



"At Cactus Shadows I joined choir for the first time, and I loved being part of so many activities with the group. My English improved a lot, and I became more confident and independent."

Thi Minh Ngoc from Vietnam

Public School

# Cactus Shadows High School - Cave Creek USD

## Arizona

Cactus Shadows High School is a public high school in Cave Creek offering AP, IB, and strong college-preparatory academics. The school is known for top-tier test performance and high-ranking academic results in Arizona.

- PUBLIC
- COED
- SUNNY
- STEM
- ARTS
- SPORTS
- IB PROGRAM

### Quick Facts

**Founded:** 1974  
**Students:** Co-educational  
**Climate:** Mild winters / Hot summers  
**Population:** 5,500  
**School Population:** 4,100  
**High School Population:** 1,588

**Accepting students:** Grade 11-12  
**Diploma Year offered:** No  
**Interview Required?** No  
**English as Second Language (ESL) support:** Yes  
**University Acceptance rate:** 85%

## Academic Excellence

Cactus Shadows High School ranks among the **top 5% of Arizona high schools**, supported by strong performance in statewide evaluations. Students excel in math and reading, achieving proficiency rates more than double the state average. The curriculum includes **Advanced Placement courses and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**, providing rigorous pathways that build analytical, research, and global competencies. The school also offers Career and Technical Education programs in fields such as healthcare, business, and technology. Modern facilities, including upgraded science labs, a media center, and expanded classroom wings, support high-quality instruction. These elements work together to prepare students thoroughly for college admission and future professional pathways.

## Recent University Acceptances

- Arizona State University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Grand Canyon University
- Northern Arizona University
- Princeton University
- The University of Arizona
- University of Advancing Technology
- University of Phoenix

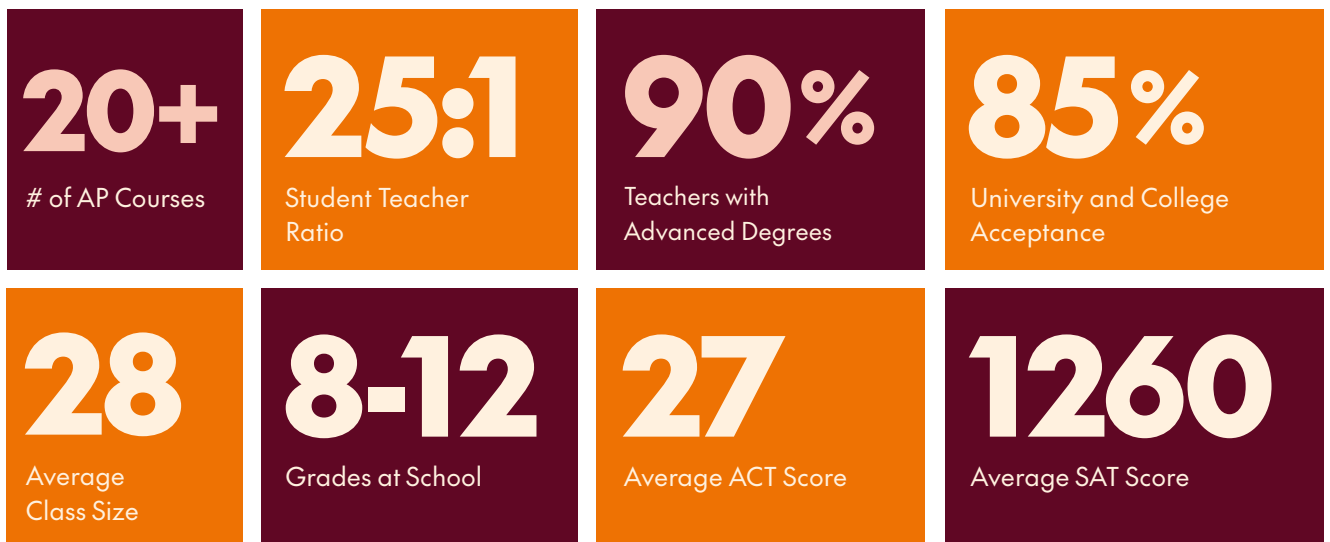


## Student Accomplishments

- Cheerleading teams with multiple national titles
- State championships in football and tennis
- Students ranked in Arizona's top tier for standardized assessments



## Stats



## Campus Facilities

The 38-acre desert campus features 38,000 square feet of **new classroom space, a renovated cafeteria, and modern athletic fields.** Facilities include state-of-the-art science labs, a library media center, art and music spaces, and upgraded fields for training and competition. The environment supports both academically focused learning and extensive extracurricular engagement.

## Athletics and Arts

Cactus Shadows competes in Arizona Interscholastic Association Division II with a wide range of competitive sports. Teams benefit from strong coaching, high participation, and access to upgraded athletic facilities.

The school offers award-winning programs in drama, music, and visual arts. Students participate in theater productions, band, choir, dance, and studio art programs that regularly earn recognition at local and national events.



## Highlights

**Sports:** American Football, Baseball, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cheerleading, Cross Country Running, Golf, Pom Poms, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

**Arts:** 2D Art and Design, Art, Dance, Drawing, Theater, Visual Arts, Band, Choir, Guitar, Jazz, Marching Band

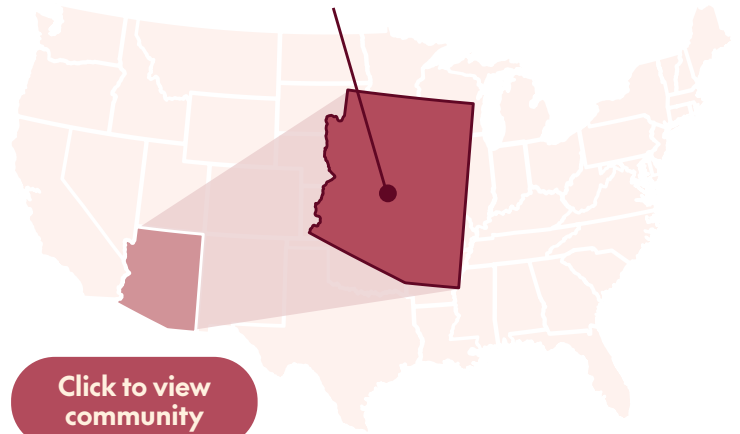
**Advanced Placement courses:** Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chinese Language and Culture, Computer Science Principles, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, European History, French Language and Culture, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics, Psychology, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics, US Government and Politics, US History, World History

**Languages offered:**  
Chinese, French, Spanish

## CACTUS SHADOWS HIGH SCHOOL

### Community

Cave Creek is a small desert town of about 5,500 residents known for its Western character, rugged landscapes, and outdoor activities such as hiking and horseback riding. The school is 33 miles from Phoenix, offering access to **urban amenities, cultural venues, and international travel** through Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX).



[Click to view community](#)

### Climate in Cave Creek, AZ

The region experiences a classic Sonoran Desert climate with very hot, dry summers, mild sunny winters, and low annual rainfall, giving students year-round access to outdoor activities.



"This school has so much spirit and support from our community and the students. I have never once felt unsafe, unwanted, or unsupported as a student at Cactus Shadows."

Student

"CSHS has provided our children with a well rounded education. We have the best teachers in the state!"

Parent

### Video

Learn more about the school

