SCHOOL PROFILE 2018-19

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Besant Hill School of Happy Valley is a private, coeducational college preparatory boarding and day high school (grades 9-12, PG) located 85 miles northwest of Los Angeles, California. Our small student body, beautiful location, and dedicated faculty create a unique learning environment for each student to explore his or her passions within a supportive and diverse community. Besant Hill School of Happy Valley, formerly known as Happy Valley School, was established in 1946 on the principles of education envisioned by our illustrious founders, including Aldous Huxley, Rosalind Rajagopal, J. Krishnamurti, Dr. Guido Ferrando, and Dr. Annie Besant. Our educational philosophy is drawn from the vision of our founders, who believed that the environment which encourages the fullest development of student potential is one that affords the opportunity to explore creative as well as intellectual abilities.

Our new World as Our Classroom experience brings Besant Hill to the world and the world to Besant Hill and eliminates the disconnect between high school and the global community that students will enter after graduation. Students experience the world to Besant Hill and eliminates the disconnect between high school and the world. Students experience ePortfolio practice, hands-on learning outside of the classroom, and development of real world skills, preparing each student to be a successful citizen of the world.

BY THE NUMBERS

100 BOARDING & DAY STUDENTS

40% INTERNATIONAL • 60% DOMESTIC • 22 COUNTRIES • 10 STATES • 85% BOARDING • 15% DAY

4:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 10

22% STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

10% STUDENTS IDENTIFYING AS STUDENT OF COLOR

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

With nearly 30 offerings in music, performing arts, visual arts and digital arts, the arts at Besant Hill involve the whole person and affect the whole community.

SUSTAINABILITY

With an eight-acre farm and locally sourced food in the dining hall, student participation in energy saving competitions, trips to annual environmental conferences, ecological literacy is an integral part of the educational process.

ESL

While improving their written, verbal, and comprehension skills, English language learners form strong peer networks and increase their self-confidence.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Sequential and developmental, emphasizing community, team-work, self-challenge, and respect for the environment.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Actively engaging learners in progressive education models, students have the opportunity to travel regionally, nationally, and internationally.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

A comprehensive program that meets students at their academic level, taking into consideration their individual learning style. Students learn strategies they can apply in all of their classes to achieve academic success.

SENIOR CAPSTONE

Each spring, seniors work with a member of the faculty and in partnership with a professional mentor in his or her chosen field of exploration to create a two-week individualized project or internship.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Five weeks of dynamic programing in which students interact with peers from all around the world while mastering study skills, life lessons, and gain an appreciation for California. We offer a variety of courses in English as a Second Language, SAT Prep, and a hands-on STEM Program. The day is structured for academic courses in the morning, afternoon art classes, and multiple off-campus excursions.

GRADUATION AND RANKING

Besant Hill School complies with the UC system A-G graduation requirements. Besant Hill School holds high expectations, therefore, we do not rank our students. Our classes are graded on a standard letter scale of A through F, with pluses and minuses attached to grades A through D. Grades are not weighted in the calculation of a student’s GPA. Students do not receive credit for grades D or lower.

CLASS OF 2018 PROFILE

| CLASS SIZE | 21 |
| MEAN GPA | 3.6 |
| SAT ERW | 600 |
| SAT M | 630 |

OUR MISSION

The mission of Besant Hill School is the development of each individual’s intellectual and artistic abilities. Through awakening the spirit of inquiry, we encourage each student to pursue integrity and excellence. Our non-competitive community builds honesty, respect, compassion, and responsibility. Our goal is to develop a lifelong habit of learning as embodied in our school’s motto, Aun Aprendo—I am still learning.
Within a framework of Universal Design, teachers employ multiple best practices in the classroom including the Socratic Method, Mastery Teaching, and Cooperative Learning. We value and encourage creativity and a creative mindset in all classes, teaching how to think, not what to think. Academic classes, including art and physical education, are all valued equally in the pursuit of educating the whole person.

OUR GRADUATES WILL:
- Think critically and synthesize knowledge
- Honor their individual strengths and be resilient
- Engage in their creative and artistic passions
- Model global citizenship
- Embody the ideals of environmental activism

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VISIT US!
See what makes our small boarding school community so unique by visiting our website and/or arranging a campus tour. Appointments are available year-round.

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT
To make your appointment, please contact our Admissions Office at 805-646-4343 or email ADMISSIONS@BESANTHILL.ORG

ONLINE INQUIRIES & APPLICATIONS
Simple and secure online forms are always available on our website! WWW.BESANTHILL.ORG/ADMISSIONS