

DUNN

SCHOOL



Los Olivos, CA dunnschool.org 805.688.6471

Live Where
You Learn



The Dunn School **Mission**

The Dunn School community educates whole students to their fullest potential in preparation for a life of learning and responsible leadership in society.

DUNN'S CORE VALUES

For over 60 years, Dunn has stayed true to its mission to educate the whole student. To accomplish this, the entire community is committed to understanding and living by the following core values:

- EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
- PHYSICAL READINESS
- INTELLECTUAL GROWTH
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- MORAL COURAGE



WHOLE STUDENT EDUCATION

School is an all-encompassing experience — a transformational time to explore bold ideas, challenge yourself, and make new friends from around the world. School fuels your curiosity and ignites your passions — it provides every tool needed to help build the strongest foundation of knowledge and skills. You'll learn to push yourself, both in the classroom and beyond, with the expert guidance and caring support of faculty and staff members and the extraordinary community that is Dunn.

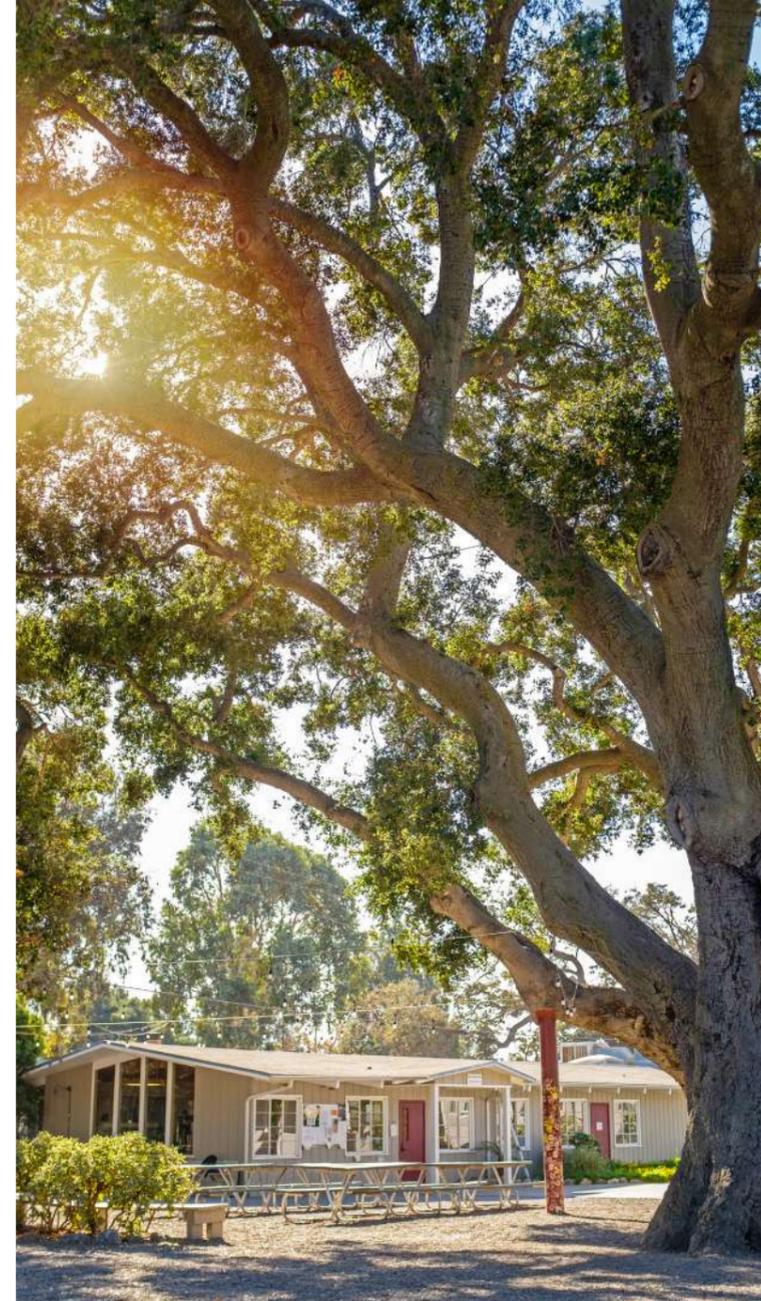




Student Experience

Our small classes give you an opportunity to know all of your classmates and form real relationships with your teachers. However, that's only part of the Dunn School experience. Hiking a mountain trail, learning how to cook French cuisine, snorkeling the shores of the Channel Islands, playing on a team full of friends—these adventures (and more!) await when you attend Dunn.

