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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%

Advanced Curriculum

Castilleja has developed its own Advanced Topics (AT) courses in most subjects that either replace or go beyond the Advanced Placement® (AP®) curriculum. First taught in the 2012-13 academic year, AT courses were developed after significant research into how teen brains develop, how adolescent girls learn best, what college faculty expect entering students to know, and what skills are essential for success in upper-level college courses.

Course Load Balance

Given the rigorous demands of the Castilleja curriculum we strongly encourage students to take no more than five core academic courses each semester. Students may be limited in their selection of courses due to scheduling conflicts and the enrollment limitations of a small school.

AT and AP® courses in any academic discipline are our most rigorous courses and are generally only available to juniors and seniors. We strongly recommend that students limit themselves to no more than four AP® and/or AT courses per semester. Note: All Castilleja students enroll in AP English Language (gr. 11) and AP English Literature (gr. 12).

Test Scores for the Classes of 2017-2019

(ACT takers = 111; SAT takers = 109; best test results used)

TEST	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
ACT Composite	31-34	32
SAT EBRW	690-760	720
SAT Math	680-770	720

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.

GRADING SYSTEM AND GPA EQUIVALENTS		
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D/F	< 70	1.33-0.0

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

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS	COURSE OFFERINGS		
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 + <i>Engineering II: Electro-Mechanical Systems Design</i> * +	Advanced Topics Courses: Object-Oriented Problem Solving & Design in Java # + Software Product Development *
English 4 years required English I (gr. 9) English II (gr. 10) AP English Language (gr. 11) Two semesters of AP English Literature seminars (gr. 12)	English I English II AP English Language	AP English Literature Seminars: African-American Women Writers + <i>Literature of Immigration</i> + 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)	Cultures and Civilizations The Individual and Society + The American Political System + US History Honors Junior and Senior Electives: <i>Asian American Studies</i> * + Economics # +	Junior and Senior Electives (cont.): International Relations + Introduction to Philosophy # + Introduction to Psychology + <i>Latin American History</i> * + <i>Macroeconomics: Models for the Future</i> * + <i>Modern World Religions</i> * + The Science and Politics of Gender # +	AP History Course: US History Advanced Topics Courses: <i>Art History</i> * + 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 + <i>Songwriting & Music Production Workshop</i> * +	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 Course: 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 <i>Spanish Seminar</i> *
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 *Kisaruni 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