

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 2010/2011

John Mc Morris, Principal
Linda Clark, College & Career Advisor
(925) 938-0900
CEEB CODE: 050-666

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS



Northgate High School, one of the seven high schools in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, is located in Walnut Creek, a suburb in the San Francisco Bay Area. Northgate's parents are primarily professionals, managers, and business people, and frequently both parents are employed.

Northgate is fortunate to have parents who are engaged in the school by volunteering, attending school events, and participating in organizations such as the Parent Faculty Association, Northgate Community Pride Foundation, Bronco Boosters (athletics), Music Boosters and the Parent Action Team (substance abuse prevention.)

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Northgate High School opened in September, 1974, and sits on forty acres in the shadow of Mount Diablo. Our facilities include a multi-media center, a recently refurbished little theater, an eighty-seat lecture hall, a winning athletic program, a state-of-the art Technology Center, and a graphics, photography and art studio. In early 2010 lights were added to the football field for night games.

Our faculty consists of sixty certificated staff members. Teachers have an average tenure of more than ten years and are career professionals. About half of the teaching staff have master degrees. Several teachers have been selected to attend special summer programs including serving on district and state committees, mentoring teachers, and teaching Bay Area Writing Workshops. Our faculty is accessible to students and is dedicated to providing an environment that encourages learning and discussion. Due to ongoing budget challenges, we have no guidance counselor.

The school population remains stable - about 1,500 students. The ethnic breakdown is:

- 69 % Caucasian
- 12.5 % Asian-American
- 4.4 % Asian Indian and other Asian
- 7.4 % Hispanic
- 3.9 % Pacific Islander/Filipino
- 1.6 % African-American

Northgate High School was named a California Distinguished School in 2007. In 2005, Northgate earned a six-year Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation.

CURRICULUM

Graduation requirements include:

- 4 years English
- 2 years Mathematics
- 3 years Social Science
- 2 years Science
- 2 years Physical Education
- 1 year Foreign Language or Visual/Performing Art

Minimum units required for graduation: 200 (140 required, 60 electives)

Northgate also requires students to successfully complete a Senior Project that involves experiential learning, extensive research, an eight-page paper, and an oral presentation.

CLASS OF 2010 PROFILE

SAT mid 50% scores are: CR 500-640
 M 530-680
 W 510-670

ACT Means: English = 24.7, Math = 25.9, Reading = 24.3, Science = 23.7, Composite = 24.8

College Attendance (97%):
 Four-year schools 55%
 Two-year schools 43%

National Merit Program:
 Commended students 16
 Finalists 5

National Hispanic Scholars: 3
Advanced Placement Scholars: 27

Advanced Placement Tests:

380 tests were taken by 238 students. These tests included Biology, Chemistry, English Language and Literature, French Language, German Language, Spanish Language, Mathematics AB & BC, Statistics, Economics, Physics B, U.S. History, World History, European History, Psychology, Music Theory, Art History and Studio Art.

INTERPRETATION OF TRANSCRIPT

GPA is cumulative and is computed each semester. Rank in class is based on the Total, Weighted 9-12 GPA, which includes physical education, and is reported in percentile groups (top 5%, second 5%, second 10%, 3rd 10%, etc.)

Point distribution is: A=4 B=3 C=2 D=1 F=0. Honors (H) and AP earn an extra point (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3). All classes designated with "H" are Honors, and "AP" are Advanced Placement. Classes so designated are AP Spanish IV/V, AP German IV/V, Pre-Calculus H, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Biology, Chemistry H, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, Physics H, English III H, English IV H, AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP US History, US History H, AP World History, Government H, Economics H, AP Art History (2009-2010 only) and AP Studio Art. AP French IV/V was not offered during the 2009-2010 or 2010-2011 school years. AP Chemistry and AP Environmental Science are being offered for the first time in 2010-11.

The fall ranking at Northgate is currently based on a total class size of 331 Seniors. The GPA rankings currently stand as follows (6 semesters plus summer session after 11th grade):

GPA Range	Rank
4.03 – 4.44	First Decile/Top 10%
3.82 – 4.00	2 nd Decile
3.72 – 3.81	3 rd Decile
3.52 – 3.71	4 th Decile
3.37 – 3.50	5 th Decile
3.15 – 3.36	6 th Decile
2.89 – 3.14	7 th Decile
2.59 – 2.87	8 th Decile
2.34 – 2.58	9 th Decile
2.33 and below	10 th Decile