

T H E C A S E F O R A N  
**I N D E P E N D E N T**  
**C U R R I C U L U M**

**Contemporary brain science has a clear bottom line: Education should begin with a focus on students rather than on tests.**

**Students retain more knowledge, probe more deeply, and have more motivation when they are active creators rather than passive recipients of information.**

**What are the goals of an independent curriculum at Castilleja?**

- To focus on depth rather than breadth without compromising rigor
- To offer more project-based courses
- To offer more truly interdisciplinary courses
- To infuse our curriculum with courses that also address Environmental Sustainability, Equity and Social Justice, Globalization, Leadership and Communication, and Research and Technology Skills
- To distinguish a Castilleja education from other schools, both public and private, that offer the AP curriculum
- To expose our students to a way of thinking that allows them to create new knowledge and make connections across disciplines, not simply gather information or memorize facts
- To further support and engage our students in valuing and pursuing a lifetime of learning
- To align the curricular and co-curricular offerings of the school with our Strategic Plan, “Defining Educational Excellence for Girls in the 21st Century,” and with our mission, which states:

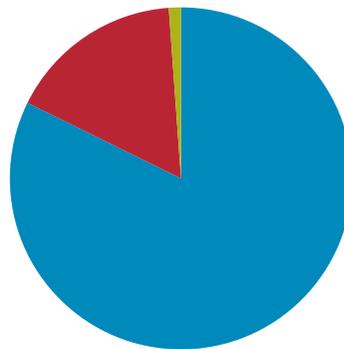
*Castilleja School inspires a quest for knowledge and learning that lasts a lifetime. To prepare our students for the wider world, we infuse our challenging college preparatory curriculum with a global program that fosters awareness, compassion, and engagement with issues beyond Castilleja. Our comprehensive academic program and extensive co-curricular offerings develop in each student the self-confidence to reach her full potential. Above all, our faculty and staff dedicate themselves to excellence in educating young women and in cultivating young leaders.*

In January 2011, Castilleja surveyed Deans and Directors of Admission at colleges and universities in the U.S.; 175 completed the survey (32% response rate)

**82% of respondents supported this statement**

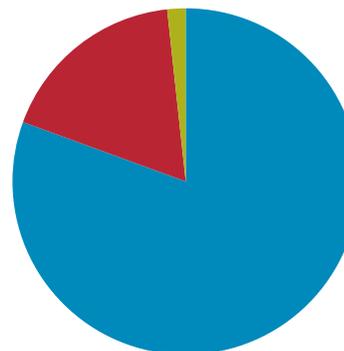
"I support Castilleja's decision to review its curricular offerings and replace its AP curriculum with rigorous college-level courses designed by Castilleja faculty. Such curricular changes in and of themselves would not jeopardize a Castilleja student's competitiveness for admission to my institution."

Would replacing our current AP curriculum with an independent curriculum that offers college prep, honors, and advanced level courses negatively affect our students' chances for admission to your college?



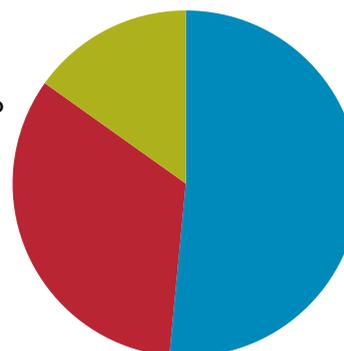
■ No (82%)  
■ Perhaps (17%)  
■ Yes (1%)

Would offering an independent curriculum pose any problems for you/your staff in evaluating our applicants' transcripts or determining their preparedness for study at your institution?



■ No (81%)  
■ Perhaps (18%)  
■ Yes (1%)

How well do you know Castilleja School?



■ Well/Very Well  
■ Somewhat  
■ Not at All