



# SCHOOL PROFILE 2023–2024

601 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA  
90405  
T 310.395.3204  
F 310.395.5842  
www.samohi.smmusd.org  
CEEB Code: 053320

## Administration

Marae Cruce, Lead Principal  
Hector Medrano, S House Principal  
Lisette Bravo, M House Principal  
Gregory Pitts, O House Principal  
Tristan Komlos, H House Principal  
Satinder Hawkins, I House Principal  
Jessica Rishe, PBL Principal  
Nicole Nicodemus, PBL Principal  
Stefani Tovar, Activities Director  
Coleen Davenport-Paysinger, Athletic Director

## Student Support Advisor/Counselor

Lisa DeMirjian, S House Advisor  
Amy Golden, S House Advisor  
Maribel Pulido, M House Advisor  
Lauren Takeshita, M House Advisor  
Maricela Gonzalez, O House Advisor  
Mele LeVeaux, O House Advisor  
Rachel Bereny, H House Advisor  
Ramon Gomez, H House Advisor  
Jessica Garrido, I House Advisor  
Yunuen Valencia, I House Advisor  
Ernesto Flores, College/Career Counselor  
Julie Honda, College/Career Counselor  
Rosa Mejia, College/Career Counselor

## Student Enrollment: 2,577

9th Grade 593	10th Grade 625
11th Grade 685	12th Grade 674

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND DESCRIPTION

Santa Monica High School (Samohi), founded in 1891, is located on a twenty-six acre campus in the city of Santa Monica. The school enjoys the strong support of a 7,000 member Alumni Association as well as the citizens of Santa Monica and Malibu. Samohi is divided into five Small Learning Communities, called Houses. Each House is comprised of approximately 550 students, one administrator, and two student support advisors. The student body of 2,577 reflects a diverse cultural and socio-economic community consisting of the following ethnic backgrounds: 4.8% Asian (from various Asian countries), 6.5% African American, 34.7% Latino (from various regions of the Americas), 42.3% Caucasian (of European and Middle Eastern ethnicity), Two or More Races 10.3% and .9% Other. Some students are of multi-generational American descent; others are first-generation Americans. The families of students at Samohi range from all levels of socioeconomic status. Thirty-two percent of the student body participate in the federal National School Lunch Program.

*\*Spring 2020—Spring 2021: due to COVID-19, our last day of in-person instruction was March 13, 2020. Our school district, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified (SMMUSD), followed the guidance of the LA County Department of Public Health and LA County Office of Education. Throughout this time we followed the distance learning instruction only. Outside of the classroom, our students were heavily impacted by the county's stay-at home order. The majority of in person extracurricular activities were suspended.*

*\*2021—2022: we returned to in-person instruction August 19, 2021, with the option of the Independent Study Program (ISP) offered through the SMMUSD Apex Learning's curriculum. Approximately 220 students opted-in for the ISP schoolwide, 19 of which are part of the class of 2023.*

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Samohi employs 161 certificated staff members, including 10 student support advisors, 3 college counselors, 6 administrators, and 3 school psychologists. The teacher to student ratio is 35 to 1. We are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Our spirited faculty is comprised of teachers both newer to the profession and those more experienced as well as including a number of faculty members who are Samohi alumni.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Students earn recognition for outstanding achievement in national testing programs such as National Merit Scholarship Corporation and Advanced Placement exams. Local, state, and national recognitions have been awarded to our students, teachers, and groups in the visual/performing arts, including band, orchestra, and choir. All Samohi athletics have been recognized for outstanding achievement, including regional, CIF Division, State Championships, and National Championships. CTE classes have won regional and national competitions over the past 5 years.

## PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE

The **Immersion program** allows students to continue their educational experience in a dual-language environment. **AVID** provides assistance to students who will be the first in their families to attend a college/university. We offer an extensive **Advanced Placement** curriculum with 20 courses available. We also offer **dual and concurrent** enrollment courses for high school and college credit through a partnership with nearby Santa Monica College. Lastly, we are in the initial stages of establishing a **Peer College Counseling** program aimed at increasing college awareness schoolwide.

## PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (PBL) PATHWAY

Samohi's Project-Based Learning (PBL) Pathway is an experiential, challenging, student-driven learning experience that creates authentic relationships between students, teachers, and community mentors. The PBL Pathway functions from a satellite campus located within the premises of Santa Monica College. Students acquire knowledge and skills by engaging in project-based inquiry, where math, science, social science, and English Language Arts curricula are delivered through integrated, thematic, and interdisciplinary projects. Each of our students fulfills requirements and expectations in a unique manner. Students within this Pathway spend approximately 20 percent of the school week off-campus, involved in activities directly related to their project work: investigation, interviewing, internships, volunteerships, service learning, and/or group and individual workshops/seminars. PBL Pathway students do not have access to AP courses but instead, take courses directly at Community Colleges through Dual and Concurrent Enrollment. PBL Pathway students are expected to achieve at honors/accelerated levels. Students' coursework is not textbook-driven. Instead, PBL students are required to form their own hypotheses, conduct thorough investigations, identify local "experts" on various subjects, and create authentic and rigorous products to define and demonstrate their learning. For these reasons, the PBL Pathway uses a mastery-based grading system, instead of a culmination of point totals. All work is assessed on 4-point rubrics and reflects professional performance standards in career fields as well as mastery of Common Core and State Standards. As a result of this methodology, our PBL Pathway students' grades are a reflection of their mastery of standards.

## CTE ACADEMIES AND PATHWAYS

Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways and Academies are programs of study which feature rigorous academics with technical, design, entrepreneurial, and global competency skills culminating in real-world, capstone projects. CTE helps students gain valuable academic and technical skills for postsecondary institutions and high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers. **Samohi's seven CTE pathways** offer sequential coursework and activities aligned with academic standards and local Silicon Beach industry demands. **Meanwhile, Samohi Academies integrate CTE courses with core academic courses giving students a dynamic project-based experience.** These unique supplemental educational opportunities may come at a slight cost for students. For example, for PLTW Engineering, students take a hybrid, English/Science collaboration course that requires enrollment in two specific class periods during senior year. Unfortunately, such endeavor encounters schoolwide master schedule issues that lead to student class limitations, such as access to certain AP courses (e. g., AP English Lit, AP Physics).

### AUTOMOTIVE PATHWAY

The **Automotive Pathway** offers a foundation systems diagnostics, service and repair. It leverages real-world, occupationally relevant experiences of significant scope and depth. The standards are designed to integrate core academic and technical preparation and focus on relevant environmental technology, career awareness and exploration, and the attainment industry certifications. Integral components include classroom, laboratory, hands-on contextual learning, project/work-based instruction and leadership development. The standards in this sector prepare students for continued training, postsecondary education, and direct entry to industry.

### COMPUTER SCIENCE PATHWAY

Students in the **Computer Science Pathway** learn programming languages (Java & Python) and focus on the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. Students prepare for taking Computer Science AP exams and learn valuable industry skills like clear communication, effective collaboration, and project management.

### ENGINEERING DESIGN PATHWAY

The **Engineering Design Pathway** offers students a foundation in engineering - specifically aerospace and circuitry (digital design). Students are engaged academic and technical preparation through classroom, laboratory, and hands-on contextual learning, project-based instruction, leadership and soft-skills development. Currently, Samohi offers the Engineering Academy where students take Engineering Design and Development, Applications of Physics in Engineering, and English 12 for Engineering.

### FILM & TV / GRAPHIC DESIGN / PHOTOGRAPHY

Learning the skills and knowledge for creating, refining, and the presentation of work in these three pathways promote teamwork, communication, creative thinking, and decision-making abilities—traits that are necessary to function successfully in the competitive and media-rich twenty-first century. Through the manipulation of sight, sound, and motion, those choosing a pathway from this sector reach out in unique ways to enhance the quality of life for those around them. **Samohi's Film/TV Production, Graphic Design, and Photography pathways** are project-based and require broad and in-depth academic preparation, independent work, and interdependent management skills for success.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS PATHWAY

As we pilot the **Health & Wellness Pathway**, students are introduced to industry through the study and application of Sports Medicine and patient-driven health care. Students learn about prevention, treatment, rehabilitation of athletic injuries, anatomy, cell and tissue structure and response to injury, body systems. With a high level of independent study and investigation, students' training is divided into academic coursework and hands-on clinical experience. Qualified students may participate in job shadowing and/or an internship in a related field such as Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, Sports Psychology, Sports Nutrition, Strength and Conditioning, Practice of Medicine, Athletic Training.

## HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

### English

AP English Language and Composition  
AP English Literature and Composition

### Foreign Language

Honors French Genre  
Honors French Ideas  
Honors Japanese 4  
Honors Latin 5  
AP Japanese Language and Culture  
AP Spanish Language and Culture  
AP Spanish Literature and Culture

### Mathematics

Honors Algebra 2  
Honors Pre Calculus/Calculus  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Statistics

### Science

Honors Chemistry  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 1  
AP Physics C: Mechanics  
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism

### Social Studies

AP Economics (Macro)  
AP Government and Politics  
AP Human Geography  
AP Psychology  
AP United States History  
AP World History

### Visual & Performing Arts

AP Studio Art: 2D

### Electives

Honors PLTW Digital Electronics  
Honors PLTW Engineering Design and Development  
PLTW AP Computer Science (Python)  
AP Computer Science (Java)

## GRADING AND CLASS RANK INFORMATION

Samohi reports an unweighted, cumulative GPA determined by all courses and grades except physical education (PE) and teacher assistant (TA). The GPA is computed using a 4-point scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0 while plus and minus grades are neutral). If a course is repeated, the grades are averaged. In compliance with district policy, class rank is not computed.

An academically challenging/rigorous curriculum consists of completing 3 or more AP's and/or Community College courses in the 11th and 12th grades.

Multivariable Calculus is our highest level math course.

2020-2021 School Year: California Assembly Bill 104 was passed allowing student to have the option to select Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) instead of a letter grade.

Spring 2020: An emergency distance learning protocol was used and students had the option to switch to Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) instead of a letter grade. A Credit (CR) could be earned for academic performance that would traditionally earn an "A-D" grade.

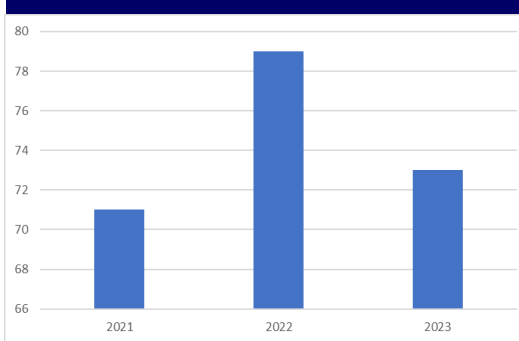
## 2022 TESTING PROFILE

Due to Covid-19 restrictions within LA County, access to ACT /SAT testing centers starting March 2020 through Fall 2021 was minimal. Approximately .07% of the class of 2023 took the SAT between November 2021—June 2022 with most traveling outside of LA County for a test center. Approximately 29% of the class of 2023 participated in the SAT School Day in April 2022.

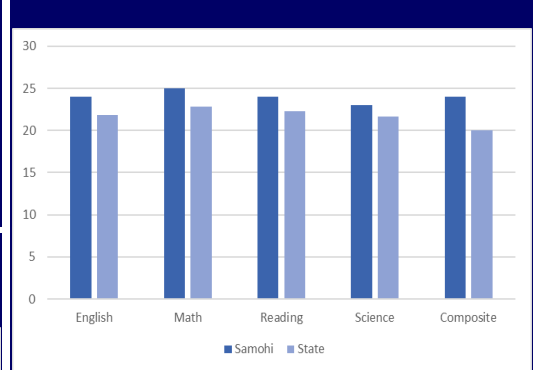
### AP TEST INFORMATION

	2021	2022	2023
Total AP Students	885	891	1215
Number of Exams	1600	1764	2101
AP Students with Scores 3+	627	703	1536

