

Mater Dei Catholic High School

San Diego, California





Admissions results that speak for themselves

Mater Dei Catholic High School's international students consistently gain admission to top U.S. universities — a reflection of the school's strong academics and dedicated support.



NYU



Class of 2025

**Out of those who applied*

92%

international students accepted to
Top 100 Universities*

58%

international students accepted to
Top 50 Universities*

25%

international students accepted to
Top 30 Universities*

71%

international students accepted to
UCs*

The International Student Department at MDCHS

In the U.S., very few high schools come with expertise in international student education — Mater Dei Catholic High School is one of them. Our International Student Department provides more than academics, offering comprehensive support every step of the way.

Continuous on-site personalized support.

Dedicated International department staff are embedded directly on campus to provide daily guidance, emotional care, and logistical assistance.

Academic advising and GPA management.

We work closely with school counselors to support course planning and track graduation readiness, ensuring students stay on the right path academically.

Proven outcomes, empowered futures.

Our international students achieve standout university acceptances, even when starting with modest GPAs or English levels.

Flexible accommodation with structure and comfort.

Students can live in a modern, staffed residence or with a vetted host family. Regardless of their accommodation choice, they will receive seamless support from the International Student Department.





“At Mater Dei Catholic High School, we make sure every student feels seen, supported, and cared for. Our team prioritizes both student safety and academic success, creating a space where students can thrive. We work closely with parents, keeping communication open and proactive so everyone feels connected and supported. What truly makes our campus special is the genuine care and interest we have for each student’s growth and well-being.”

Oscar Castaneda

Director of Campus Operations

**Ryan Barela**

Student Services Manager

**Jeanine Robles**

Campus Coordinator

**Jeyce Uribe**

Resident Assistant

**Elysha Adams**

Senior Campus Director

**Ellie Vakili**

Campus Coordinator

**Jose Loya**

Resident Assistant

**Roberto Diaz**

Campus Coordinator

**Anna Sevilla**

Resident Assistant

**Sara Restivo**

Head Chef

From ambition to acceptance. Guaranteed.



Our promise is simple

We're on your side. From the first day on campus to the final university acceptance. With our proven model and unmatched support, we turn our students' dreams into admission letters. That's why families trust our International Department to provide more than access. We deliver results.

To reflect different ambition levels and provide clarity for families, we now offer two distinct university outcomes:

Top 100 Guaranteed

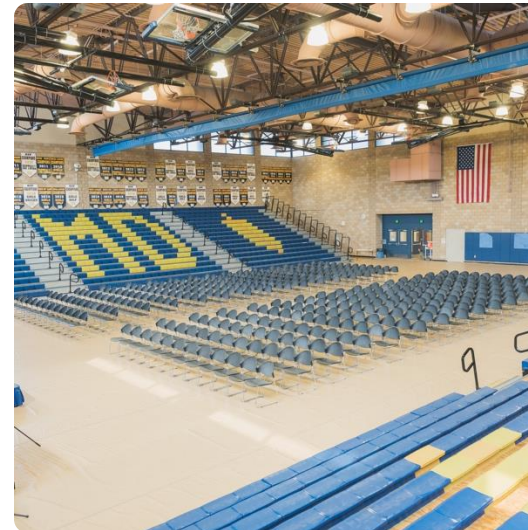
All international students admitted to Mater Dei Catholic High School are eligible for this exclusive pathway. Designed for students committed to steady academic progress and personal accountability, this path ensures Top 100 university admission for those who meet program expectations.

Top 50 Track

For ambitious students who meet higher entry standards and follow a structured pathway this track includes additional academic, extracurricular, and soft-skill criteria designed to secure Top 50 outcomes.

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School Address	1615 Mater Dei Dr, Chula Vista, CA 91913
Niche Ranking	A
Year Founded	1960
Campus	50 acres – built in 2007
School Type	Co-ed
School Grades	Grades 9 -12
Grade Accepted	Grades 9 -11
# of Students	1036
# of International Students	45 (from 7 different countries and regions)
Faculty to Student Ratio	1:16
Percentage of Teachers with Advanced Degrees	63%
Average ACT Score	31
# of AP and Honors Courses	30 +
University Acceptance Rate	100%
# of Athletics	27
# of Clubs	50 +



Check out what life is like at Mater Dei Catholic High School



Founded in 1960, Mater Dei Catholic High School is located on a beautiful, 48-acre campus with the state-of-the-art programs and facilities.

