

Besant Hill School

Ojai, California



Table of contents

1. Besant Hill School At a Glance
2. Life in Ojai, California
3. Academic Curriculum
4. Arts, Sports & Co-Curricular Activities
5. Accommodation
6. Admissions & Tuition



Year Founded	1946
Number of Students	100
Accepting Grades	9-12, Post Graduate
Average Class Size	8
Campus Size	520 Acres
Student to Faculty Ratio	4:1
Faculty with Advanced Degrees	80%
Number of AP & Honors Classes	15
Number of Extracurricular Clubs	12
Foreign Languages Offered	French, Spanish
Number of Countries Represented	20+
% of International Students	35%
Number of Colleges Visiting Annually	50+
University Placement	100%



Founded in 1946, Besant Hill School of Happy Valley is a small, elite boarding high school in California, offering students a nurturing environment where they can flourish and feel free to be themselves.

Located in Ojai, just 1.5 hours north of Los Angeles, Besant Hill sits on a beautiful 520-acre campus just 15 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Students study in a serene and calming environment, while still having easy access to some of the best educational, professional and recreational resources on the west coast.



Ranking on Niche.com

#9

Best Boarding High Schools
in California

#64

out of 441
Best Boarding High Schools
in America

#203

out of 4,917
Best Private High Schools
in America



School Campus

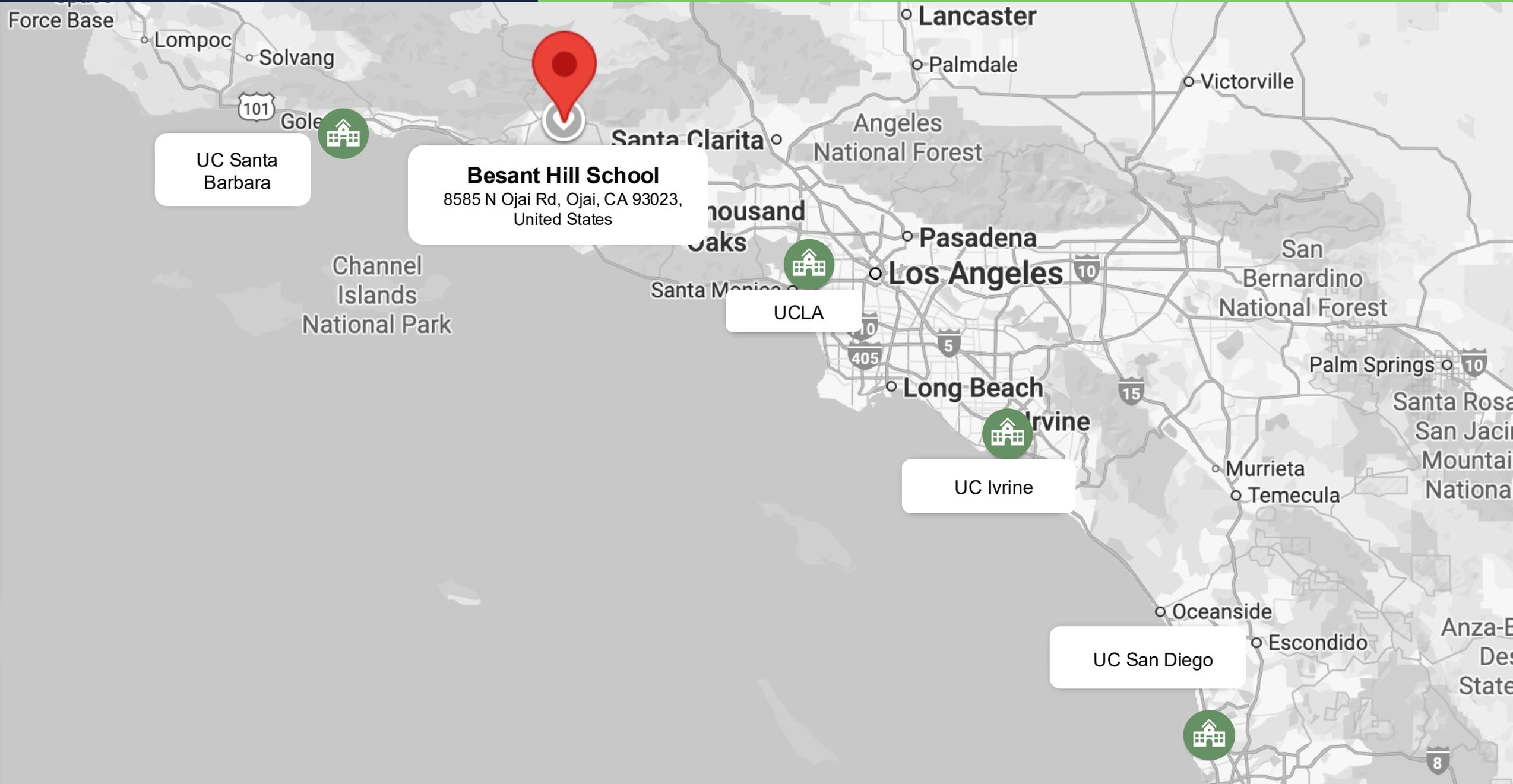


Besant Hill School is located in Ojai, a beautiful town in Southern California located about 1.5 hours north of Los Angeles and south of Santa Barbara. The 520-acre campus features academic, boarding and recreational facilities that complement the serene, natural environment.

Students live in a safe, picturesque campus and enjoy easy access to world-famous museums, amusement parks, leading universities and more.

- **90 minutes to Los Angeles & 40 minutes to Santa Barbara**
- Direct access to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Close to Caltech, UCLA, USC, UCI, Chapman University (within 2 hours of driving)
- **Weather:** Ojai has one of those “**California postcard**” **climates** people dream about — mild, sunny, and comfortable most of the year.
- Close proximity to public parks, beaches, hospitals, restaurants, and much more!





UC Santa Barbara

Besant Hill School
