



BESANT HILL SCHOOL OF HAPPY VALLEY

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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, *Aún Aprendo*—I am still learning.

SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-20

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Besant Hill School of Happy Valley is a private, coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school (grades 9-12, PG). Besant Hill is an intentionally small school offering students an educational experience that cannot be replicated in larger institutions. Located on 520 beautiful acres in the Ojai Valley, just 85 miles northwest of Los Angeles, students and dedicated faculty create a unique learning environment for each student to explore their passions within a supportive, globally diverse community.

Besant Hill School of Happy Valley was established in 1946 on the principles of education envisioned by our illustrious founders, including Annie Besant, Aldous Huxley, Rosalind Rajagopal, J. Krishnamurti, and Dr. Guido Ferrando. Based on our founders' vision, we have created an intentionally small, nurturing community which facilitates the fullest development of each student's intellectual and artistic abilities.

At Besant Hill School, powerful programming, which can only be implemented on a small scale, affords our students the *Aún Aprendo* Experience, awakening the spirit of inquiry, the pursuit of integrity and personal excellence. Students will become successful global citizens and have real world experience through our Experiential Learning program, Senior Capstone projects, and an ePortfolio program to prepare for their next step in education.

BY THE NUMBERS

100 BOARDING & DAY STUDENTS



40% INTERNATIONAL • 60% DOMESTIC • 20 COUNTRIES • 13 STATES • 85% BOARDING • 15% DAY



ADVANCED PLACEMENT & HONORS COURSES (UC APPROVED)

SUBJECT	ADVANCED PLACEMENT	HONORS
ENGLISH	LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION	ENGLISH II & III
HISTORY	US HISTORY, HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	US & WORLD HISTORY
MATH	CALCULUS, STATISTICS	
SCIENCE	BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, PHYSICS 1	
LANGUAGE	FRENCH, SPANISH	

Students often are offered a variety of non-traditional class options such as independent studies to further interest in a particular area of study, or they may become a teaching assistant in our beginning level courses after they have progressed to a mastery level. Students wishing to explore Advanced Placement classes not offered at Besant Hill School may do so online with administration approval.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

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 subjects, 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

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

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Students build an everlasting affinity to nature while developing leadership and teamwork skills through backpacking, rock climbing, and white water rafting designed to inspire a lifetime of outdoor exploration and respect.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Four weeks of dynamic programing where 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 (ESL), SAT Prep, and a hands-on STEM Program. Students are offered many off-campus trips to enrich classroom material.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Actively engaging learners in progressive education models, students have the opportunity to travel regionally, nationally, and internationally. We instill global activism into our programs, so students gain perspective to enrich their classroom lessons.

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. ISP students are taught how to accomodate their learning style to an unmodified college prep curriculum.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

With nearly 30 offerings in music, performing, visual and digital arts, Besant Hill School honors our foundation in the arts, seeking to nurture an artistic expression in every student.

SUSTAINABILITY

With an eight-acre organic farm as a main source of food in the dining hall, student participation in energy saving competitions, and trips to annual environmental conferences, ecological literacy is an integral part of our lives and the educational process.

ESL

While improving their written, verbal, and comprehension skills, non-native English speakers build confidence for public speaking during weekly assemblies and a personal commencement address.

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 interest to create a two-week individualized project or internship.

GRADES 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 2019 PROFILE

CLASS SIZE	22
MEAN GPA	3.5
SAT ERW	530
SAT M	620
ACT C	25

MATRICULATIONS 2014-2019 *indicates multiple matriculations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Musical and Dramatic Academy American University University of Arizona* Babson College Baldwin Wallace University Bard College Belmont University Beloit College Berklee College of Music* Brandeis University* Brigham Young University California College of the Arts California Institute of the Arts California Lutheran University California State Polytechnic University, Pomona* California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo* California State University Channel Islands University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis* University of California, Irvine* University of California, Los Angeles* University of California, San Diego* University of California, Santa Barbara* University of California, Santa Cruz* Claremont McKenna College University of Colorado Boulder University of Colorado Denver Complutense University of Madrid Culinary Institute of America University of Denver | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eckerd College Elon University Emerson College Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising George Washington University Green Mountain College Hamilton College Hendrix College University of Illinois at Chicago* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Indiana University, Bloomington Humboldt State University John Cabot University Johnson & Wales University* Kent State University Lafayette College* Lewis & Clark College Les Roches International School of Hotel Management Marlboro College Marquette University Marymount California University Michigan State University Mills College* Naropa University University of Nevada, Las Vegas The New School New York Film Academy New York University* Northeastern University Pennsylvania State University* University of Pittsburgh Purdue University* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Redlands* Reed College* Regis University Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rochester Institute of Technology Saint Mary's College of California* San Diego State University* University of San Diego San Francisco Art Institute University of San Francisco San Jose State University* Santa Barbara City College Santa Monica College Sarah Lawrence College* Savannah College of Art and Design School of the Art Institute of Chicago* School of Visual Arts* Stanford University University of Surrey Syracuse University* Texas A&M University Trinity College Ventura College University of Warwick University of Washington* Waseda University Watkins College of Art Whittier College University of Wisconsin - Madison University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Yonsei University |
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