Living where you learn is a hallmark of boarding schools across the globe. We have over one hundred boarding students from many different countries and states, and faculty come from far and wide as well to live on our beautiful campus in the extraordinary Santa Ynez Valley. That means that our campus is abuzz with cross-cultural learning and personal growth.





Each weekend (and on special occasions during the week!), Dunn plans and executes a wide variety of activities for student enjoyment. Trips to shop, to local restaurants, to LA Dodgers' games, to amusement parks, and to many of the naturally beautiful spots in Central California are just a sampling of the fun that we have with our activities program. Many of these programs are chosen by the students themselves — we have an active student-run Activities Committee that helps plan both on-campus and off-campus events. Whether you are a boarding student or a day student, there's always something to do!

We have five dormitories that provide a home away from home for our students. Dedicated faculty and staff live in each dormitory, and the vast majority of teachers spend time overseeing study hall during the academic week. Student leaders and members of the school's administration create programming specifically for the students living in our dormitories. Learning to be independent and self-reliant is a terrific reason to attend boarding school.





Academics

The academic program at the Upper School balances intellectual rigor and skill mastery with a highly supportive and accessible faculty. Our teachers promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. And it is this balanced approach that allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose-driven approach to academics.

Dunn's curriculum is highly responsive to the interests, abilities, and aspirations of our students and the unique strengths of our faculty, which means on any given day a student may go from deep reading and discussion in one class to a collaborative activity in the next. A Dunn education is marked by the opportunity to engage with a range of topics through a variety of approaches, ensuring that all types of learners are appropriately challenged and supported in the learning process through multiple modes of assessment. A visitor to Dunn is just as likely to see students launching rockets from Munger Common as they are to see them writing an in-class essay.





Maker Space. Our Maker Space is more than a classroom; it is a growth mindset that encourages creativity and problem solving. Students are able to pick their own problems, design a solution, and construct the object that will fit their needs. Often the makerspace classroom will be abuzz with students creating items that will be used by other students on the Outdoor Education trips, in their classes, or in the dormitories.



Entrepreneurship. We are entering year 10 of Earwig Inc., and the impact of this program is unquestioned. High school kids can run a business — successfully! They can learn to invest — better than the professionals! They are fearless and enthusiastic entrepreneurs. But the real value of this program is not the one million dollar scholarship fund. The real value is the critical thinking that is required to listen to a customer's problem and figure out a way to solve it profitably. Students hone communication skills while presenting a marketing strategy to a public company CEO. They learn how (and when!) to courageously invest in a stock that is trading at an all time low, while holding themselves accountable to a team and committing to building a thriving business!



In 2018-2019 **SIX DUNN TEAMS** Were League Champions

The excellence of our athletic program is clear from the number of Dunn student-athletes who have gone on to play at Division I and Division III colleges. Alums are currently competing at Boston University, Columbia University, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, the University of Michigan, UCLA, and the University of Akron. Even though Dunn is a small school, we are able to produce athletes with enough talent to play at the next level – and even professionally. We've had several Gatorade California Players of the Year and one Gatorade National Player of the year.

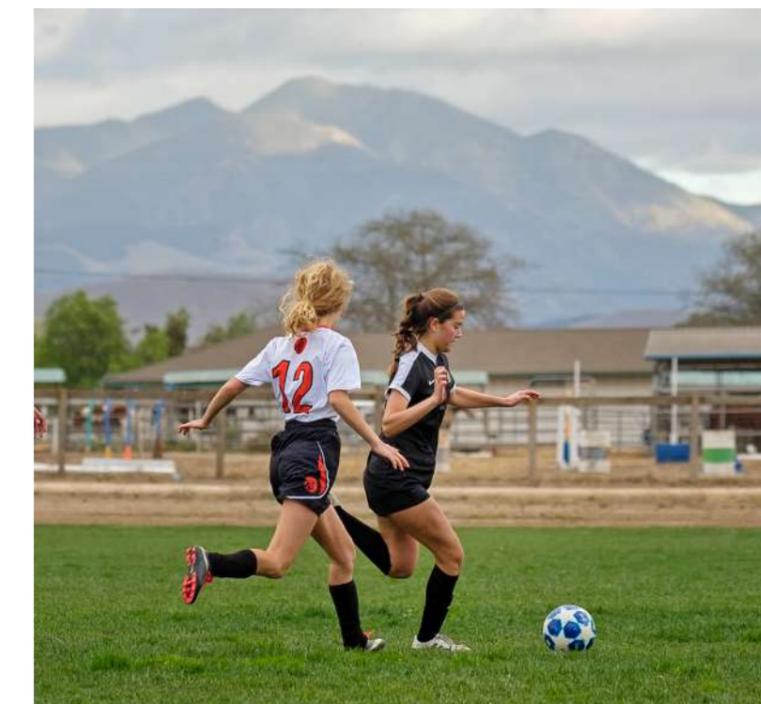
Dunn's program fosters leadership, self-confidence, and commitment to a team. Through practice, training, and competition, Dunn students gain an appreciation for teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and healthy life habits – traits transferable to life beyond athletics. Experienced coaches embrace whole child education by developing character skills on and off the field and promoting teamwork in every aspect of the sport.



