

Sequoiah School is an independent, co-educational, non-sectarian K-12 day school in Pasadena, CA. Founded in 1958 as a K-8 school, Sequoyah opened its neighboring high school campus in 2016 and graduated its inaugural Senior class in 2019.

## Distinctive Programs

### Social Innovation Program (SIP)

Students are required to complete a four-year Social Innovation Program (SIP) focused on addressing complex social and environmental challenges. Designed to cultivate the foundational skills of social entrepreneurship, students apply a systems approach to problem solving, ethical decision making, and ethnographic and statistical research. Throughout their SIP experience, students maintain professional relationships with stakeholders while reflecting on their unique positions to affect change.

### Talking Leaves

Named after a Cherokee expression for written language, Talking Leaves honors our namesake, Sequoyah. Twice a year, every student presents a culminating essay and public talk, modeled after a thesis defense, to their peers, a faculty committee, parents, and other invited guests. Students demonstrate ownership of their learning by deeply exploring and analyzing a chosen topic based on a meaningful intellectual experience and reflecting on its role in their growth as scholars. The standard for passing is demanding – students must pass 6 of 8 Talking Leaves rounds in order to graduate. A mark of Exemplary distinction is given to students who display sophistication, persuasion, depth of analysis, mastery and conviction of ideas in their Talking Leaves.

### Field Studies

Expanding the traditional classroom to encompass the surrounding community and natural world, the Field Studies program brings curriculum to life. Participation in these field studies experiences is a graduation requirement:

- **9th Grade** - Sierra Nevada Mountains or Sequoia National Forest (4 days); Zion National Park, Kodachrome Basin State Park, and Escalante National Monument (9 days)
- **10th Grade** - Kings Canyon National Park (4 days); Cedral, Costa Rica (10 days)
- **11th Grade** - Joshua Tree National Park (4 days)
- **12th Grade** - Black Canyon of the Colorado (4 days); Big Sur (8 days) or student-led leadership trip (5 days)

### STEM Institute

Sequoiah's STEM Institute allows students to become members of a larger scientific community and participate in authentic research experiences and field work. Throughout the year, students visit research labs and talk to experts to develop research projects. Research initiatives have included the study of black holes with Caltech and JPL scientists and a collaborative project with the stem cell research laboratory at USC. Institute members recently developed an affinity group for girls in STEM, which extends beyond the Institute and engages other members of the scientific and research community.

## 2019-2020 School Profile

**Grades 9-12**
**CEEB: 050058**
**Head of School**  
Josh Brody, EdD

**High School Director**  
Marc Alongi, EdD

**Director of College Counseling**

 Elsa von Heydenreich, MS  
 evonheydenreich@sequoyahschool.org  
 626-441-2076 x329

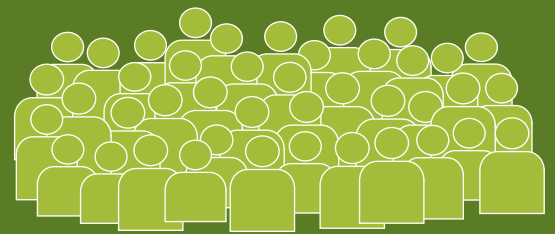
301 N. Orange Grove Bl, Pasadena CA 91103

sequoyahschool.org

**Accreditations**

 California Assoc. of Independent Schools  
 Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges

## Class of 2020


**42 Students**

 9-12 Enrollment  
**132**

**54% Students of Color**


Student-Faculty Ratio



35% Doctoral Degrees

12% ABD

53% Master's Degrees

## Evaluation & Grading Policy

Sequoyah's high school program uses a competency-based assessment system to help students focus on the specific Learning Objectives (LOs) for each course. Throughout a course, students receive feedback on each LO and receive an overall grade at the end of the course. For more information about our approach to assessment, please see our Curriculum Guide.

## Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale

Transcripts list GPAs, along with letter grades per course, in accordance with this scale:

GPA	Grade
4.0 – 3.7	A
3.6 – 3.3	A-
3.2 – 3.1	B+
3.0 – 2.7	B
2.6 – 2.3	B-
2.2 – 2.1	C+
2.0 – 1.7	C
1.6 – 1.3	C-
1.2 – 1.1	D+
1.0 – 0	NC

## Test Scores – Class of 2020

	Lowest	Average	Highest
SAT Scores	880	1140	1520
ACT Scores	17	27	36

## National Merit Recognition

In the Class of 2020, two students have received a Letter of Commendation.

## Graduation Requirements

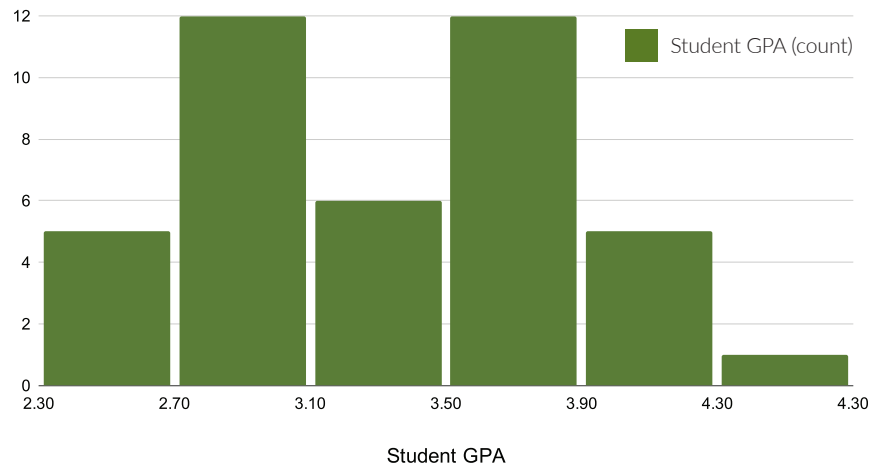
Students earn a minimum of 24 course credits to graduate, with 6 credits in elective courses, plus credits in SIP, Field Studies and Talking Leaves:

- 3 years of history
- 4 seasons (2 years) of PE
- 4 years of English
- 6 credits of other electives (including Z Block mini-courses)
- 3 years of mathematics
- 6 successfully completed Talking Leaves presentations – must include June of 12th-grade
- 3 years of laboratory science
- 3 years of world language
- 1 year of art
- 7 Field Studies trips
- 4 years of the Social Innovation Program

## GPA & Grade Distribution

### GPA Distribution – Class of 2020: 42 Seniors

We do not rank our students.



## Grade Distribution by Department & Courses (%) - Class of 2020

	% of Grade:	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+
English		11	21	8	22	7	11	8	10	-
History		8	14	5	14	19	14	14	10	2
Mathematics		5	8	4	20	16	18	8	12	8
Science		28	16	14	14	10	14	2	2	-
World Languages		10	28	17	28	14	3	-	-	-
Visual/Performing Arts		46	25	9	10	-	-	-	6	1

## Grade Distribution by Department & Courses (%) - Class of 2019

	% of Grade:	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+
English		9	26	-	15	15	8	3	12	12
History		-	22	-	22	33	-	17	-	-
Mathematics		25	8	-	17	34	8	8	-	-
Science		19	33	10	14	14	-	10	-	-
World Languages		27	37	9	-	18	-	-	9	-
Visual/Performing Arts		48	24	3	6	6	3	10	-	-

## Grades 9-12

	% of Grade:	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+
English		10	23	6	19	9	11	7	10	3
Humanities		16	32	16	19	11	4	1	-	-
History		9	17	4	16	15	15	11	11	1
Mathematics		23	14	7	23	11	8	5	5	3
Science		24	21	12	19	11	7	4	2	-
World Languages		21	33	16	13	12	2	2	1	-
Visual/Performing Arts		46	26	6	13	2	1	3	2	-