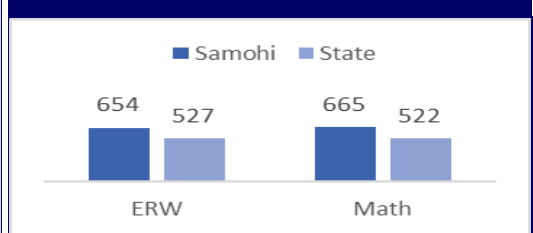
### % OF TOTAL AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+



### ACT MEAN TEST SCORE



### SAT MEAN TEST SCORE



### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Social Studies	30 credits
English	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits
Science	20 credits
Foreign Language	10 credits in a foreign language or fine art
Fine Arts	10 credits in a visual or perf. art or foreign language
Physical Education	20 credits
Electives	60 credits
Other	10 credits Freshman Seminar or 5 credits Health
Total	220 credits

### TRANSCRIPT LEGEND

AP	Advanced Placement
HP	Honors
CC	College Class
P	College Preparatory
IM	Immersion Program
R	Repeated





# COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



89% of graduates enter higher education institutions. Below is a partial list of four-year institutions attended by 2015-2023 graduates.

Academy of Art University	Indiana University, Bloomington	Stonehill College
Alabama State University	Ithaca College	SUNY Binghamton
American Jewish University	Johns Hopkins University	Syracuse University
American University	Juniata College	Temple University
Amherst College	Keio University	Texas A&M University
Arizona State University	Kenyon College	The Juilliard School
Art Center College of Design	Lewis & Clark College	Tulane University
Art Institute of CA Los Angeles	Linfield College	Universities of California
Auburn University	London College of Fashion	University at Buffalo
Azusa Pacific University	Loyola Marymount University	University of Alabama
Babson College	Loyola University New Orleans	University of Arizona
Bard College	Macalester College	University of British Columbia
Barnard College	Marist College	University of Chicago
Bates College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Baylor University	McGill University	University of Colorado Boulder
Bennington College	Michigan State University	University of Delaware
Berklee College of Music	Mississippi State University	University of Denver
Biola University	Montana State University	University of Finland
Boise State University	Morehouse College	University of Florida
Boston University	Mount Saint Mary's University	University of Hawaii at Manoa
Bowdoin College	New York University	University of Houston
Brown University	Northeastern University	University of Illinois, Chicago
Bryn Mawr College	Northern Arizona University	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
California State Universities	Northwestern University	University of Iowa
Carnegie Mellon University	Oberlin College	University of Kansas
Case Western Reserve University	Occidental College	University of Kentucky
Chapman University	Oklahoma State University	University of La Verne
Claremont McKenna College	Oregon State University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Clark Atlanta University	Pace University	University of Miami
Clark University	Pacific University	University of Michigan
College of Charleston	Pennsylvania State University	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Colorado College	Pitzer College	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Colorado State University	Pomona College	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Columbia University	Portland State University	University of Oregon
Cornell University	Pratt Institute	University of Pennsylvania
Cornish College of the Arts	Princeton University	University of Puget Sound
Dartmouth College	Purdue University	University of Redlands
Davidson College	Queen's University	University of Richmond
Dickinson College	Reed College	University of San Diego
Duke University	Rensselaer Polytech Institute	University of San Francisco
Embry-Riddle University	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Southern California
Emerson College	Rice University	University of St. Andrews
Emory University	Rutgers University	University of Texas
Eugene Lang College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Utah
Florida A&M University	San Francisco Art Institute	University of Virginia
Florida State University	Santa Clara University	University of Washington
Fordham University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Wisconsin Madison
George Wash University	Savannah College of Art & Design	Valparaiso University
Georgetown University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Vanderbilt University
Georgia Institute of Technology	School of the Museum of Fine Arts	Vassar College
Grambling State University	Scripps College	Waseda University
Grinnell College	Seattle University	Washington State University
Hampshire College	Seton Hall University	Washington University in St Louis
Hampton University	Skidmore College	Wellesley College
Harvard University	Smith College	Wesleyan University
Harvey Mudd College	Southern Methodist University	Willamette University
Hawaii Pacific University	Southern Oregon University	Williams College
Howard University	St. John's University	Xavier University of Louisiana
Idaho State University	Stanford University	Yale University