Athletic accomplishments come in many shapes and sizes. Dunn School embraces the athletic spectrum and pushes students to be their best physical selves, preparing their bodies for a lifetime of healthy living and activity. But we also enjoy tremendous success for a small school. In 2018-2019, six Dunn teams were League Champions, and three students were recruited to Division I colleges.

All students must participate in at least one season of interscholastic competitive athletics (*), and may participate in up to two activities during each year at Dunn.

Soccer (B/G) *	Basketball (B/G) *
Cross Country (B/G) *	Ultimate Frisbee (coed) *
Tennis (B/G) *	Surfing (coed)
Volleyball (B/G) *	Dance (coed)
Baseball (B) *	Mountain Biking (coed)
Strength & Conditioning	Water Sports (coed)





OPTIONS YOU'LL BE **EXCITED** ABOUT

Clubs and Activities. One of the benefits of attending a small California boarding school is that you will never lack for things to do and ways to get involved. Student clubs, committees, and activities are based on student interest and are highly encouraged. Whether you are interested in surfing and skiing, building and competing with robots, planning and hosting student events, or giving back to the community, there's a way to get involved and stay active. And, of course, our students take full advantage of the fact that our location allows us to enjoy being outside year-round! Whether they are hosting a beach cleanup day or an outdoor dance, student events and activities are enjoyed both inside and out throughout the school year!

Independent Offerings. Every season students are asked to be part of a team or an activity, and if you have a passion for something outside of Dunn's programming, then we have Independent Sport waivers that allow you to follow your dreams, whether they be rodeo, karate, or ballet!





Leadership

Our students become leaders. This is the heart of the Dunn School experience — we use our individual talents to strengthen the community. We believe that students learn best by doing, and at Dunn they hone leadership skills in the classroom, on the athletic fields, on outdoor ed trips, and in the dormitories. Whether as team captains, project team members, members of House Council or Class Senators — Dunn students are learning by doing.

Dunn students take ownership of learning opportunities by planning and hosting community awareness days like International Women's Day or Earth Day. They run committees that plan service events, spirit days, and weekend activities. They demonstrate their commitment to improving the environment through sustainability initiatives. Dunn students are learning to lead themselves and their community, and they take these skills with them to college and beyond. Whether they win a

coveted Forbes 30 Under 30 distinction, start a production company and are nominated for an Oscar, run family businesses, become leaders on collegiate athletic and pro teams, or become major players in tech firms, Dunn graduates all around the world are having a profound impact.

As the social scientific study of leadership has become more in-depth in recent years, we now know that leadership—as a set of skills, capacities and mindsets — can be taught and learned, even in high school. In conjunction with Jay Conger, Professor of Leadership at Claremont McKenna College, Dunn developed a cutting-edge leadership development program where students master essential skills and attitudes for successful leadership.





THE ARTS

Students are encouraged to participate in the arts during the academic day, but there are opportunities to engage and grow outside of the classroom as well. We offer an afternoon theater program in the fall and spring, and many of our Enrichments, Mini Terms, and student-run clubs allow students to enjoy the performing and visual arts beyond the academic day as well.

The Sinclair Art Center is a state-of-the-art facility that features a drawing/painting studio, fully-equipped ceramic studio and sculpture yard, and a multimedia classroom for digital photography and filmmaking.

Most music classes take place in the historic Schoolhouse at the center of campus. The Schoolhouse is equipped with practice rooms, pianos, guitars, drums and many other instruments, as well as a digital recording facility. Aside from its academic functions, the Schoolhouse is a wonderful aesthetic and acoustic space for musical performances by any of the various student ensembles.