# Course Offerings

## HUMANITIES

Humanities 1  
Humanities 2

## ENGLISH

Brave New World\*  
Contemporary US Drama  
Ekphrasis: Poetry and the Other Arts\*  
Monsters & Madness\*\*  
Nature & Transcendence  
The Color Curtain: Race in American Literature\*\*  
Shakespeare  
*SAS Allegory & The Novella\**  
*SAS Making Ends Meet: Women and Capitalism\*\**  
*SAS The Undiscovered Country\**  
*SAS The Emerging Voice: Creative Writing Workshop\*\**

## MATHEMATICS

Foundations 1 (Algebra 1)  
Foundations 2 (Geometry)  
Foundations 3 (Algebra 2)  
Precalculus  
Statistics  
*SAS Calculus*  
*SAS Higher Mathematics*

## HISTORY

American History  
Middle East A & B\*  
*SAS American History*  
*SAS Autocracy & Totalitarianism\*\**

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1  
Spanish 2  
Spanish 3  
Spanish 4  
*SAS Spanish 4*

## SCIENCE

Conceptual Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Biology of Disease\*  
Brain & Cognitive Sciences  
Grand Challenges of Ecology\*  
*SAS Chemistry*  
*SAS Biology*  
*SAS Physics*  
*SAS Biology of Disease\*\**  
*SAS Grand Challenges of Ecology\*\**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Each student must participate in at least 4 seasons on a sports team or in a P.E. activity.

## VISUAL ARTS

Animation & Film\*\*  
Graphic Novel  
Drawing 1  
Drawing\*\*  
Illustration\*  
Installation  
Painting\*\*  
Printmaking\*  
Sculpture\*\*  
Visual Communication\*  
Studio Art  
*SAS Visual Arts Seminar\*\**

## PERFORMING ARTS

**Music**  
Choir  
Contemporary Issues in Music\*\*  
Gryphon Ensemble\*\*

Guitar  
Performance\*  
**SAS Music Production\*\***

## Theater

Acting\*\*  
Art of Storytelling\*\*  
Improvisation\*  
Fall Show†  
Spring Show†  
*SAS Playwriting, Acting & Directing\*\**  
*SAS Shakespeare\*\**

# Honors Program

## Sequoyah Advanced Studies (SAS)

SAS courses comprise our honors curriculum available to students in grades 11 and 12. Students receive faculty recommendations in order to pursue these more rigorous, sophisticated, and challenging courses.

- SAS Allegory & The Novella
- SAS Making Ends Meet: Women and Capitalism
- SAS The Undiscovered Country
- SAS Calculus
- SAS Higher Mathematics
- SAS American History
- SAS Autocracy & Totalitarianism
- SAS Spanish 4 & 5
- SAS Chemistry
- SAS Biology
- SAS Physics
- SAS Biology of Disease
- SAS Grand Challenges of Ecology
- SAS Visual Arts Seminar
- SAS Playwriting, Acting & Directing
- SAS The Emerging Voice

## Z-BLOCK ELECTIVES

Focused 45-minute mini-courses that allow students and faculty opportunities to explore a wide range of interests. New courses are offered frequently.

Animation  
Astrobiology  
Astronomy  
Chicanx Art + Culture  
Computer Architecture  
Design Thinking  
Filmmaking  
Grand Challenges of STEM  
Gryphon Media Company  
Introduction to Brain Science  
Introduction to Jazz  
Java Script Animation  
Jazz Combo  
Lab Methods in Science  
Las Matematicas  
Machine Learning  
Mathematicians  
Music Technology  
Mythology  
Personal Finance  
Photography  
Pythagorean Philosophy  
Python Programming  
Robotics  
Science of Sci-Fi  
Songwriting

\* 1/3 credit  
\*\*2/3 credit  
†1/2 credit

# Modular Schedule & Course Load

Sequoyah's modular schedule (Mods) provides ample time for a rich and focused learning experience. Designed to support student engagement and individual attention, Mods allow for more detailed and frequent feedback with increased options for exploring and advancing individual interests and courses.

