

FACTS AND FIGURES

Upper School enrollment (9-12):	238
Average class size:	14
% students enrolling in 4-year college:	97%
% of students who choose a gap year:	16%
Students in the Class of 2023:	63
Median unweighted 6-semester GPA:	3.93
Median weighted 6-semester GPA:	4.09
In May 2022, 86 students took 143 AP exams:	
Scores of 4 or 5:	78%
Scores of 3 and above:	96%

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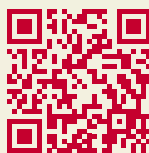
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052-330

Castilleja School

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Our Learning Community

OUR PROGRAM

Castilleja was founded in 1907 to equalize educational opportunities for women, and that work continues today as we seek to amplify women's voices and inspire our middle and high school students to become leaders who will effect meaningful and necessary change. To pursue our motto—**Women Learning. Women Leading**—we rely on the most current research regarding the critical advantages of deep-dive, interdisciplinary learning.

OUR STUDENTS

The student body reflects the region's ethnic and economic diversity, with **65% of students identifying as students of color and 20% of students receiving tuition assistance**. Our students learn deeply, strengthen their voices, and make empowering choices through interdisciplinary problem-solving and real world engagement. Students engage with issues of diversity, antiracism, human rights, and environmental awareness, and they demonstrate intellectual excellence in creative writing, mathematics, performing and visual arts, robotics, and research science for which they are nominated and awarded distinctions for their accomplishments and service. In the past three years, our student-athletes have been recruited to play at the following NCAA college programs: Brown, Bowdoin, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, NYU, Pomona, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.

OUR FACULTY

Relationships are at the heart of Castilleja. Our talented faculty members build meaningful and lasting connections with their students while also challenging them to develop their own voices and pursue their passions. **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.

Our Mission, Values, and Affiliations

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.

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.

HONOR CODE AND REPORTING POLICY

The Castilleja Honor Code and Acceptable Use Policies speak to the promotion of trust and respect by and for all members of our community, both in terms of academics and personal conduct. When requested, Castilleja will report to colleges any incidents in grades 9-12 that result in probation, suspension, or expulsion.

AFFILIATIONS

Castilleja is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of One Schoolhouse, the International Coalition of Girls' Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, 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.

COVID-19 Castilleja began distance learning in March 2020, began hybrid learning in January 2021, and re-opened fully in May 2021. We did not make significant changes to our calendar, grading system, course offerings, or academic requirements during that period. Please note: SAT test centers remain mainly unavailable in the Bay Area as of Fall 2022. Castilleja enthusiastically supports students who choose to opt out of ACT/SAT testing.

Upper School Curriculum

Advanced Curriculum

First taught in the 2012–13 academic year, Advanced Topics (AT) courses are designed by Castilleja faculty and grounded in research into 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. AT courses replace a traditional AP curriculum, exploring topics in greater depth and emphasizing experiential learning. AT courses in any academic discipline are our most rigorous courses and are generally only available to juniors and seniors.

Course Load Balance

We strongly recommend that students limit themselves to no more than four AT courses and no more than five core academic courses per semester. Students may be limited in their selection of courses due to scheduling conflicts and the enrollment limitations of a small school.

AP Exams

While Castilleja does not teach an AP curriculum, we recognize that in certain cases AP scores can provide value to students in college. When a Castilleja AT course prepares students for a specific AP exam, any student enrolled in that AT course will have the option to sit for that AP exam at Castilleja.

Castilleja offers the following AP exams:

Art: 2-D Art & Design or Drawing, Chinese Language & Culture, Computer Science A (not offered 21-22), *English Language, English Literature, French Language & Culture, Calculus: AB or BC, Statistics, Music Theory, Spanish Language & Culture*

Class Rank and Grading System

Students are not ranked. In the Upper School, GPAs include grades 9-12; plus and minus grades are weighted (e.g. B+=3.33, A-=3.67); AT courses are given an extra point in the weighted GPA. We do not give academic credit or grades for cocurricular pursuits or courses taken outside of Castilleja. 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.

Students may enroll in a limited number of courses through One Schoolhouse, these courses are included on the Castilleja transcript and in the GPA.

Course Offerings

LEGEND:

required courses

not offered in 2022–23

* not offered in 2021–22

+ single semester course

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

(1 sem required)

Introduction to Computer Science in Java +
Artificial Intelligence Honors # +
Engineering I +
Engineering II +

AT Computer Science:

Object-Oriented Problem Solving & Design
in Java * +
Software Product Development +

AT Engineering:

Product Development +

ENGLISH

(4 years required)

English I

English II

AT English:

American Voices
African American Women Writers * +
Autobiography & Memoir +
Literature of Immigration +
Poetry * +
Shakespeare * +

HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE

(3 years required)

Global Identities and Institutions
The Individual and Society +
U.S. Government +
Artificial Intelligence Honors # +
Gender & Sexuality Studies Honors +
International Relations Honors +
Latin American Studies Honors * +
Macroeconomics Honors # +