The school is home to the acclaimed Academy of Science, thriving digital entrepreneurship courses, a comprehensive visual and performing arts department, and an unrivaled team of student-athletes that have garnered continuous state championships, including the only back-to-back football state championships in San Diego high school history.

Mater Dei Catholic High School has been recognized by a variety of institutions for its excellence in education.

- Mater Dei Catholic High School is accredited by :
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)

Awards from Niche

#21 Best High School for Athletes in California

#33 Best Boarding High School in California

#4 Best High School for Athletes in San Diego



Mater Dei Catholic High School is located in Chula Vista, California – An affluent community with incredible natural beauty, located just 9 miles (14 km) from San Diego. San Diego is known around the world for its incredible beaches, culture, food and year-round perfect weather.

Close to top ranking universities

California Institute Of Technology (#7) | University Of Southern California (#28) | University Of California San Diego (#28) | Pepperdine University (#76) | University Of San Diego (#98) | Pomona College (#4 Liberal Arts College)

Home to world-renowned attractions

Balboa Park | San Diego Zoo | Beaches | SeaWorld | And Much More

Close to a major airport

Easy access to San Diego International Airport (SAN)





The Flagship Academy of Science Program

Overview

The Academy of Science is a unique, three-year program for advanced students with a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Students are guided from professionals from UCSD, USD and SDSU, to conduct university-level research, take advanced courses, participate in internships and receive mentorship from medical researchers and scientists.

Academic Field Trips

Students participate in hands-on field trips, including visits to hospitals, the National Weather Service and excursions to assist marine biologists with wildlife.

Successful Alumni

Past graduates from the Academy of Science have received a scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, earned full-ride scholarships to the University of California and received acceptances to Ivy League Universities.

Students in the academy have completed internships at:

- UC San Diego Oncofertility in Cancer Research
- UC San Diego School of Pharmacy in Computational Chemistry
- Aviation Careers Camp in Aerospace Engineering



Social Entrepreneurship

Overview

In this unique course, students take part in six three-week blocks that focus on elements of starting a business. The class is taught by a retired Technology CEO. The students create and launch their own small businesses and learn about a wide range of technology.

Course Details

The Social Entrepreneurship course is made up of 6 Blocks, representing different projects and lessons. These blocks include:

- **Block One:** Writing an assessment piece and developing, writing and publishing a children's book
- **Block Two:** Students experience working with veterans in the industry, including experts from Pixar, to learn how a professional studio works
- **Block Three:** Students learn interviewing skills, and conduct interviews with professionals in the business industry to determine what they may be interested in launching
- **Block Four:** Students develop business plans, research feasibility for success and write their own business pitches
- **Block Five:** Students create their own business plan and prepare to launch
- **Block Six:** Students continue building their business, moving it towards launch. If applicable, students will receive assistance in website design, patent development and more





“Mater Dei is a loving and accepting community to all students. Regardless of your background, you can find your own place in the school. Your traces in this school matter. You matter.”

— **Floria,**

Class of 2023, and is currently studying at University of California, Berkeley



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

- Creative Writing
- English 9-12 (College Prep, AP)
- Speech
- World Fiction

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

- Algebra (College Prep, Honors)
- Calculus (College Prep, AP)
- Geometry (College Prep, Honors)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- Intro to Dance
- Mind, Body, Wellness
- Physical Education
- Swimming
- Weight Training

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Biology (College Prep, Honors, AP)
- Chemistry (College Prep, Honors, AP)
- Earth and Space Science
- Forensic Science
- Intro to Engineering
- Physics (College Prep, AP)
- Sports Medicine

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- American Pop Culture
- Economics
- Psychology (Dual Credit)
- US History (College Prep, AP)
- World Cultures

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

- Art
- Ceramics
- Computer Graphics
- Digital Photography
- Film Studies
- Music
- Theater
- Video Production

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

- French (College Prep, Honors, AP)
- Spanish (College Prep, Honors, AP)

