

San Marino High School

San Marino, United States



A San Gabriel Valley public school pairing AP Platinum status with Caltech-linked STEM research and a national Blue Ribbon record.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	54/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	56/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

San Marino High School sits in a rare bracket for a US public school: academically strong, district-backed and tied to a community that treats education as a serious civic project. It is the only high school in the San Marino Unified School District, which matters. There is no ambiguity about where district attention lands. The school’s public reputation rests on hard academic expectation, a long-established place in an affluent San Gabriel Valley enclave, and a record that carries beyond local boosterism. The editorial tagline captures the core of its market position: AP strength, STEM opportunity and national recognition. The cited California Academic Performance Index figure — ****932/1,000**** in the 2015 survey, with the district ranked ****52nd**** in the state — places it in a high-performing tier. **This is a serious academic*

environment.*

What puts San Marino High on a shortlist is not romance or campus theatre; it is concentration. Parents looking at American day schools in Southern California will find here a public option with the habits of a selective academic culture: demanding peers, a strong expectation of university progression, and a setting that rewards disciplined, self-directed students. The Caltech-linked STEM research angle adds a point of distinction that many conventional public schools cannot match. So does the Blue Ribbon record flagged in the editorial context. For a family that wants academic credibility without private-school fees, that combination has force. The student-teacher ratio of **1:24** is not intimate, and nobody should mistake this for boutique schooling, but scale here works in service of breadth rather than anonymity. *The pressure is real.* *The ambition is built in.*

This school suits students aged **13-18** who want a rigorous American curriculum in English and who do not need pastoral hand-holding to stay on track. The best fit is a teenager who is comfortable in a competitive classroom, ready to chase advanced coursework, and interested in science, maths and research-led opportunities without narrowing too early. It also suits families who value high attainment inside a public system and who understand the trade-off: less curation than an elite private school, but more academic heft than many local publics. Students who need a softer pace, extensive individual attention or a broad church of educational styles will find the culture exacting. *For the right child, it is energising.* *For the wrong one, it is unforgiving.*

STRENGTHS

- Only high school in San Marino Unified School District
- Public day school; no boarding requirement
- American curriculum in English
- Founded 1955; established local option

TRADE-OFFS

- Only one curriculum: American
- English-only instruction may limit some families
- Public school setting may suit fewer international families

ADMISSIONS

San Marino High School is a public, non-religious day school in San Marino, California, serving pupils aged 13–18. In practice, that implies the main entry point is the start of high school, with admissions tied largely to residence within the San Marino Unified School District; it is the district’s only high school. The school follows an American curriculum and teaches in English. For families relocating into the area, admissions are likely to depend first on district eligibility and standard public-school enrolment requirements rather than a wholly independent school-style selection round.

The school does not publicly publish, in the material provided here, a detailed admissions calendar, specific application deadlines, entrance assessments, interviews or any distinctive selective process. Nor is there evidence in the supplied sources of bursaries or means-tested financial aid of the kind associated with private schools. As a public high school, entry is better understood through district enrolment rules than through competitive admissions. The available evidence points to a high-performing academic environment, but not to a separately described scholarship or testing regime.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_52e69b17ee.