

# The Cambridge School 2023-2024 Profile

12855 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129 | 858.484.3488 | cambridgeclassical.org



## The Cambridge School is pleased to announce its seventh graduating class — the Class of 2024!

The Cambridge School is a K-12 school in the classical, Christian tradition, and a model school within our peer association, serving 392 culturally and socio-economically diverse students in North County San Diego. We began in 2006 with nine students in kindergarten and first grade. By adding one new grade each year, we are now an established institution that uniquely combines classical education principles with a Christian worldview.

**CEEB Code: 054785**

### Administration

Jean Chung Kim  
Founder and Head of School

Dr. Melissa Gingrich  
Upper School Principal

### College Counselor

Becky Priest  
bpriest@cambridgeclassical.org

### Accredited by WASC

Members of SCL, NACAC,  
WACAC

### Test Scores

(Among the highest in our county)

CLT Mean: 106  
SAT Mean: 1470  
ACT Mean: 34

### Admission

Our selective admissions process (50% acceptance rate) is based on the candidate's academic record, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, pre-admission assessments, and student/family interviews.

The classical curriculum is carefully sequenced and begins in 7th grade. Therefore, **no new students are admitted after 9th grade.**

33% of families receive tuition assistance.

More than 50% of our parent population have advanced degrees.

## MISSION STATEMENT

### Think Well, Love Rightly, Live Wisely™

The Cambridge School seeks to provide a distinctly Christian education in the classical tradition which equips students to know, love, and practice that which is true, good, and beautiful and thus prepares them to live purposefully and intelligently in service of God and neighbor.

## CURRICULAR & PEDAGOGICAL DISTINCTIVES:

- **All students complete the SAME REQUIRED CORE of ALL-HONORS classes through all of high school**, with no elective choice in the core subjects, and with intentional, cross-disciplinary integration.
- **Students are required to carry a 7-credit (9 class) load each year** which includes the standard five disciplines (English, History, Science, Math, Foreign Language) plus half-credit classes in Rhetoric and Christian Studies, plus two half-credit elective classes. Required Art and Competitive Debate fulfill 9th grade electives.
- **All students are required to complete a year-long senior thesis** which includes a 10-15 page written research paper and a 30-minute oral presentation and defense.
- Students are required to **complete Latin to Level IV** (in 10th grade) so that they are translating Vergil and other classical authors with ease.
- All humanities courses include **extensive primary source reading**, Socratic discussion, critical analysis, Toulmin argumentation, oral and written exams (never scanned), frequent 5-page essays, and class presentations.
- **All students are required to take math through Calculus and the following science courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Neuroscience**, all of which focus on careful scientific argumentation in lab reports, frequent presentation and writing opportunities, and historical context for scientific and mathematical ideas.
- With **an academic course load that is quantitatively and qualitatively heavier than most schools for all four years**, students must develop perseverance and excellent time management skills to fulfill their academic and co-curricular responsibilities.

**Note: We intentionally do not offer many AP courses**, with none in the Humanities, because our History, Rhetoric, and Literature classes are carefully integrated in our set curriculum, reading Great Books and primary sources. The rigor of our honors curriculum (defined as cognitive complexity and student autonomy) is confirmed by college professors in our community, at the colleges attended by alumni, and by our students' strong performance on AP exams in spite of not taking the corresponding AP class. **All of our honors classes have been recognized as honors by the University of California system.**

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## National Merit Recognition

3 Semi-Finalists  
4 Commended Scholars  
1 CB Hispanic Recognition Award

## Class Size: 19

100% of the class is four-year college-bound.

## Class Rank and GPA

Highest possible 9-12th weighted GPA is 4.83 on a 4.0 scale.  
*With only 19 students in the class, GPA distribution nor class rank are provided.*

## Three AP Classes Offered

Biology: 10th-12th Grade  
Calculus AB: 11th Grade  
Chemistry: 11th Grade  
*AP class participation only with teacher approval.*

## Accomplished Faculty

90% of our teachers hold a Masters or PhD in the discipline they teach.

## Graduation Requirements

Humanities: 10 credits  
*Rhetoric, Literature, History, Senior Thesis*

Math: 3 credits  
*Including Calculus*

Science: 3 credits  
*Including Chemistry, Biology*

Latin: 2 credits

Christian Studies: 2 credits

Fine Arts: .5 credit

Athletics: .5 credit  
*Two sports seasons*

Electives: 1 credit (.5/year)

**Total Minimum: 25 credits**

## CLASS OF 2024 CURRICULAR CHOICES: (See chart on fourth page)

- For 11th grade math, students had a choice between AP Calculus AB or regular Calculus AB. For 11th grade science, students had a choice between Honors Physics or Physics.
- For 12th grade math, students could choose between Statistics, Honors Statistics, or Honors Statistics with Advanced Calculus Principles (preparing them for optional AP exams for Statistics and/or Calc BC.)
- In 11th grade, after completing 4 years of Latin, students choose to continue the next two years either with another language (Honors Greek I/II & III) or additional science (AP Chemistry in 11th and Honors Computer Science: Principles & Practice in 12th.)
- Class was given one general elective choice in 10th-12th grades, and one fine arts elective choice in 11th-12th grades.