Mater Dei Catholic High School Sample Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BLOCK 1 AP US History	BLOCK 1 AP US History	BLOCK 5 English 3	BLOCK 4 Introduction to Theater	Study Hall
BLOCK 2 Earth Space Science				
BLOCK 3 Intermediate Academic Reading and Composition	BLOCK 2 Earth Space Science	BLOCK 6 Theology: Divine Revelations	BLOCK 2 Earth Space Science	BLOCK 6 Theology: Divine Revelations
BLOCK 4 Introduction to Theater				
BLOCK 5 English 3	BLOCK 3 Intermediate Academic Reading and Composition	BLOCK 7 Algebra 2/Trig	BLOCK 3 Intermediate Academic Reading and Composition	BLOCK 7 Algebra 2/Trig
Lunch				
BLOCK 6 Theology: Divine Revelations	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
BLOCK 7 Algebra 2/Trig	BLOCK 4 Introduction to Theater	Study Hall	BLOCK 1 AP US History	BLOCK 5 English 3
FACULTY MEETINGS				

27 Athletic Teams, with 8 State Titles and 113 League Titles

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheer
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Wrestling

Mater Dei Catholic High School offers 27 award-winning athletic teams, which have won:

145 League Championships | **45** CIF Championships | **9** Regional Championships |
6 State Championship

Athletic Facilities:

- Aquatic Center
- Outdoor Stadium (football, soccer, track, lacrosse)
- Locker Rooms
- Gymnasium
- Weight room
- Baseball/Softball Fields

70% of students participate in athletics, and each sport has varsity and junior varsity options.

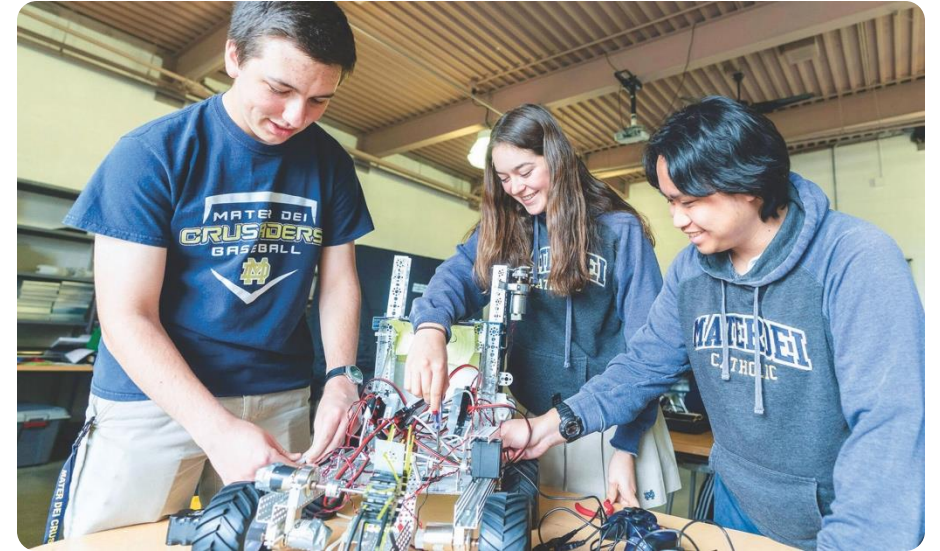
International Student Sports Eligibility is subject to both school and local sports league regulations. For more information, please reach out to our International Department.



The school has over 50+ student-led clubs that allow students to explore their passions with their own peers and faculty.

Extracurricular Clubs Include:

- Animal Rescue Club
- Art Club
- Asian Pacific Islanders Club (APIC)
- Asian Pop Culture Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Club Latino Americano
- Comic Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Crusader Records
- Culinary Club
- Debate Club
- eSports Club
- Fiber Arts Club
- Future Medical Careers Club
- Girl Up Club
- Hiking Club
- Investment Club
- Journaling Club
- Lacrosse
- Mater Dei Welcoming Club
- MDCHS Dance Club
- Model UN
- Music Club
- NBA Fan Club
- Ping Pong Club
- Quiz Bowl
- Robotics
- School Newspaper
- Tutoring
- Ukulele Club
- And Many More!



Mater Dei international students live in fully-staffed, comfortable residences near the school campus.

Residence



International Residence

The residence features upscale community amenities, advanced safety features and prime locations close to the school – all with 24/7 supervision and a fun, supportive, family-like community of other international students.

