THE THACHER SCHOOL

HONOR FAIRNESS KINDNESS TRUTH

Thacher educates students for lives of leadership and service. Our students enjoy a profoundly engaging intellectual life and develop a foundation for lifelong learning. Graduates also attribute their preparation to qualities cultivated outside the classroom: the resourcefulness and responsibility developed through camping and riding; the integrity that comes from living by an Honor Code; the sense of purpose found in community engagement and leadership.

At the core of our intellectual community lies the relationship between students and teachers, nurtured and supported by our Honor Code, which is exemplified by unproctored examinations in the 11th and 12th grade, and our student-led Judicial Council.

**Thacher by the Numbers**
- **1889** founding of the school
- **259** students from **24** states and **9** countries
- **11** the average class size
- **26** day students, **233** boarding students
- **29%** of students receive financial aid
- **427** acres in the foothills of California’s Coastal Mountain Range and Los Padres National Forest
- **74%** of faculty hold advanced degrees
- **6:1** student-faculty ratio
- **9%** international students, **51%** self-identifying students of color
- **23** AP or Post-AP courses offered until the fall of **2019**
- **0** AP courses offered in the 2019-2020 school year

**Academic Philosophy and Program**
In September 2019, Thacher implemented a new curriculum that no longer included Advanced Placement courses. The 17 offerings formerly designated as AP were redesigned as Advanced or Honors courses. This curriculum is the result of a multi-year effort to develop a program grounded in a broader, more expansive definition of rigor and mastery; it is anchored by Foundational Studies in 9th and 10th grade, and followed by Advanced Studies in 11th and 12th grade. The latter involves deeper dives into various subjects, interdisciplinary courses, opportunities for independent study and project-based learning. The academic program continues to culminate with the Senior Exhibition—a capstone, independent research project. By stepping away from the AP, Thacher is confident we better nurture the “learning liveliness” of our students, their talents, passion, drive and intensity of focus.

**COVID-19 Response**
In response to the Covid-19 health crisis, Thacher closed its campus and moved our Spring Trimester online with a Pass/No Pass grading system. With students from across the country and the world in our community, our new grading system acknowledged the different environments our students found themselves in as they pursued their online courses. Committed to equity and access, we wanted to ensure that no students were unduly penalized for those situations. To earn a Pass, students had to complete all formative and summative assignments and demonstrate proficiency. The Pass/No Pass grades were not computed into the students’ GPAs.

Maria Morales-Kent, *Director of College Counseling*
Courtney Cronin, *Associate Director*
Jill Manfredi, *Administrative Assistant*

805 640 3201 X255
Fax: 805 640 3251
CEEB Code 052265
2020-2021 Course Offerings

English
English I, II
English III Honors*
English IV Honors*

Science
Integrated Science I, II
Field Biology and Conservation
Advanced Physics*
Advanced Biology*
Advanced Chemistry*
Advanced Environmental Science*
Advanced Psychology*
Astronomy Research*

World Language
Mandarin I, II, III
Advanced Mandarin A*
French I, II, III, IV
Advanced French A*
Latin I, II, II
Advanced Latin A*
Spanish I, II, III, IV
Advanced Spanish A*

Mathematics
Math II, III, IV
Math II Honors
Math III Honors*
Math IV Honors*
Calculus I
Calculus I Honors*
Calculus II Honors*
Multivariable Calculus Honors*
Honors Statistics*
Advanced Computer Science*
Robotics and Electrical Engineering*
Advanced Topics in Data Structures and Algorithms*

History
The West and the World
Non-Western History
Honors US History*
Advanced Study in Economic Theory*
Honors Contemporary Ethical Issues*

Fine and Performing Arts
Introduction to the Arts
Ceramics
Advanced Ceramics
Wood Design
Introduction to Photography
Advanced Studio Art
Intermediate Studio Art
Honors Studio Practice*
Honors Art History*
Honors Chamber Singers*
Chamber String Ensemble
Jazz Ensemble
Electronic Music and Composition
Advanced Music Theory

2017-2020 Course Offerings on Senior Transcripts

Physics
Chemistry
Science and Society
Introduction to Programming
Math and Society
Data Structures and Robotics*
US History
Advanced Acting
Introduction to Film Studies

Grading Criteria
Thacher’s grading system is traditional, and we do not rank our students. The standard academic load is five courses each trimester; and four must be academic solids.

Unweighted GPA
The unweighted GPA includes all graded work 9-12.

Average 3.62
Middle (50%) 3.45 - 3.81

Weighted GPA
The weighted GPA is computed for all graded work 10-12, and it gives students an extra point for honors and advanced courses (A=5.0, B=4.0).

Average 4.10
Middle (50%) 3.92 - 4.41

Class Of 2021 SAT I Results (29 Testers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Thacher Middle (50%)</th>
<th>Thacher Average</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERW</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td>1415</td>
<td>1415</td>
<td>1415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Of 2021 ACT Results (27 Testers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Thacher Middle (50%)</th>
<th>Thacher Average</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERW</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td>28 - 34</td>
<td>28 - 34</td>
<td>28 - 34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**THACHER PROGRAMS**

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Thacher’s faculty is and will remain committed to the integrity of our programs. Thacher’s pillars of learning, both academic and co-curricular, remain steadfast and strong.

