

TO THINK  
TO THINK

# AT A GLANCE

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WHERE STUDENTS DEVELOP  
THEIR INTELLECTUAL & ARTISTIC ABILITIES

100 BOARDING & DAY STUDENTS  
GRADES 9-12/PG



85%  
BOARDING STUDENTS

## 21 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

LOCATION

OJAI,  
CALIFORNIA

90 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF LOS ANGELES  
40 MINUTES SOUTH OF SANTA BARBARA  
20 MINUTES FROM THE BEACH



FOUNDED IN 1946

LOCATED ON 520 ACRES (210 HECTARES),  
SURROUNDED BY SPECTACULAR PANORAMIC VIEWS  
OF THE TOPA TOPA MOUNTAINS AND THE OJAI  
VALLEY, BESANT HILL SCHOOL PROVIDES A SERENE,  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE STUDENTS CAN  
PURSUE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS.

## 4:1 STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

• AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 10 • TOTAL FACULTY: 27 • FACULTY WHO LIVE ON CAMPUS: 70% • FACULTY WITH ADVANCED DEGREES: 75%

### ACADEMICS

ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT,  
INTEGRATED MATH PROGRAM, AP &  
HONORS COURSES, ENGLISH AS A SECOND  
LANGUAGE (ESL), INSTRUCTIONAL  
SUPPORT PROGRAM (ISP), EXPERIENTIAL  
LEARNING, SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION,  
SPANISH & FRENCH

### ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION,  
ACTING, CHORAL SINGING, MUSIC  
ENSEMBLE, V THEATER PRODUCTIONS,  
CONCERTS, VARIETY SHOWS, DIGITAL ARTS,  
PHOTOGRAPHY, STUDIO ART, ART HISTORY,  
CERAMICS, BOOKMAKING, MUSIC THEORY, FILM

### FITNESS

YOGA, SURFING, OUTDOOR EDUCATION,  
BASKETBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, GOLF,  
SOCCER, SWIMMING, VOLLEYBALL,  
AQUATICS, DANCE, WEIGHT-TRAINING

### COMMUNITY

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES, REGIONAL ACADEMIC  
FIELD TRIPS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, THREE  
ALL-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES PER WEEK, ANNUAL  
ALL-SCHOOL FALL TRIP, INTERNATIONAL  
WEEK

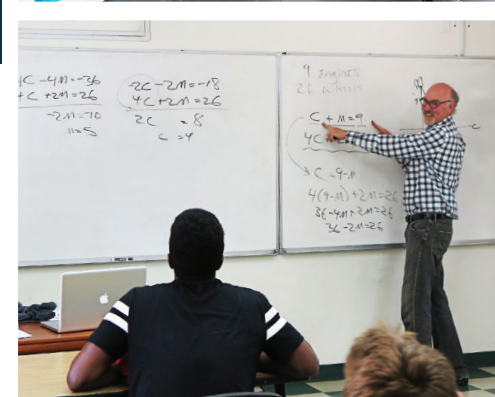


CAMPUS-TO-TABLE DINING

AN EIGHT ACRE ON-CAMPUS FARM PROVIDES THE MAJORITY OF  
THE INGREDIENTS USED IN OUR KITCHEN.

FSC

100% RECYCLED



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.***

LEARN HOW  
NOT WHAT



Besant Hill School is a co-educational boarding and day school located in the beautiful resort town of Ojai, California, only 90 minutes northwest of Los Angeles and 12 miles from local beaches. Our close proximity to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) makes Besant Hill an ideal destination for international students. We offer a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with a cornerstone of creative expression in a small supportive community supplemented with a full spectrum of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and an Instructional Support Program (ISP).



### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Besant Hill School offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, including more than 20 art electives, AP-level courses, competitive athletics, engaging fitness program, outdoor education, experiential education programs, small class sizes, and a 4:1 student-teacher ratio.

All students are required to complete a Capstone Project in an area of interest. Student advisors help guide the project, and it culminates in a presentation to the community. Recent projects have included art shows, internships, environmental sustainability research projects, and stage productions.

Experiential Learning encompasses a broad variety of learning activities, including outdoor education, adventure learning, service projects, group-based learning projects, world travel, and cross-cultural collaboration. Experiential learning begins in the classroom, expands to the community, and eventually takes the learning process to the world at large. Most recently, students have traveled to Australia, Greece, Italy, Cuba, and the Galápagos Islands.

Learn more online by visiting [besanthill.org/academics](https://besanthill.org/academics).

### INTENTIONALLY SMALL BY DESIGN

Our founders envisioned a small, college prep community to provide each student an education not available at larger institutions. With a maximum of 100 students, we are able to provide consistent mentorship for every student and facilitate engaging programming to enrich students' educational interests. At larger institutions, students are forced to prioritize their extra-curricular activities. Given our supportive, small community, we encourage variety and are able to accomodate all students through creative scheduling.

## THE AÚN APRENDO EXPERIENCE

The Aún Aprendo Experience at Besant Hill allows us to cultivate curiosity and connection to the greater world in our students. In order to be successful, we all need to maintain a student mindset for our whole lives. We nurture vthat ethos by eliminating the disconnect between classroom curricula and life beyond high school. This happens with:

ePortfolios · Master Classes  
Senior Capstone · Community Service · Outdoor Education



## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

### 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*



### CURRICULUM

Our motto of “Aún Aprendo,” which means “I am still learning,” reflects our belief that life can be lived in its fullest sense through lifelong efforts toward personal development and growth. We believe we are a model for the way education should occur—where students are taught how to think, not what to think; where our land is a laboratory for a sustainable planet; where rules are replaced with values and principles developed by all of us; and where the arts are a foundation for our belief that creative expression is as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic. We believe that life is not about finding yourself—it’s about creating yourself.

Read more about our school culture online at [besanthill.org/about](https://besanthill.org/about).

**100%** of Our Graduates  
are Accepted to College

### RECENT COLLEGE PLACEMENTS

American University in Paris	Pitzer College
Bard College	Portland State University
Berklee College of Music	Pratt Institute
Boston University (College of Fine Arts)	Sarah Lawrence College
Brandeis University	School of Visual Arts
University of British Columbia	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Hamilton College	Stanford University
Hawaii Pacific University	Stony Brook University
Hendrix College	Syracuse University
New York University	Tufts University
Northeastern University	University of Southern California
NYU Tisch School of the Arts	University of California, Berkeley
Otis College of Art and Design	University of California, Davis
Pepperdine University	University of California, Los Angeles
University of Pittsburgh	University of Madrid



### CAMPUS & FACILITIES

Besant Hill School is located on a 520-acre (210 hectare) rural campus at the foot of the Topa Topa mountain range. The campus features an eight-acre organic farm, a small student-maintained herb garden, a dining commons, six residential dormitories, an aquatic center, an online library facility, a state-of-the-art theater and recording studio, a darkroom, a digital design lab, extensive visual art studio space, and science laboratories.

View photo galleries of our school campus and more at [besanthill.org/photos](https://besanthill.org/photos).

### 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](mailto:ADMISSIONS@BESANTHILL.ORG)

#### ONLINE INQUIRIES & APPLICATIONS

Simple and secure online forms are always available on our website!  
[WWW.BESANTHILL.ORG/ADMISSIONS](https://WWW.BESANTHILL.ORG/ADMISSIONS)



BESANTHILL.ORG