8585 N Ojai Rd, Ojai, CA 93023,
United States

UCLA

UC Irvine

UC San Diego



Rigorous College Preparatory Academics & College Planning

- Comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum supported by the school's unique **Instructional Support Program (ISP)**
- ISP helps students build effective learning strategies, with a strong focus on organization and time management for success in high school, university, and beyond
- Individual and small-group academic support provided across core subjects
- Dedicated **College Counseling Office** partners with students and families from day one
- Personalized four-year academic and college plan created for every student
- Faculty educated at top universities such as **Stanford, Brown, Columbia, and more**
- Each year, more than **50 colleges visit** Besant Hill and graduates have been accepted by Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, NYU and Northwestern.



Personalized Learning Experiences and Signature Programs

Besant Hill has ~100 students and a 1:4 faculty-to student ratio, ensuring that each student's individual needs are identified and met.

- **Capstone Program:** In this program, seniors take their education outside the classroom and further pursue their interests and passions. Recent projects include art shows, environmental sustainability research projects and stage productions.
- **Outdoor Education Program (OEP):** Learning opportunities take place in various settings across California. Students develop life skills through activities such as rock climbing, backpacking and whitewater rafting.
- **Experiential Learning and World Travel:** Faculty members and students create meaningful, curriculum -based trips to support specific educational objectives. Past trips have been to Ecuador, Italy, Cuba, Greece, Australia and Nepal.



A Global Community with Robust Residential and ESL Programs

Three levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) are offered.

International students work with the school's Director of International Student Programs, the Director of Teaching and Learning and the College Counselor to set future goals and exceed their potential.

Besant Hill is a certified ETS (Educational Testing Service) testing site, students have a statistical advantage on the TOEFL in their ability to test at their home campus.



