Our School

HISTORY AND VALUES
Founded in 1907 by educator Mary Lockey, Castilleja is the only non-sectarian all-girls middle and high school in the San Francisco Bay Area. Located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 15 miles north of San Jose, it is both geographically and philosophically at the heart of Silicon Valley, the seat of innovation and entrepreneurship.

More than 100 years since its founding, Castilleja remains true to Miss Lockey's mission to give each young woman an “educated heart.” The school's core values, known to Castilleja students and graduates as “the 5Cs,” also remain the same: conscience, courtesy, character, courage, and charity. Castilleja's educational approach is shaped both by tradition and current research that affirm the personal and intellectual advantages of all-girls education. While emphasis is on the development of the intellect, Castilleja is just as committed to the education of the whole person and to developing compassionate and contributing leaders.

We value a curriculum that blends traditional teaching with thoughtful innovation, and we applaud both individual accomplishment and successful collaboration. We expect students to master information, use technology effectively, and develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that will support life-long learning and accomplishment.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Each member of the Castilleja community is responsible for fostering an equitable, respectful, and just community. Together, we commit to learning from diverse voices and experiences, and we aspire to engage our differences with courage, honesty, intellectual curiosity and respect. We believe this commitment to diversity and inclusion is essential to developing compassionate leaders.

AFFILIATIONS
Castilleja is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of the California Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Coalition of Girls Schools, the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, One Schoolhouse, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the Western Association for College Admission Counseling, and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, and is a partner and summer site for the Peninsula Bridge Program.

Our Mission

Castilleja School educates motivated young women to become confident thinkers and compassionate leaders with a sense of purpose to effect change in the world.

Our Students

Castilleja's student body reflects the region's ethnic and economic diversity, with some 58% of its students identifying as students of color and 22% of its students receiving financial assistance.

Castilleja fosters leadership in the classroom and in a wide assortment of cocurricular offerings, including team sports, clubs, community engagement projects, student government, dramatic and musical performances, peer tutoring and advising, art and science exhibits, teaching assistantships, global leadership programs, and internships within the larger community. We recognize each student’s individuality and help her to excel in her unique interests.

In the past three years, our student-athletes have been recruited to play at the following NCAA college programs: Bowdoin, Brown, Bucknell, Connecticut College, Grinnell, Occidental, Pomona College, Princeton, Rice, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, Wellesley, and Williams.

Our students in creative writing, performing and visual arts, robotics, and research science have been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for their endeavors, both individually and as ensembles and teams. Our student leaders engaged with issues of diversity, human rights, environmental awareness, the world economy, and developing countries, and they have been nominated for and awarded meritorious distinction for their accomplishments and service.

Our Faculty

The Castilleja faculty is dedicated to the philosophy of educating young women for a lifetime of learning and leading. Our teachers are enthusiastic educators who care deeply for the individual student and who encourage and inspire their students to discover the joy in learning. Some 80% of our faculty hold advanced degrees from colleges and universities throughout the world and have been recognized by local, state, and national organizations for their contributions to student learning and thought.
Facts and Figures

Upper School enrollment (9-12): 243
Middle School enrollment (6-8): 187
Student-to-faculty ratio: 7:1
Average class size in the Upper School: 14
Students in the Class of 2020: 60
Median unweighted GPA after 6 semesters: 3.78
Median weighted GPA after 6 semesters: 3.93
% of students enrolling in 4-year colleges: 99%
% of students on a gap year: 6%
In May 2019, 115 students took 276 AP exams:
Scores of 4 or 5: 80%
Scores of 3 and above: 96%