Outdoor Education



Through inspiring wilderness adventures, Dunn students build confidence, character, and community. Our California location— which gives us easy access to the high desert, snow-capped peaks, dozens of National and State parks (and that’s just in California!), and hundreds of miles of rugged coastline — sets our Outdoor Education program apart. Our diverse landscapes create opportunities for student growth beyond the classroom through week-long, grade-level trips and weekend offerings. Through developing a deeper connection to the environment and their peers, our students learn key leadership and teamwork skills, furthering Dunn’s mission to educate the whole student.

Outdoor Ed offerings include:

Canoeing the Colorado River
Mammoth Lakes Multi-Sport
Bouldering & rock climbing in Joshua Tree

Summiting Mt. Whitney
Yosemite Day Hikes
Kayaking trips to the Channel Islands

Backpacking in Big Sur
Monterrey Bay Adventures
Morro Bay Adventures

Weekend camping in our neighboring Los Padres National Forest (we are on the edge of two million acres of protected land)
Weekend ski trips to Tahoe and the Sierras



EXPLORING THE CHANNEL ISLANDS



MOUNT WHITNEY BACKPACKING



COSTA RICA SURFING & YOGA



DIVING AND SNORKELING



NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

OUR UNIQUE PROGRAMS

Mini Term is an exploratory week that offers all students a chance to choose from numerous intensive and immersive academic and physical experiences. Whether students stay on campus or journey across the globe, the goal is to finish the week with an in-depth understanding of a focused topic. Led by faculty and staff members with occasional outside speakers and presenters, this program gives students an opportunity to connect with something greater than themselves, either on-campus or in the outside community. Often Mini Term can help students discover interests that they plan to pursue after Dunn. Check out some of our past Mini Terms on the left!

Our **Enrichment Program** exposes students to new challenges and gives them an opportunity to develop new skills. Many of the programs are led by passionate and engaged faculty and staff members, although we do bring in specialists from the local community as well!



GEOLOGY IN DEATH VALLEY



CANOING THE COLORADO RIVER



COMMUNITY SERVICE IN GUATEMALA



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR EDUCATION





COLLEGE COUNSELING: OUR STUDENTS ARE GOING PLACES

At Dunn, College Counseling is highly personalized, and we do not subscribe to one approved list of schools. Rather, by knowing our students and having a deep understanding of their strengths and areas of growth, we help them develop their own personal criteria to identify colleges where they will thrive academically and socially. We encourage them to make authentic choices, and our matriculation list shows that our students do just that. From public universities to small liberal arts colleges, Dunn students find their right-fit college homes.

Our College Counseling program offers many opportunities for students to explore college options and to learn about the admissions process including on-campus visits with admissions representatives, trips to college campuses, small group instruction, and individual application support. While the majority of college-counseling happens in the junior and senior years, all students are encouraged and welcomed to attend events and tours or may request an individual meeting with the counseling team.

While we expect students to drive this process, it is truly a collaborative effort between them, their parents, and our office. The College Counseling team is here every step of the way to help students:

- Design a course schedule that is appropriately challenging and has college interests in mind
- Take ownership of the college search process
- Understand the myriad of college options that exist
- Develop a well-balanced list of colleges for consideration
- Create an authentic and compelling application
- Manage the admissions process
- Decide between college offers including reviewing financial aid and scholarships



Life in Santa Barbara County

Dunn School is located in Santa Barbara County, along California's beautiful Central Coast. Our campus sits in Los Olivos (in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley), an area surrounded by two million acres of National Forest and dotted with vineyards and California ranches. It is the perfect blend of California sunshine (over 300 days per year!) and year-round access to the outdoors.

Not only does our campus give us easy access to both the coast and the mountains, but it also puts us within easy driving distance of some of the best and most beautiful places in the world. Whether you enjoy cities or National Parks (California has nine — more than any other state!), the ocean or the rugged peaks of the Sierras, we know that you'll fall in love with this area. Where else could you surf and ski in the same weekend? Here are just a few of the amazing places that you can visit from Dunn's campus:



Santa Ynez Valley
Our Backyard



The Pacific Coast
20 Minutes



Santa Barbara
30 Minutes



Los Angeles
2 Hours



Joshua Tree NP
4 Hours



San Francisco
4 Hours



By the Numbers

300+ **DAYS OF SUNSHINE**

We enjoy more than 300 days of sunshine per year, giving us the chance to spend our days outside year round!

