



“Dunn School is an exceptional place that goes far beyond the traditional concept of schooling. ... My child has had an incredible journey ... excelling in theatre, weight lifting, swimming, math, and Spanish, and has camaraderie, self-sufficiency, accountability, kindness, communication skills, planning, and determination.”

Parents at Dunn School

Boarding School

Dunn School California

Private boarding school in California’s Santa Ynez Valley that offers college-preparatory academics, small classes, and strong arts and athletics. Best suited for students seeking personalised learning, outdoor campus life, and direct pathways to U.S. universities



BOARDING



DIPLOMA
YEAR



CO-ED



ARTS



SPORTS

Quick Facts

Founded: 1957

Niche.com Score: A+

Students: Co-educational

School Population: 175

Climate: Warm, dry summers and Mild winters

Accepting students: Grades 9-11

Diploma Year offered: No

Interview Required? Yes

English as Second Language (ESL) support: Yes

University Acceptance Rate: 100%

Specialty Programs: Entrepreneurial programs, Innovation Curriculum

Academic Excellence

Dunn School delivers a college-preparatory curriculum centred on small classes, inquiry-based learning, and personalised academic pathways. Students choose from college-level courses, advanced curricular offers, and honours options that prepare them for competitive universities. The school offers structured English Language Learning for international students and academic support services tailored to individual needs. Faculty hold advanced degrees and maintain a low student-teacher ratio that encourages close mentoring. Seniors complete a year-long Exhibition Capstone that integrates research, presentation skills, and real-world application. Graduates matriculate to leading U.S. universities, supported by dedicated college counselling and a 4-year guidance framework.

Student Accomplishments

Dunn graduates consistently enter selective universities, including UC campuses and private research institutions. Students have earned recognition in visual arts shows, theatre productions, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Athletic teams frequently reach CIF playoffs across multiple sports. Senior Exhibition projects highlight individual research and innovation, and many students earn merit scholarships for academic performance, leadership, or community engagement.



Recent University Acceptances

- Columbia University
- Colgate University
- Drexel University
- Emerson College
- Fordham University
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lesley University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Montana State University
- New York University
- Pepperdine University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- Syracuse University
- University of California, Irvine
- University of Pennsylvania



Stats

12
Average Class Size

60%
Boarding student

9-11
Grades at School



5:1
Student Teacher Ratio

29
ACT Score

1300
Average SAT Score

80%
Faculty with Advanced Degrees

Campus Facilities

Dunn School sits on a 55-acre campus in the Santa Ynez Valley, featuring classroom buildings, science labs, art studios, and technology spaces. The campus includes a performing arts centre, music rooms, ceramics studio, photography space, makerspace, and multimedia labs. Athletic areas encompass fitness facilities, gymnasiums, fields, tennis courts, etc. Students access outdoor study spaces, gardens, and trails surrounding the campus. Dining, student life areas, and collaborative learning hubs support a balanced academic and residential experience.

Residential Life

The boarding programme brings together U.S. and international students in residential houses with shared or single rooms, communal lounges, and supervised study time. Students eat in a central dining hall with varied meal options. Common rooms, outdoor spaces, and weekend activities support social life and independence. Boarders come from regions across the U.S., Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Residential staffs provide well-being support and oversight of routines and academic engagement.

Athletics and Arts

Athletics are an essential part of student life, with teams competing in California Interscholastic Federation leagues. Students train across 3 competitive seasons and develop teamwork and fitness through structured programmes. Dunn fields teams in multiple sports and provides access to fields, courts, and conditioning areas.

The arts programme includes visual arts, music, theatre, and digital media. Students work in dedicated studios, performance spaces, and production labs, with opportunities for exhibitions, showcases, and interdisciplinary projects. The programme encourages creative exploration and portfolio development for university applications.



Lists

Sports: Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

Arts: Ceramics, Digital Media Arts, Drawing, Painting, Music, Photography, Theatre

Language Offered:
Spanish

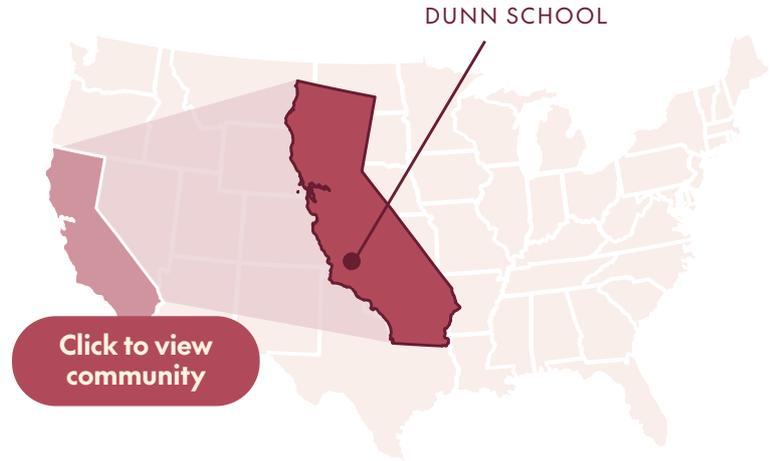
Courses Offered:
Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Literature, Environmental Science, Physics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, U.S. History

Tech and Innovation Courses:
Computer Science, Digital Media Arts, Engineering, Robotics, Technology & Design

Clubs And Extracurriculars
Art Club, Community Service, Cooking Club, Debate, Entrepreneurship Club, Environmental Club, Film Club, Fitness Club, Music Ensemble, Outdoor Adventure, Robotics, Student Government, Theatre Production, Yearbook

Community

Dunn School is located in Los Olivos, a small town in California's Santa Ynez Valley, known for its open landscapes, ranches, and outdoor recreation. The campus is approximately 45 minutes from Santa Barbara and two hours from Los Angeles. Nearby airports include Santa Barbara Airport and Los Angeles International Airport. The surrounding region offers hiking, cycling, arts venues and community events, giving students access to both nature and cultural attractions.



Climate in Los Olivos, California

Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and mild, cooler winters.



Video

**Dunn School
Campus Overview**

