



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.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF SMALL

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).



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 that 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

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 accommodate all students through creative scheduling.

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.



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.

100%
of Our Graduates are
Accepted to College



RECENT COLLEGE PLACEMENTS

American University in Paris
Bard College
Berklee College of Music
Boston University (College of Fine Arts)
Brandeis University
University of British Columbia
Hamilton College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College
New York University
Northeastern University
NYU Tisch School of the Arts
Otis College of Art and Design
Pepperdine University
University of Pittsburgh
Pitzer College

Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Sarah Lawrence College
School of Visual Arts
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
Tufts University
University of Southern California
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Madrid

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 at besanthill.org/about.

AT A GLANCE

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WHERE STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR
INTELLECTUAL & ARTISTIC ABILITIES

100 BOARDING & DAY STUDENTS
GRADES 9-12/PG

50/50

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, 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