English

- English I
- English II
- English II Honors
- English III/IV
- English III Honors
- AP English
- Creative Writing

ESL (English as a Second Language)

- ESL Literature (Level One)
- Language Acquisition Through Community Learning (Level One)
- ESL Writing (Level One)
- American Literature (Level Two)
- English II (ESL Level Two)
- American Studies (Level Two)
- Advanced Composition (Level Three)
- ESL Support (Level Three)

World Languages

- French I, II, III
- AP French
- Spanish I, II, III
- AP Spanish

Social Science

- Cultural Geography
- World History
- World History Honors
- U.S. History
- AP U.S. History
- Philosophy (semester)
- Global Issues (semester)
- Psychology
- AP Human Geography

Mathematics

- Math I
- Math II
- Math III
- Math IV
- Math IV Honors (Pre-Calculus)
- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics

Science

- Science (general)
- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Botany
- AP Biology
- Marine Biology
- Introduction to Computer Science

Arts Performing Arts

- Music Ensemble I
- Music Ensemble II
- Guitar Ensemble
- Music Theory
- Acting
- Performing Arts (survey)
- Chamber Singers

Visual Arts

- Studio Art
- Advanced Studio Art
- Ceramics
- Art History
- Film (Screenwriting & Film Production)
- Bookmaking and Publishing



Authentic College Experience

Dual enrollment allows high school students to enroll in post-secondary courses simultaneously with their diploma requirements.

- **Simultaneous Credit:** Earn high school and permanent college transcript credits.
- **Real Rigor:** Actual university-level courses, not simulated classes.
- **Academic Growth:** Students are challenged to research and write at the university level.



Strategic Value Proposition

The Full Year* Advantage

Students earn up to one full year of college credit before entering University

- Tailor-made for high-achieving, ambitious students, who want to hit the ground running
- Accelerate time-to-degree at top US universities
- Enter university with more maturity and academic readiness

High School Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Credits Earned
Junior (Grade 11)	3 Classes (9 credits)	3 Classes (9 credits)	18 credits
Senior Year (Grade 12)	3 Classes (9 credits)	3 Classes (9 credits)	18 credits
TOTAL	6 classes	6 classes	36 credits

**Potentially up to 2 Years of college credit based on entering grade/rigor*

Unlock Elite Outcomes

- **Admissions Green Flag:** Proves the student can handle university rigor to Top 50 and Top 100 US universities.
- **Elite Access:** You don't need a high school brand to get Ivy League results - just a rigorous transcript.
- **Cost Savings:** Dual enrollment tuition is significantly reduced, potentially saving a family **\$20,000–\$60,000** in future tuition and room and board.



BHS Example - Student A (Grade 11)

Student A - Grade 11	Current Besant Hill Course	Besant Hill + Ventura College - Dual Enrollment	College Credits	Typical Modality (VC)	Notes
1	English III (H)	ENGL C1000/ V01A – Academic Reading & Writing (VC)	4	Online and In-person	Commonly offered online
2	U.S. History (H)	HIST V46 – U.S. History to 1877 (VC)	3	Online and In-person	Often available online
3	Chemistry	Chemistry (BHS)			
4	Math III	Math III (BHS)			
5	Spanish III	Spanish III (BHS)			
6	AP Economics	ECON V01A – Principles of Macroeconomics (VC)	3	Online and In-person	Often available online
7	AP Environmental Science	AP Environmental Science (BHS)			
Total College Credits			10		

BHS Example - Student B (Grade 12)

Student B - Grade 12	Current Besant Hill Course	Besant Hill + Ventura College - Dual Enrollment	College Credits	Typical Modality (VC)	Notes
1	English IV	English IV (BHS)			
2	AP Statistics	STAT C1000 – Statistics (VC)	4	Online and In-person	Some sections require proctored exam
3	Chemistry	Chemistry (BHS)			
4	AP Spanish	SPAN V01 or V02 – Elementary Spanish (VC)	5	In-person primarily; Some online	Modality varies by term
5	AP Human Geography	GEOG V02 Intro to Humanize Geography (VC)	3	Online	Often available online
6	Film	Film (BHS)			
7	Independent Study	Independent Study (Besant Hill)			
Total College Credits			12		

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

- Boston University
- Case Western Reserve
- Chapman University
- Fordham University
- Franklin University Switzerland
- Loyola Marymount University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Oberlin College
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Richmond American University London
- Rutgers University
- Saint Mary's College of California
- Santa Clara University
- Syracuse University
- The American University of Paris
- University of California (Davis, Irvine, San Diego, Santa Cruz)
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of Washington



