class of 2021 took the ACT.

AP SCORES

Of the 48 students who took AP exams in the Spring of 2021, 79% scored a 3 or above.



College Admissions

Kirby graduates have matriculated at the following schools in the past 5 years:

American University	Mills College	Syracuse University
Bard College	Muhlenberg College	The New School
Bennington College	New York University	Tufts University
Berklee College of Music	Northeastern University	Tulane University
Boston University	Northern Arizona University	University of British Columbia
Brown University	Northwestern University	University of California, Berkeley
Cabrillo College	Oberlin College	University of California, Davis
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo	Occidental College	University of California, Irvine
Carleton College	Oregon State University	University of California, Los Angeles
Case Western Reserve University	Parsons School of Design	University of California, Riverside
Clark University	Pitzer College	University of California, San Diego
Colgate University	Portland State Honors Program	University of California, Santa Barbara
College of Wooster	Pratt Institute	University of California, Santa Cruz
Colorado College	Princeton University	University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado School of Mines	Purdue University	University of Illinois, Chicago
Colorado State University	Reed College	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Columbia College Chicago	Regis University	University of Oregon, Honors College
Columbia University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of the Pacific
Cornell University	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Pittsburgh
Delft University of Technology	San Diego State University	University of Puget Sound
Denison University	San Jose State University	University of Rochester
Emerson College	Santa Barbara City College	University of San Francisco
Georgia Institute of Technology	Santa Clara University	University of South Wales
Gonzaga	Savannah College of Arts and Design	University of Southern California
Goucher College	School of Visual Arts	University of St. Andrews
Hampshire College	Scripps College	University of Redlands
Harvey Mudd College	Seattle University	University of Washington
Johns Hopkins University	Skidmore College	University of Wisconsin
Lewis and Clark College	Smith College	Vassar
Long Island University	Southern Oregon University	Washington University, St. Louis
Loyola Marymount University	St. Olaf College	Wellesley College
Macalester College	Stanford University	Wesleyan University
Menlo College	SUNY at Purchase	Western Washington University Honors Program
	Swarthmore College	