



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 2020-21

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

4:1 STUDENT TO
FACULTY RATIO



AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE **10**



22% STUDENTS RECEIVING
FINANCIAL AID

30% STUDENTS IDENTIFYING
AS PEOPLE OF COLOR



ADVANCED PLACEMENT & HONORS COURSES (UC APPROVED)

SUBJECT : ADVANCED PLACEMENT

ENGLISH : LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
HISTORY : US HISTORY, HUMAN GEOGRAPHY,
PSYCHOLOGY
MATH : CALCULUS AB, STATISTICS
SCIENCE : BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE,
CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS I

LANGUAGE : FRENCH, SPANISH

HONORS

ENGLISH II & III
WORLD HISTORY
MATH IV

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 2020 PROFILE

CLASS SIZE	18
MEAN GPA	3.5
SAT ERW	530
SAT M	550
ACT C	24

MATRICULATIONS 2015-2020 *indicates multiple matriculations

American University
 Babson College
 Baldwin Wallace University
 Bard College
 Bates College
 Belmont University
 Berklee College of Music (MA) *
 Brandeis University
 California College of the Arts (CA)
 California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
 California State University, Channel Islands
 Claremont McKenna College
 Colorado State University
 Culinary Institute of America
 Elon University
 Emerson College *
 Foothill College
 George Washington University
 Hamilton College
 Indiana University, Bloomington
 Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis
 Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague (Czech Republic)
 Johnson & Wales University
 Kent State University
 Lafayette College
 Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, Marbella (Spain)
 Lewis & Clark College *

Marquette University
 Mitchell College
 New York University *
 Pennsylvania State University
 Purdue University
 Reed College
 Regis University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rochester Institute of Technology *
 Rutgers University
 Saint Mary's College of California
 San Diego State University *
 San Francisco Art Institute
 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
 Seattle University *
 Stanford University
 State University of New York, Plattsburgh
 Syracuse University
 Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
 The American Musical and Dramatic Academy
 The New School *
 University of Arizona *

University of California, Berkeley *
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Riverside
 University of California, San Diego *
 University of California, Santa Barbara *
 University of California, Santa Cruz *
 University of Colorado, Denver
 University of Madrid (Spain)
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Puget Sound
 University of Redlands *
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco *
 University of Surrey (UK)
 University of the Pacific
 University of Warwick (UK)
 University of Washington *
 University of Westminster (UK)
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Ventura College
 Waseda University (Japan)
 Washington State University
 Watkins College of Art
 Whittier College *
 Yonsei University (Korea)

