

2011–12: Our School At a Glance

School Administration

Superintendent:	Dr. Joseph M. Farley	Counseling Staff:	Penny Reeves, Manager Counseling of Services
Principal:	Bill Crockett		Rebecca Gearing, Advisory Teacher
Assistant Principal:	Lisa Way (Elementary)		Brooke Lange, Advisory Teacher
			Hazel Uy, Advisory Teacher

Community

Our History

Capistrano Connections Academy (CapoCA) is an accredited, public school serving students in grades K–12 from across the state. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2004–05 school year as a K–8 school. The school served 9th graders for the first time in 2005–06 and added one grade level each subsequent year until the first 12th grade class graduated in June 2009.

Our Mission

Connections Academy schools have an important mission: to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program.

Our Capistrano Connections Academy Program

Capistrano Connections Academy has a total enrollment of 1,620 students in grades K–12 and includes a four-year comprehensive high school program. Here are some important facts about the Capistrano program:

- The school is fully accredited by the Schools Commission of the Western Association of Schools and colleges (WASC).
- Capistrano Connections Academy's core courses were approved by the University of California during the 2010–11 school year. The Advanced Placement courses were previously approved.
- There are 69 certified/licensed professional staff serving both Capistrano Connections Academy and its neighboring school, Central California Connections Academy. Of those, 23 have earned advanced degrees.
- School is in session 180 days between the months of August and June.
- Capistrano Connections Academy has 14 students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, which allows students to earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions throughout the state.

Programs of Study

Capistrano Connections Academy offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, with courses in a wide range of disciplines. The core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. All science courses include hands-on laboratory units. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the PSEO program.

- **AP course offerings** include: Art History, Biology, Calculus, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, French, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, U.S. Government, U.S. History, and World History.
- **Honors course offerings** include: Algebra I and II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English 9–12, Geometry, Physical Science, Pre-calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

Capistrano Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester. The typical course load is six classes per semester. Please feel free to view all of our high school courses at <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/california-southern-capistrano-school/curriculum/high-school/high-school-classes.aspx>.

Graduation Requirements and Grade Reporting

In order to graduate, Capistrano Connections Academy students must pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and complete designated coursework. To pass the CAHSEE, students must achieve a score of 350 or higher on each of the two parts: English-Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Twenty-two (22) Carnegie units of credits are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Area/Subject	# Units for Graduation
Language Arts	4
Math (including Algebra I)	2
Science (including Physical Science and Biology)	3
Social Studies (including U.S. History and Government)	3.5
Health	.5
Physical Education	2
Technology	1
Humanities and Arts	1
Other Electives	5
Total	22

Transcript Abbreviations

NaCA – National Connections Academy course

Grading Scale

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. High School students will be awarded credit only for courses in which they have earned a grade of D- or better. This applies both to courses taken at Connections Academy and at other schools. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98-100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92-97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88-89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82-87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78-79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72-77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68-69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62-67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60-61	0.67	1.17	1.67
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Class Rank Policy

Capistrano Connections Academy will calculate the class rank for each high school student two times per year, shortly after the conclusion of each semester. Students who have not yet successfully completed any high school courses for credit directly from Connections Academy will be excluded from the class rank calculation.

For the purposes of calculating the class rank, the student's cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) will be used, which may include weighted grades for Honors or Advanced Placement courses. Courses transferred in from other accredited institutions will also be included in the class rank as long as there are grades assigned for those courses.

The cumulative G.P.A. is calculated to the hundredth of a point. Students whose class rank rounds off to the same hundredth of a point will be considered tied and will receive the same class rank. The ranking will compare students within the same grade level at the same school. The class rank is not included on the student's official high school transcript, but is available for release upon written request.

School Test Information State Test Scores for 2008–11

89% of Capistrano Connections Academy students pass the English-Language Arts (ELA) portion of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) on the first try (usually in 10th grade). 75% of students pass the math portion of the CAHSEE on the first try (usually in 10th grade).

College Testing for 2010–11

ACT school average: English – 27; Mathematics – 25; Reading – 27; Science – 25; Writing – 26; Composite – 26

SAT school average: Critical Reading – 562; Math – 537; Writing – 543

Advanced Placement Testing for 2008–11

Capistrano Connections Academy students took a total of 60 AP exams in 17 subject areas, resulting in an average score of 3.00. AP exams were taken in the following subject areas: Art History, American Government, Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science, Economics – Macro, Economics – Micro, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, European History, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, U.S. History, and World History.

Post-Graduation Plans for the Class of 2011

There were 78 students in the Class of 2011. Of those, 75% planned to attend college (53% planned to attend a two-year college and 22% planned to attend a four-year college).

College Matriculation for the Class of 2011

Students in the Class of 2011 were accepted to the following colleges: California State University Chico, California State University Northridge, California State University San Bernardino, San Francisco State, San Diego State University, University of California Irvine, University of California Los Angeles, University of California Santa Barbara, Boston University, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, University of Colorado, University of Washington, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, American University Paris, Drexel University, Indiana University, Loyola Marymount University, Marymount Manhattan University, Mills College, St. Johns University, University of British Columbia, United States Air Force Academy, University of Oklahoma, and Whittier College.

High School Virtual Visitation

College and University representatives are cordially invited to connect with our students through web conferencing technology. A two-week advanced notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web conference session, please contact **Penny Reeves at 949-461-1667 ext. 314 or preeves@connectionseducation.com**.