



School Profile

Class of 2016

Da Vinci Science
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AN OVERVIEW

Da Vinci Science opened in 2009 as an independent, college-prep public charter high school serving grades 9-12. Located two miles south of Los Angeles International Airport in an area known as the "Aerospace Capital of the World," Da Vinci Science combines a rigorous, project-based curriculum with hands-on learning, real-world work experience, and Early College classes, preparing students for careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)-related fields. In 2013, Da Vinci Science earned certification as a Project Lead The Way school. In 2011, Da Vinci Science won the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Excellence in Engineering Education Collaboration Award for its extensive collaboration with Northrop Grumman and other key industry partners. In 2010, former CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said "Da Vinci Schools should be a model for other public schools in the state." Da Vinci Science is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

STUDENT BODY

Total Enrollment - 516

Ethnic Composition	
Latino - 56%	Asian - 7%
White - 16%	Other - 9%
Black - 12%	

Geographic Diversity - Students come from 82 different zip codes to attend Da Vinci Schools.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to take a rigorous "a-g" college-prep curriculum that includes:

English - 4 years required	History/Social Science - 3 years required
Science - 2 years required	Foreign Language - 2 years required
Mathematics - 3 years required	Art - 1 year required

CURRICULUM

Da Vinci Science offers rigorous, college-preparatory courses in which the content is made accessible through project-based learning. Teachers of different subjects work collaboratively to plan and pace the curriculum so that students are able to see and explore connections across academic disciplines. All mathematics courses incorporate College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) curriculum in addition to project-based learning experiences, and engineering courses follow the national curriculum provided by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). In all classes, students are challenged to develop critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and presentation skills.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for students to showcase their learning. In the fall and again in the spring, students present their most recent project to other students, families, and community members at Exhibition Night. At the close of each semester, all students must present a Portfolio Defense to a panel of faculty in which they use their work as evidence to demonstrate mastery of their learning. In the courses themselves, students are encouraged to adopt a growth mindset – constantly seeking feedback and revision so that they can improve and demonstrate their understanding.

Da Vinci Science has established partnerships with neighboring corporations and businesses to provide students with a complete real-world learning experience. In math, science, and engineering courses, industry experts from Boeing and Northrop Grumman collaborate with faculty to plan projects and assist students as they work on their projects in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, Da Vinci Science's Work Experience Program places 11th graders at local job sites, giving them exposure to a variety of work settings including Northrop Grumman, Boeing, SpaceX, Hilton Hotels, and many others.

"Da Vinci Schools are among the very finest I've seen."

Dr. David Brown, Former
Executive Director WASC
Accrediting Commission
for Schools

English

English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12

Social Science

World History
US History
US Government

Mathematics

Geometry
Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus
Calculus

Science

Physics
Chemistry
Biology
Human Body Systems (PLTW)
Medical Interventions (PLTW)

Foreign Language

Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish 4
American Sign Language 1
American Sign Language 2
American Sign Language 3

Additional College Prep Electives

Intro to Engineering Design (PLTW)
Principles of Engineering (PLTW)
Psychology
Economics

Seminars (partial list)

Flight School
Robotics
Computer Programming
Mock Trial
Leadership
Work Experience
Youth & Government
Writer's Workshop
Yearbook
Cross-Fit

Faculty

All 26 full-time teachers at DVS are fully credentialed.

HONORS AND COLLEGE COURSES

Da Vinci Science offers Honors courses to high school students in all core subjects, including English, World History, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, American Sign Language 1, and American Sign Language 2. Honors work is not isolated from regular college-prep classrooms. For a student to receive an honors designation, he or she must demonstrate mastery of additional content beyond the regular class requirements. Honors work is completed under faculty guidance. Da Vinci Science does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

Students may also pursue rigorous college classes on site for college credit – tuition free – through the Da Vinci Early College Program. Classes are offered in collaboration with Antioch University Los Angeles, El Camino College and Project Lead The Way (PLTW). Early College classes offered during 2015-2016 include and are equivalent to:

History 101 & 102 (Antioch University LA)	US History Honors
English 111 & 112 (Antioch University LA)	English 12 Honors
Math 190A & B (Antioch University LA)	Calculus Honors
Spanish 104 & 105 (Antioch University LA)	College Spanish Honors
PLTW Introduction to Engineering (El Camino)	PLTW Introduction to Engineering
PLTW Principles of Engineering (El Camino)	PLTW Principles of Engineering
PLTW Engineering Design & Develop. (El Camino)	PLTW Engineering Design & Development
PLTW Digital Electronics (El Camino)	PLTW Digital Electronics
PLTW Computer Integrated Manufact. (El Camino)	PLTW Computer Integrated Manufacturing

CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Senior Completion Rate - 98%	Accepted to post-secondary - 98%
Completed A-G requirements - 98%	Accepted into 4-year colleges - 75%

Da Vinci Science graduates have been accepted into the following colleges and universities (partial list). Three Da Vinci Science students were recently named Gates Millennium Scholars.

All 9 UC schools	Johns Hopkins University
All 23 CSU campuses	MIT
Boston University	New York University
Brown University	Stanford University
Columbia University	USC
Harvard University	Yale University

GPA AND GRADING SYSTEM

The Da Vinci Science school year is divided into two, 18-week semesters. Students receive letter grades each semester and progress reports every six weeks. Each day is divided into one hour and 40 minute periods, on a rotating block schedule.

Grading Scale

A+ = 4.0	B+= 3.333	C+= 2.333	F = 0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	
A- = 3.667	B- = 2.667	C- = 1.667	

The cumulative G.P.A. is based on all course work completed between 9th through 12th grades. One additional point is awarded to classes designated as honors. Da Vinci Science uses a mastery-based grading system.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

(partial list)
Aerospace Corporation
American Society of Engineering Education
Antioch University Los Angeles
Belkin International
Boeing
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Chevron
El Camino College
Gensler
Loyola Marymount University
Mattel
Northrop Grumman
Project Lead The Way
Raytheon
SpaceX
UCLA
USC