AT History-Social Science:

United States History
Art History +
Asian American Studies +
Psychology +
Research and Writing +

MATHEMATICS

(3 years required after Algebra I)

Algebra I
Algebra II and Trigonometry (Honors)
Euclidean and Analytic Geometry (Honors)
Introductory Calculus (Honors)

AT Math:

Calculus
Calculus with Infinite Series
Multivariable Calculus +
Statistics I + & II +

SCIENCE

(3 years required)

Physics
Chemistry (Honors)
Biology (Honors)
Astronomy * +
Biology & Economics of Cancer * +
Biotechnology & Bioethics +
Global Climate Change # +
Organic Chemistry +
AT Science:
Biology: Genes, Development and Evolution
Chemistry: Equilibrium, Kinetics,
and Thermodynamics
Physics: Modern Mechanics

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

(2 years required)

Exploration in the Arts +
Ceramic Design I + and II +
Dance Workshop I + & II +
(formerly Dance Production Workshop)
Drawing & Painting I + and II +
Photography I + and II +
Theatre I + & II +
Vocal Music Workshop I + & II +
Advanced Dance Workshop
(formerly Advanced Dance Production Workshop)
Advanced Theatre +
Advanced Visual Art +
Advanced Vocal Music Workshop +
AT:
Music: Theory and Musicianship
Theater: Production +
Art: Studio Art
Art History +

WORLD LANGUAGES

(Through Level III required)

Chinese IB, II, III, IV
French IB, II, III, IV
Spanish I, II, III, IV
AT:
Chinese Language and Culture
Chinese Seminar
French Language & Culture
French Seminar
Spanish Language & Culture
Spanish Seminar

FITNESS & WELLNESS

(2 years required)

Fitness and Wellness I
Fitness and Wellness II

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

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 students' development of initiative, agility, and purpose. Leadership is learned and practiced through classroom experiences, grade-level programming, student-led initiatives, internships, and volunteering opportunities.

ANTIRACIST LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING is a key component of fostering student leaders' initiative, agility, and purpose. Woven throughout the curricular and co-curricular experiences, students internalize key habits of mind that help them understand their positionality, listen to competing narratives, and sit with dissonance. Through affinity group experiences, Castilleja students find strength in their personal identifiers. Students actively interrogate their respective marginalization or dominance relative to specific contexts whether they are in class, on the sports field, on a stage, or leading a community engagement program.

BOURN IDEA LAB, the first *FabLab@School* established in a U.S. school and in collaboration with Stanford University, is a workshop space equipped with traditional and digital fabrication tools that empower girls to design and build projects geared to help them develop creative confidence and technical skills, enhancing individual and collaborative learning across the curriculum.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING connects Castilleja students with local organizations through community action programs that support the guiding principle of reciprocal learning and partnership. Students do not count hours, they deepen their awareness of a local need, cultivate a sense of compassion and understanding, and then create a plan for effective engagement to facilitate community action that is authentic, sustainable, and develops a life-long commitment to community building and social impact. A few of our local partners include *LifeMoves*, *Rosener House*, *Planned Parenthood*, *League of Women Voters*, and *Lucile Packard Children's Hospital*.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING explores first-hand the socio-political and economic complexities of globalization. The Global Investigator Program, an endowed travel opportunity, gives students the opportunity to collaborate with social change agents, educators, and students on the ground. Students collaborate in reciprocal project-based learning with partners including *Casa de la Mujer* (Bolivia), *Kampung Halaman Foundation* (Indonesia), *FENMUCARINAP* (Peru), and *Moving Arts Española* (New Mexico).

GLOBAL WEEK engages the entire school in a deep exploration of issues affecting the larger global community. The week is designed to examine a globally relevant topic through workshops, projects, and in-depth engagement with speakers. Past themes have included *Climate Justice & Indigenous Communities*; *Artificial Intelligence*; *Human Migration*; and *Equity in Education*. Global Week 2023's theme is *Inclusive Journalism: Moving Beyond the Headlines*.

Class of 2022 College Choices

We share this exciting and diverse list in order to celebrate the excellence of every college to which our students are admitted and choose to attend. All 50 members of the Class of 2022 will follow in the footsteps of Castilleja's previous classes to extraordinary educational experiences, whether in the fall of 2022 or after a gap year. (Bold type indicates matriculation by at least one student.)

American University
Amherst College
Babson College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Butler University
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Cal Poly, Pomona
California State University, East Bay
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Clemson University
Colby College
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Connecticut College
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Duke University
Emory University
Fordham University
George Washington University

Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Harvard University
Haverford College
Humboldt State University
Indiana University Bloomington
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
List College/Columbia University
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Miami University, Oxford
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
Occidental College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Reed College
Rice University

Rochester Institute of Technology
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
Sonoma State University
Southern Methodist University
St. John's College (NM)
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
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 Georgia

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Portland
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews
University of Texas, Austin
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Whitman College
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University