12 **AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**

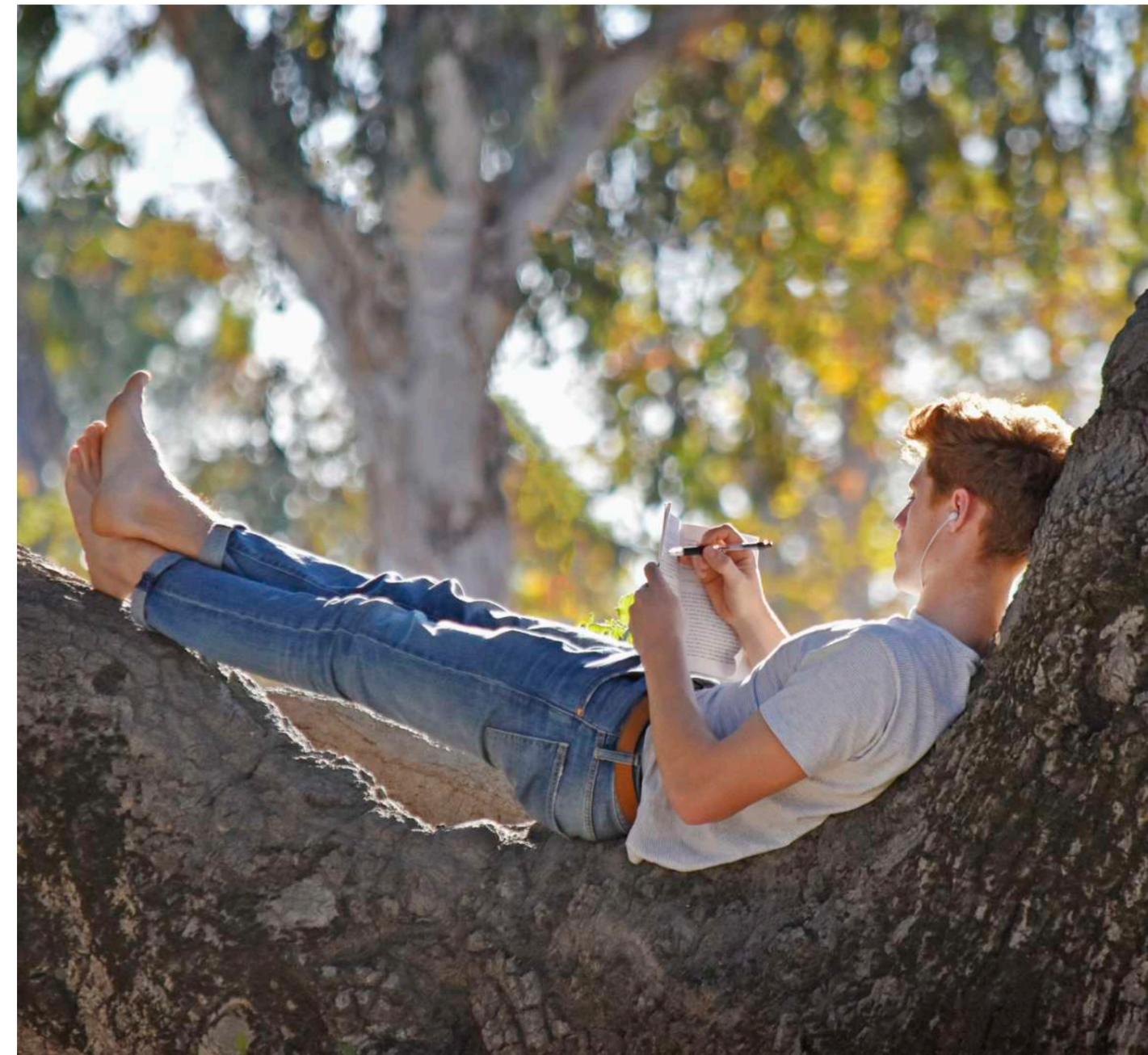
Smaller classes mean that you'll have the opportunity to get to know your teachers and really stand out in class!

45% **STUDENTS OF COLOR**

At Dunn, we are committed to maintaining a diverse campus.

14 **NATIONS REPRESENTED**

In our small boarding school community, students from around the country and the world learn and grow together.





Los Olivos, CA

dunnschool.org

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