## CO-CURRICULAR DISTINCTIVES:

- Required Athletics participation.** Two seasons of interscholastic competitive, team athletics (CA CIF) for Physical Education credit.
- Required Debate Team participation.** All students participate in competitive Public Forum Debate with a choice to continue as an elective after the first year.
- Required participation in the House Program.** Our House Program intentionally fosters community across 7th-12th grades. House life encompasses all aspects of student culture with entirely student-led weekly assemblies, retreats, service days, academic and athletic competitions, and social events.
- Our **House Leadership Program** allows students to focus on administrative and strategic planning skills, creating healthy culture and teams, and mentoring and nurturing relationships across grades.
- For our students who are **House Leaders**, weekly responsibilities rise above 15 hours per week, making participation in outside ECs more difficult.
- Few organized clubs exist** through the school. All class members have heavily and selflessly volunteered and served as student ambassadors who were critical to the growth of our young school.

## GRADE INFLATION:

Grade inflation is minimized because of evaluation through the Apprentice/Journeyman/Master rubric, translated to letter grades for purposes of transcript. If an A is reported, it means the student has done more than turn in assignments. It means they have mastered the material and expressed it well, both orally and in writing.

## OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**August-January 2021:** Because of state mandates on physical spacing, our students alternated attendance between one week fully on-campus with our regular block schedule, and a one-week, on-line, synchronous schedule. Our seven core discipline areas continued to be taught under our regular, all-Honors curriculum.

**February-June 2021:** We returned to 100% on-campus instruction.

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## The Cambridge School Grading Scale

Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Numerical Grade (Percentile)
A+	98-100
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
F	0-69

Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Unweighted Value (Regular Course)
A+	4.00
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
F	0.00**

\*\* Please note that anything below a C- is considered failing. There are no Ds.

AP and Honors courses are weighted by one point.

(+) Denotes UC Regents and Chancellors Scholarship/UC Honors College

(^) Denotes significant Merit Scholarship or Honors College

## 77 Alumni with 100% College Matriculation and 100% College Graduation

**68%**

Percentage of alumni who are attending college out of state

**30%**

Percentage of alumni who received full-tuition merit or college's top merit scholarship

**34%**

Percentage of alumni who are part of an Honors College/Program

### Colleges of Attendance for 2018-2023

Arizona State University Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College ^ Baylor University, Honors College ^ (5) Belmont University, Honors College ^ Biola University, Torrey Honors College ^ (3) Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (2) CSU, Long Beach Calvin University ^ Chapman University ^ Claremont McKenna College College of William & Mary ^ Colorado State University, Fort Collins DePaul University, Theater School ^ George Washington University ^ Georgetown University Gordon College, Global Honors Program ^ (4)	Grand Canyon University, Honors College ^ Grove City College ^ (3) Hillsdale College ^ (6) Johns Hopkins University Kansas State University ^ (2) Lehigh University Loyola University, Chicago ^ (2) Northern Arizona University, Honors Program ^ Patrick Henry College ^ Pitzer College ^ Princeton University San Diego State University, Weber Honors College ^ St. John's College, Annapolis ^ Stanford University (2) Texas Christian University, Honors Program	US Coast Guard Academy University of Arizona, Honors Program ^ UC Berkeley+ ^ (4) UC Los Angeles (5) UC San Diego+ ^ UC Santa Barbara UC Santa Cruz ^ University of Chicago University of Notre Dame University of Portland ^ University of Puget Sound ^ University of Richmond ^ University of Tulsa ^ University of Utah Wesleyan University Westmont College, Augustinian Scholars Program ^ (2) Whitworth University ^ (2)
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### Colleges of Acceptance for 2018-2023

Amherst College Boise State University Boston College Brown University California Baptist University ^ CSU, Fullerton CSU, San Marcos Carnegie Mellon University ^ Case Western Reserve University ^ College of Wooster ^ Colorado School of Mines Concordia University, Irvine ^ Cornell University Davidson College Duke University Emory University Fordham University ^ George Fox University ^ George Mason University Georgia Institute of Technology Gonzaga University ^ Grinnell College Hope College ^ Kenyon College ^ Lafayette College LeTourneau University ^ Loyola Marymount University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Messiah University	Miami University Ohio, Honors College ^ Montana State University ^ Northwestern University Oregon State University Pepperdine University Point Loma Nazarene University ^ Pratt Institute Reed College Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ^ Rhodes College ^ Rice University ^ Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology ^ Samford University ^ Santa Clara University School of the Art Institute of Chicago Scripps College Seattle Pacific University Seattle University Southern Methodist University ^ St. John's College St. John's University, NYC ^ St. Mary's College of California ^ St. Olaf College ^ Steven's Institute of Technology ^ Swarthmore College Union College ^ US Military Academy at West Point UC Davis	UC Irvine+ ^ UC Merced ^ UC Riverside+ University of Colorado, Boulder University of Dallas Univ of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign University of MD, College Park University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Honors College ^ University of Michigan University of MN, Twin Cities University of MO, Columbia ^ University of New Mexico ^ University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh ^ University of Southern California University of Texas, Austin, Honors College ^ University of Washington University of Wisconsin, Madison Vanderbilt University Vassar College Villanova University Washington & Lee University Washington University in St. Louis Wheaton College ^ Williams College Worcester Polytechnic Institute ^ Yale University
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## UPPER SCHOOL REQUIRED COURSES