100%
College Acceptance

\$50,000
Average of scholarship annually per student

50+
Colleges Visit Campus Annually



Outdoor Education & Experiential Learning

- Outdoor education is a **core part of the Besant Hill experience**, fostering connection to nature, sustainability, cultural awareness, and physical well-being.
- The **Outdoor Education Program (OEP)** has been part of the school for over 30 years, helping students cultivate environmental stewardship and lifelong outdoor skills.
- Activities include **weekend excursions**, such as **3-day adventures** across California and Ojai's surroundings.
- Annual and popular trips include skiing (e.g., **Mammoth**) and camping/hiking adventures to destinations like **Big Sur, Yosemite, Goleta, and Lake Casitas**.
- Students participate in activities such as **kayaking, fishing, rock climbing, and hiking**, building teamwork and confidence.



Community Service & Civic Engagement

- Students are expected to complete a **minimum of 15 hours of community service each academic year.**
- Activities include volunteering with **Ojai Land Conservancy, local charities, and Ventura beach clean-ups.**
- Students also support local organizations like **animal shelters, senior centers, and the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts.**



Community & Celebration Events

- All-School Beach Day
- All-School Fall Trip
- All-School Prom
- Family Weekend
- Spring Arts Festival (with art show, concert, and musical)
- Winter Variety Show
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Día de Los Muertos Celebration

Academic & Leadership Opportunities

- Humanities & International Week
- Math & Science Week
- Model United Nations (MUN)
- UCSB Speaker Series
- Art Galleries & Museums visits (e.g., Getty, The Broad, LACMA)

Trips & Travel

- **International Experiential Education Trip to England**
- **Spring Break College Tour** — multi-day college visits designed for juniors and sophomores to tour multiple campuses with guided sessions.
- **Annual Ski Trip** and other outdoor excursions are part of school traditions.



Besant Hill students are traveling to ENGLAND for their 2026 International Trip!

Besant Hill emphasizes participation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth —with **all ability levels welcome** thanks to a no-cut policy.

Sport Teams

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Volleyball

Fitness & Physical Activity Programs

- Aquatics & Swimming
- Circuit Training
- Dance
- Surfing
- Weightlifting
- Yoga, Hiking, Rock Climbing and other fitness activities



Athletic Facilities:

- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Swimming Pool
- Volleyball Court
- Soccer Field
- Outdoor Gym
- 3 mile Trail for Hiking & Running
- Dance & Yoga Space
- Access to Golf Course
- Beach for Surfing & Swim





Boarding Residence

Besant Hill's residential life offers a supportive, close-knit boarding community with comfortable living spaces, on-site faculty mentorship, and a strong balance of independence, wellness, and connection. **99% of faculty and their families live in the dorms as dorm parents.**

Boarding Facilities & Support Includes:

- Single-gendered dormitories
- **Double rooms** with built-in desks, closets and shelving space
- Comfortable study and social spaces in each dorm
- Laundry and kitchen facilities in every residential building
- Farm-to-table food catered to students with a full salad bar and hot meal options for every meal
- Close to **basketball, volleyball & tennis courts, pool, and gym**
- 24/7 staff supervising and support





Weekend Activities

- Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and swimming in scenic Ojai area
- Extended outdoor excursions across California, Big Sur, Yosemite, Lake Casitas, and the annual ski trip to Mammoth.
- Community service weekends with activities like Ojai Land Conservancy projects and Ventura beach clean-ups.
- Cultural and educational outings to museums and university lectures (e.g., UCSB) in Southern California.
- Social and recreational excursions including shopping and beach trips to places like Ventura, Santa Barbara, or Santa Monica.



Open Grades for Applications: 9-12, Post Graduate

Language Requirement:

- All tests accepted

Application materials:

- Online application
- 3 years of transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Student writing sample

Interview: Required

Tuition: **\$81,500** (Boarding and meals included. Scholarships may be available).



Besant Hill School

Thank you!



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Besant Hill School!