The residence includes:

- On-site, 24/7 Amerigo Staff
- Spacious, Single Gender Apartments
- Shared Community Spaces For Meals
- Study Time And Recreational Activities
- On-site Laundry (Washer And Dryer)
- High Speed Wi-fi
- Large Closets
- Bright, Sun-Filled Units

Community amenities include:

- Fitness Center
- Resort-Style Pool
- Community Outdoor Space
- Golf Simulator
- Game Room
- Entertainment Room
- Easy Access to Basketball and Tennis Courts

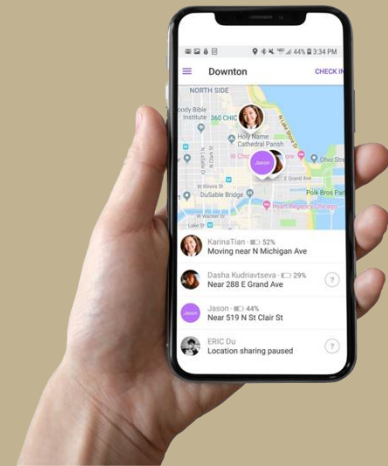
And More!

Cultural immersion activities may include trips to:

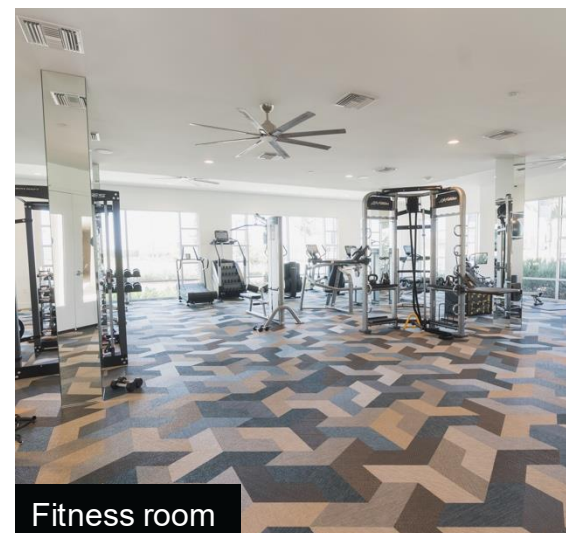
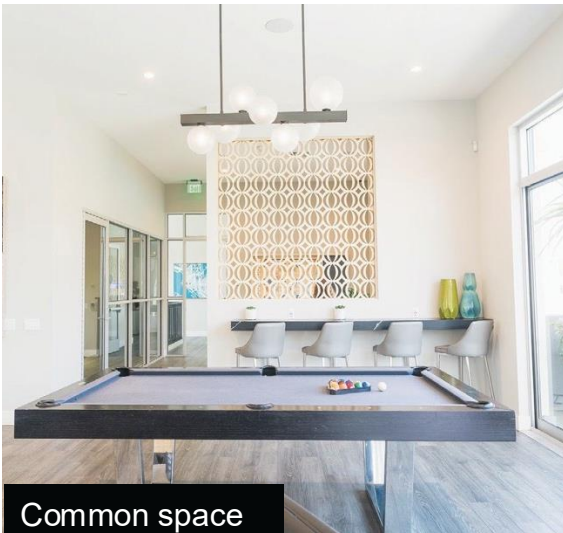
- Restaurants
- Shopping Malls
- Museums
- Universities
- Sporting Events
- Amusement Parks
- The Beach
- And Much More!

Safety Features Include:

- Door cameras in the apartments (not bedrooms)
- Curfew hours
- Free time rules, with both structured activities and free time opportunities
- 24/7 emergency care
- Helping students to open bank accounts and get sim cards for mobile phones
- **Reach**, a residence app that allows staff to maintain a safe and engaged experience for students.
- **Life 360**, an app that allows campus staff to track students whereabouts in real time and to see how much battery the student has left on their phone.



International Residence



Open Grades for Applications: 9-11

Language Requirement:

- Accepted Tests: TOEFL iBT, IELTS, Duolingo, ELTiS
- Minimum Score: ELTiS 650+ for grade 9; ELTiS 680+ for grade 10 and 11

Application Materials:

- 2 Years of Transcripts and the progress report for the current year
- English and Math Recommendation Letters
- Passport

Interview: Amerigo Interview



Mater Dei Catholic High School

Thank you!



Scan this code to learn more about
Mater Dei Catholic High School