Test Scores for the Classes of 2017–2019
( ACT takers = 111; SAT takers = 109; best test results used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>MIDDLE 50%</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Composite</td>
<td>31-34</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT EBRW</td>
<td>690-760</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Math</td>
<td>680-770</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Rank and Grades
We do not rank our students. GPAs include grades 9-12; we do not give academic credit or grades for cocurricular pursuits or courses taken outside of Castilleja. Advanced Placement® and Advanced Topics courses are given an extra point in the weighted GPA. Students with an unweighted GPA of less than 2.5 are placed on academic probation. Castilleja is on a semester system; quarter grades are not given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE SYSTEM AND GPA EQUIVALENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honor Code
The Castilleja Honor Code and Acceptable Use Policies, developed and written primarily by our students, speak to the promotion of trust and respect by and for all members of our community, both in terms of academics and personal conduct. Violations of either code may be reviewed by the Student Advisory Board or a select administrative committee. The Head of School has final authority in all disciplinary matters. It is Castilleja’s policy to be forthcoming when asked by a college about major disciplinary action. When requested, Castilleja will report to colleges any incidents in grades 9-12 that result in probation, suspension, or expulsion.
# Upper School Course Offerings

- **new courses in italics**
- *not offered in 2018-19*  
- # not offered in 2019-20  
- + single semester course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>COURSE OFFERINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Computer Science and Engineering**  
1 semester required  
(Class of 2023 & beyond) | Artificial Intelligence: Technology Shaping your Future  
Introduction to Computer Science in Java  
Computer Science: Programming Graphics and Visualizations  
* #  
Engineering I: The Design and Science of Everyday Things  
Engineering II: Electro-Mechanical Systems Design  
Advanced Topics Courses:  
Object-Oriented Problem Solving & Design in Java  
Software Product Development  |
| **English** | English I  
English II  
AP English Language  
* #  
AP English Literature Seminars:  
African-American Women Writers  
Literature of Immigration  
Poetry  
Shakespeare  
Short Fiction  |
| **Fitness and Wellness**  
2 years required (gr. 9-10) | Fitness and Wellness I  
Fitness and Wellness II  |
| **History–Social Science**  
3 years required  
Cultures and Civilizations (gr. 9)  
The Individual and Society (gr. 10)  
The American Political System (gr. 10)  
US History (gr. 11)  
Junior and Senior Electives:  
Asian American Studies  
Economics  
* #  
Junior and Senior Electives (cont.):  
International Relations  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Introduction to Psychology  
Latin American History  
Macroeconomics: Models for the Future  
Modern World Religions  
The Science and Politics of Gender  
AP History Course:  
US History  
Advanced Topics Courses:  
Art History  
European History  
Research and Writing  |
| **Mathematics**  
3 years required  
Algebra II (gr. 9)  
Geometry (gr. 10)  
One additional year | Algebra II and Trigonometry  
Algebra II and Trigonometry Honors  
Euclidean and Analytic Geometry  
Euclidean and Analytic Geometry Honors  
Descriptive Statistics & Data Analysis  
Introductory Calculus AB  
Introductory Calculus BC Honors  
AP Math Courses:  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Statistics  |
| **Science**  
3 years required  
Physics (gr. 9)  
Chemistry (gr. 10)  
Biology (gr. 11) | Physics  
Chemistry  
Chemistry Honors  
Biology  
Biology Honors  
Junior and Senior Electives:  
Biotechnology & Bioethics  
Global Climate Change  
Advanced Topics Courses:  
Biology: Genes, Development and Evolution  
Chemistry: Equilibrium, Kinetics, and Thermodynamics  
Physics: Modern Mechanics  |
| **Visual and Performing Arts**  
2 years required  
Core Arts (gr. 9)  
One year of a single arts discipline | Core Arts  
Dance:  
Dance Production Workshop I  
and II  
Advanced Dance Production Workshop  
Music:  
Vocal Music Workshop I  
and II  
Advanced Vocal Music Workshop  
Songwriting & Music Production Workshop  
* #  
Theatre Arts:  
Theatre I  
and II  
The Actor and The Director  
Visual Arts:  
Ceramic Design I  
and II  
Drawing & Painting I  
and II  
Photography I  
and II  
Advanced Visual Art  
AP Art Course:  
Studio Art  
Advanced Topics Courses:  
Theory and Musicianship  |
| **World Languages**  
Through level III  
(Classes taken in grades 7 and 8 may help meet the requirement) | Chinese II  
Chinese III  
Chinese IV  
French IB  
French II  
French III  
French IV  
Spanish I  
Spanish II  
Spanish III  
Spanish IV  
AP Language Courses:  
French Language  
Spanish Language  
Spanish Literature  
Advanced Topics Courses:  
Chinese Language and Literature  
Chinese Seminar  
French Seminar  
Spanish Seminar  |
| **Additional Requirements** | Presentation of Senior Talk (12)  
Global Leadership Program (9-12)  
Community Leadership Program (9-12) |
Enhanced Learning Opportunities