There are 7 modules (Mods) per school year, approximately 5 weeks each. Mod 7 is dedicated to camping trips, international expeditions, social innovation projects, and internships. The year also includes a 5-day Exhibition Week at mid-year and at year's end. The following chart represents a typical course load, with 3 required courses per day, plus 1 elective mini-course, during each Mod.

9th Grade	10th Grade
<b>6 CURRICULAR COURSES</b>	<b>5-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</b>
Foundations Mathematics (1, 2 or 3)	Mathematics
Conceptual Physics	Chemistry
Humanities 1 (English & History)	Humanities 2
Spanish (1, 2 or 3)	Spanish (2, 3 or 4)
Visual or Performing Arts electives (3 blocks)	Elective
Advisory	Advisory
Social Innovation Program (SIP)	SIP
Sport or PE Option	Sport or PE option
11th Grade	12th Grade
<b>5-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</b>	<b>4-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</b>
Mathematics	English elective or SAS English 4
Bio or SAS Bio	Electives
English elective	Advisory
History elective (11th or 12th grade)	SIP Internship
Spanish (unless level 3 completed)	Sport or PE option
Elective	
Advisory	
SIP Impact Project	
Sport or PE option	

# Sequoyah Sports

**FALL**  
Volleyball (Girls)  
Cross Country (Co-ed)  
Soccer (Co-ed)

**SPRING**  
Archery (Co-ed)  
Mountain Biking (Co-ed)  
Volleyball (Boys)  
Swimming & Diving (Co-ed)  
Tennis (Co-ed)

**WINTER**  
Basketball (Girls)  
Basketball (Boys)  
Squash (Co-ed)  
West African Dance (Co-ed)

## Global Online Academy

The Global Online Academy (GOA) imagines a future where all students acquire and practice modern learning skills to be global citizens. As a member school, Sequoyah joins over 85 independent schools from around the world in preparing students for a global future by providing new, modern ways for students to learn and teachers to teach. Through meaningful and rigorous online courses, students at Sequoyah connect in real time with students from different geographic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds and perspectives. All GOA courses are taken for credit and taught by faculty at member schools.

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## Memberships / Associations

National Association of Independent Schools

California Association of Independent Schools

Ashoka Changemaker School

Mastery Transcript Consortium

National Capstone Consortium

Equity Dashboard Consortium

Independent Curriculum Group (ICG)

Progressive Education Network (PEN)

EdLeader21

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

Western Association for College Admission Counseling

Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools

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## Discipline Reporting Policy

If a college or university asks Sequoyah School about disciplinary action for a student, it is the school's obligation to respond to the question. Consistent with the school's reporting policy, major academic and behavioral transgressions will be shared as part of the student's application. Students should also self-report and authorize Sequoyah School to provide information about disciplinary actions, including probation, suspension, or expulsion, as part of their application to a college or university.

## Class of 2019 List of Acceptances

Bard College

Bennington College

Brown University

CSU East Bay

CSU Maritime Academy

CSU Northridge

Cinema Makeup School

Clark Atlanta University

Cornell University

Creighton University

Curry College

Eastern Oregon University

Emerson College

Goucher College

Grinnell College

Humboldt State University

Loyola Marymount University

Marist College

Northwestern University

Oberlin College

Pace University

Pasadena City College

Santa Clara University

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The New School

UC Berkeley

UC Davis

UC San Diego

UC Santa Barbara

UC Santa Cruz

UC Los Angeles

University of Chicago

University of Pennsylvania

University of Puget Sound

USC

University of Utah - Honors College

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Washington University in St. Louis

Wesleyan University

Xavier University Louisiana



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