**Thacher Graduation Requirements**
- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics
- 3 years of history
- 2 years of laboratory science
- 3 years of a foreign language
- 2 years of fine arts
- Completion of Senior Exhibition

**Horse Program Requirement**
Unique to Thacher is our Horse Program—designed to complement the learning that takes place in our classrooms with real world experience and responsibility in our barns. All new students are required to learn to ride and care for a horse—freshmen for an entire year, transfer students for one trimester. Mucking, feeding, and riding are part of every rider’s day, including on weekends. All students must pass a riding test, take a horse camping trip into the Sespe Wilderness, and compete in Gymkhana (western racing). Talented riders can be elected to captain one of 3 school teams that compete in Big Gymkhana each May: they can earn top distinctions that allow them to lead horse camping trips without faculty supervision. With grit and courage, a select few earn a spot in the Silver Dollar Pick-up roster each year. The great majority of our riders are novices to the sport when they arrive, yet about a quarter remain in the program long after completing their requirement.

**School Year Abroad & Maine Coast Semester**
Rising eleventh graders can apply and be selected for:
- School Year Abroad (SYA)—a resident program in France, Spain, Italy and China
- Chewonki Semester School—an opportunity to spend half a year focusing on ecology and environmental science in Wiscasset, Maine.

**Senior Exhibition**
In addition to their regular course load, all seniors are required to complete a Senior Exhibition Project prior to graduation. This year-long project requires seniors to produce a significant body of research on a topic of their choosing, culminating in a thirty minute presentation to the school community. Examples of past projects include Promised Reform in Saudi Arabia, Social Influence and the Psychology of Consumer Behavior, The Porn Industry, Asteroid Mining, Ulysses: The Greatest Novel Ever Written In English, The Cost of Endangered Species Conservation, Mass Incarceration and Rehabilitation in America.

**Camping Requirement**
All students are required to participate in our Outdoor Program by going on week-long backpacking trips. On these trips, undertaken by the entire community each fall and spring, the focus is on “minimal impact” on the wilderness as well as self-sufficiency and cooperative teamwork. Camping encourages students to develop a deeper understanding and connection with the natural world while presenting them with both physical and personal challenges that foster character. In addition, the outdoors provides valuable, fertile ground for faculty-student and peer friendships.

**Afternoon Requirement**
Alongside the riding and camping requirements, all students must participate in afternoon activities, including one trimester of a team sport. Thacher does not believe in specialization; instead we encourage students to broaden their experiences in a variety of athletic and physical settings. Therefore, in addition to team sports, students may participate in Rock Climbing and Dance Ensemble. As 11th and 12th graders, students may apply for an Independent Project in an area of personal or athletic interest, for example cycling, screenwriting, surfing, pottery, triathlon, or musical composition. While we are not competing in interscholastic sports this year because of COVID-19, we remain committed to the value of physical and afternoon activities for the health and well being of our students.
Matriculation, Class of 2020

Barnard College  
Bond University - Australia  
Brown University  
Claremont McKenna College  
Colgate University (2)  
Colorado College (6)  
Columbia University (3)  
Dartmouth College (3)  
Duke University (2)  
Elon University  
École supérieur des arts et techniques de la mode (ESMOD), France  
Georgetown University  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
Johns Hopkins University (2)  
Lehigh University  
Loyola Marymount University  
McGill University  
Middlebury College  
New York University (2)  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Oberlin College  
Occidental College (2)  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Santa Clara University  
Stanford University (2)  
The American International University in London  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Chicago (3)  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Richmond  
University of Southern California (3)  
University of St Andrews, Scotland  
University of Washington  
Wake Forest University (3)  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wesleyan University  
Yale University (2)

Recent Enrollment History, 2016-2020

Over the last five years, Thacher has sent four or more students to the following institutions:

- Colorado College: 17  
- Dartmouth College: 11  
- University of Southern California: 11  
- Stanford University: 9  
- Yale University: 9  
- Claremont McKenna College: 8  
- Duke University: 8  
- Harvard University: 8  
- Occidental College: 8  
- University of Chicago: 8  
- Northwestern University: 7  
- Scripps College: 7  
- Cornell University: 6  
- Santa Clara University: 6  
- Tufts University: 6  
- Wesleyan University: 6  
- Columbia University: 5  
- Georgetown University: 5  
- McGill University: 5  
- Pomona College: 5  
- Barnard College: 4  
- Brown University: 4  
- Colgate University: 4  
- University of Pennsylvania: 4  
- University of Richmond: 4  
- University of Virginia: 4  
- Tulane University: 4

Named an Exemplary School by the US Department of Education, Thacher is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and holds memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), The National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC), Association of College Counselors of Independent Schools (ACCIS), and the Cum Laude Society.