**Bourn Idea Lab**, the first FabLab®School established in a U.S. school and in collaboration with Stanford University, is a workshop equipped with traditional and digital fabrication tools to design and build projects that enhance individual and collaborative learning across the curriculum.

**Exploring Science Research Modules** emphasize critical thinking, data analysis, collecting and processing evidence, and computer programming. Participation can provide a springboard for students who wish to do independent research or pursue research-based internships outside Castilleja. Taught by Castilleja and visiting faculty, recent topics have included: Machine Learning, Astrophysics, Nanotechnology, Particle Physics, and Pharmaceutical Science.

**ACE Center** promotes Awareness, Compassion, and Engagement to foster women leaders through experiential learning. Leadership programming is designed and assessed using Castilleja’s signature leadership matrix which focuses on the development of initiative, agility, and purpose. Leadership is learned and practiced through grade-level programming, student-led initiatives, internships, and volunteering opportunities.

**Community Leadership Programming** connects Castilleja students with local organizations to support the guiding principle of reciprocal learning and partnership; the goal is community action that is authentic, sustainable, and develops a life-long commitment to community building. Local partners include Ada’s Cafe, Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Rosener House, Peninsula Bridge, and Girls Learn International.

**Global Leadership Programming** introduces students to the concepts of cultural relativism and the impact of globalization through the themes of girls’ education, immigration and minority rights, environmental stewardship, women in STEM, and social entrepreneurship. All Castilleja students travel internationally and collaborate on project-based learning opportunities with a global partner during their Junior year. Partners include Kisoruni Girls School (Kenya), Shanghai Girls School #3 (China), Roshni Academy (India), Mariposa DR Foundation (Dominican Republic), and ImagiNationAfrika (Senegal).

**Global Week** engages the entire school in a deep exploration of issues affecting the larger global community. Past themes have included Artificial Intelligence, Human Migration, Climate Change, Artists with a Cause, and Equity in Education.

---

**Colleges Offering Admission to the Class of 2019**

(Bold type indicates matriculation by at least one student.)

- Agnes Scott College
- American University
- Arizona State University
- Bates College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU San Bernardino
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Chapman University
- Claremont McKenna College
- Clark University
- Colby College
- Colgate University
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth College
- DePaul University
- Dickinson College
- Drew University
- Duke University
- Eckerd College
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Grinnell College
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University
- Haverford College
- Howard University
- Indiana University, Bloomington
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kenyon College
- King’s College London
- Lafayette College
- Lawrence University
- Lehigh University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Long Island University, Post
- Loyola Marymount University
- Macalester College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- McGill University
- Mount Holyoke College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Oberlin College
- Occidental College
- Oklahoma City University
- Pace University
- Pomona College
- Princeton University
- Providence College
- Purdue University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rice University
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
- Santa Clara University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Southern Methodist University
- Spelman College
- St. Olaf College
- Stanford University
- Syracuse University
- Texas State University
- University of Alabama
- University of Texas, Austin
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Merced
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Denver
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Rochester
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California
- University of St Andrews
- University of the Pacific
- University of Toronto
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
- Vanderbilt University
- Vassar College
- Washington State University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- Westminster College
- Whitman College
- Williams College
- Yale University