	Humanities (Lit & History)	Christian Studies	Liberal Arts (English)	Math	Science	Foreign Language	Fine Arts/ Electives
<b>9th</b>	<i>Honors Medieval (European and Arabic)</i>	<i>Honors Systematic Theology</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric I: Speaking and Writing Rhetorically (Informal &amp; Formal Logic, 7th/8th)</i>	<i>Honors Algebra II (Geometry, 8th)</i>	<i>AP Biology or Biology</i>	<i>Honors Latin III (Latin I and II, 7th/8th)</i>	<b>Required for 9th:</b> <i>Novice Debate</i> <i>Visual Art I</i>
<b>10th</b>	<i>Honors Modern European</i>	<i>Honors Church History</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric II: Rhetoric in History</i>	<i>Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry</i>	<i>Honors Chemistry</i> <b>AP Biology as a 10th-12th elective option</b>	<i>Honors Latin IV (final year of required language)</i>	<b>10th-12th Main Elective Options:</b> (Graded) <i>Adv. Latin Reading</i> <i>AP Biology</i> <i>House Leadership (by application)</i> <i>JV or Varsity Debate</i> <i>Visual Art II, III, IV</i>
<b>11th</b>	<i>Honors American</i>	<i>Honors Apologetics</i>	<i>Honors Rhetoric III: Contemporary Rhetoric</i>	<i>AP Calculus AB or Calculus AB</i>	<i>Honors Physics or Physics (all)</i>	<b>AP Chemistry or Honors Greek I/II or Late Start</b>	<b>10th-12th Fine Arts Elective Options:</b> (Pass/Fail) <i>Choral Music</i> <i>Creative Writing</i> <i>Latin Poetry &amp; Prose</i> <i>Photography I, II, III</i> <i>Mixed Media Art</i> <i>Speech</i> <i>Tutoring Outreach</i>
<b>12th</b>	<i>Honors World Literature; Economics; Government</i>	<i>Honors Ethics and Aesthetics</i>	<i>Honors Senior Thesis</i>	<i>Honors Statistics and Advanced Calculus Principles, or Honors Statistics, or Statistics</i>	<i>Honors Neuroscience Seminar (all)</i>	<b>Honors Computer Science: Principles and Practice or Honors Greek III or Late Start</b>	
<b>Required Credits</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## SELECTIONS FROM GRADE LEVEL READING LISTS

### Ninth Grade

*Systematic Theology* by Louis Berkhof  
*Confessions* by St. Augustine  
*The Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius  
*Inferno* by Dante Alighieri  
*Institutes of the Christian Religion* by John Calvin  
*Pilgrim Theology* by Michael Horton  
 Letters by Charles the Great  
 Feudal Documents  
 Song of Roland  
 Magna Carta  
*Crusaders* by Dan Jones  
*Reformations* by Carlos Eire  
*Summa Theologica* by St. Thomas Aquinas  
*The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli  
*Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student* by Edward Corbett and Robert Conners  
*Aeneid* by Virgil  
*Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin

### Tenth Grade

*The Church History* by Eusebius  
*The Existence of God* by Descartes  
*Proofs for the Existence of God* by Blaise Pascal  
*Hamlet, Macbeth* by Shakespeare  
*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift  
*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville  
*Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson  
*Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Paradise Lost* by John Milton  
*Complete Poems and Selected Letters of John Keats* by John Keats  
*Two Treatises of Government* by John Locke  
*On the Social Contract* by Rousseau  
*The Communist Manifesto* by Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx  
 "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina" by Galileo Galilei  
*French Revolution* by Ian Davidson  
*Pursuit of Power* by Richard Evans

### Eleventh Grade

*Christian Apologetics* by Cornelius Van Til  
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller  
*Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe  
*A Rhetoric of Motives* by Kenneth Burke  
*The Landmark Thucydides* by Thucydides  
*Pro Archia Poeta Oratio* by M. Tullius Cicero  
*Metamorphoses* by P. Ovidius Naso  
 Selections from "Principia Mathematica" by Isaac Newton  
 "On the electrodynamics of moving bodies" by Albert Einstein  
*Presidents of Power* by Michael Beschloss  
*American Dreams* by H. W. Brands

### Twelfth Grade

*The Federalist Papers* (selections) by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay  
 The Articles of Confederation  
 US Constitution & Amendments  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
 1984 by George Orwell  
*The Stranger* by Albert Camus  
*Notes from Underground* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy  
*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi  
*The Company We Keep: An Ethics of Fiction* by Wayne C. Booth  
*A Simple Heart* by Gustave Flaubert  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce  
*My Life with Autism* by Temple Grandin and Oliver Sacks  
 Senior Thesis Writing Documents