OVERVIEW
Vistamar, founded in 2005, is an independent college-preparatory day school serving grades 9-12. The founders’ sustained vision was to tap into the diversity of Los Angeles to bring together students who could learn from each other the skills and attitudes necessary for global citizenship. The Vistamar mission rests on three pillars: challenging academics that engage and inspire students; an intimate atmosphere that supports students with caring relationships; and a diverse community that encourages the authentic exchange of perspectives and leads students to be comfortable crossing cultural boundaries. Vistamar’s norms of civility, integrity, and initiative anchor our community. Currently, our 269 students come from over fifty different zip codes and over fifty middle schools. A robust moderated tuition program supports our commitment to ensuring access for qualified students across the socioeconomic spectrum: 30%-35% of our families participate. In 2015, Vistamar was granted a 7-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

COUNSELING PHILOSOPHY
College counseling takes place under the auspices of the Office of Life Planning, reflecting Vistamar’s strong commitment to preparing students for the real world. We work with students to build their life skills, understand their strengths, and develop a post-secondary plan aligned with their values. To this end, students engage in frequent reflective practice and experiential learning opportunities designed to enhance their awareness of themselves as learners, thinkers, and doers. We encourage students to make authentic choices based on deep self-knowledge and a vision of their future that extends well beyond the next four years. As a result, our students arrive on college campuses poised for involvement, understanding that the best experiences arise directly from real connection to the community.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY
Vistamar takes very seriously a student’s adherence to our community norms, and will report to colleges major disciplinary actions that have been taken against a student, including but not necessarily limited to expulsion, probation, in-school suspension, and at-home suspension.

DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-identified Group</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
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<td>African American</td>
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<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino/Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
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<td>International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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ENROLLMENT 2019-20

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<th>Count</th>
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<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FACULTY

45 faculty members, 30 of whom hold advanced degrees (including 10 doctorates). The student-faculty ratio is 6:1.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

In addition to completing 21 full year course credits, to receive a Vistamar diploma students must:

- Attain an oral proficiency rating of “Intermediate” in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese based on ACTFL standards
- Complete and exhibit a capstone Senior Project meeting established standards
- Engage in a physical fitness activity nine out of twelve terms of enrollment
- Participate in two ungraded “Exploratories” each trimester investigating co-curricular interests (new in 2017-18)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Vistamar’s unofficial motto is “no spectators!” Since our inception, students have been the driving force behind the creation of our extracurricular programs, and are consistently challenged to be active community builders and leaders. The formal student leadership structure consists of four groups: Honor Council, Health and Wellness Council (formerly Peer Council), VistaCrew Senior Leaders, and Vistamar Ambassadors Leadership Team (VALT). Appointment to these selective bodies is through written application and interview. In addition, students have created and are running myriad clubs on campus, including Vistamar View (newspaper), Robotics, GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance), Quotable Movies, Latino Students Association, Pre-Med, Chess, African American Mentoring Program, VistaSports Broadcasting, Mixed Kidz Affinity Group, Fashion, Jewish Culture Club, Christian Club, Feminist Club, Chinese Culture Club, Student Action Club, Music Club, and more. Vistamar students also compete on 17 different interscholastic athletic teams.

GRADING SYSTEM AND RANKING POLICY

Vistamar operates on the trimester system with three grading periods per year. For each course, a single letter grade is recorded that is an average of the three trimesters plus a comprehensive final examination. A student’s GPA is based on all courses taken at Vistamar. Honors and AP courses receive a weight of 1 point (an A is weighted as a 5.0, a B as a 4.0, etc.). It is important for colleges to know that grade point averages are not recalculated when the mid-year grades are sent, since those are only progress report grades. Vistamar does not rank our students, nor do we have academic awards or an honor roll.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Vistamar currently offers 17 AP and 9 Honors courses. We support wide access to the AP experience, and AP courses are open to all students who are willing to make the commitment they entail. We also support balance and wellness for our students, and counsel them extensively to plan academic programs that will allow them to live healthy, full lives. Students are generally limited to 3 AP courses in their junior year and 4 APs in their senior year, and we usually advise fewer than this maximum. In May of 2019:

- 152 students took 377 exams
- 57% of exams earned scores of 3 or higher
- 27% of exams earned scores of 4 or higher
- 7% of exams earned scores of 5

In the Class of 2020, last year as juniors 12 students took 1 AP course, 25 students took 2 APs, and 21 students took 3 APs. Six students with special scheduling needs took four. This year as seniors, 13 students are taking 1 AP course, 16 are taking 2 APs, 23 are taking 3 APs, and 11 are taking 4 APs. Three students with special permission are taking five.

At Vistamar, the number of AP courses taken does not necessarily correlate with rigor of program. Our students often balance other Honors/post-AP classes and many challenging co-curricular responsibilities, and our upper division courses across the board are commensurate with what students will encounter in college.

School-wide essential question for 2019-20:

How do our connections shape the way we grow?
FEATURES OF THE CURRICULUM

Vistamar has drawn from the best practices worldwide to create an integrated curriculum that will serve the needs of students in the information-rich 21st century. The curriculum is designed at every level to foster critical thinking, independent problem-solving, collaborative work, technological acumen, and reflective practice. With an average class size of 14, faculty interact closely with individual students to support them through the challenges that this rigorous program entails. Writing is strongly emphasized.

HUMANITIES: In 9th and 10th grades, English and History are fully integrated. A strong human geography component provides a foundational understanding of cultures and civilizations across time and space. Previously, 9th grade Humanities included trimester-long courses in Linguistics, Economics, and Information Management. 10th grade included short courses in Speech/Debate, Cultural Anthropology, and Writers’ Workshop. In 2018-19, short courses were replaced by an integrated project-based course augmenting the Humanities core. (4 years English, 3 years history required)

Courses
- English 9/History 9: Global Studies
- English 10/History 10: Civilization Studies
- American Literature (11th)
- AP English Language and Composition (11th)
- English 12
- AP English Literature and Composition (12th)
- U.S. History (11th)
- Honors U.S. History (11th)
- Psychology
- Honors Contemporary World Issues (not offered 2018-19)
- AP Human Geography
- AP Economics (Macro & Micro together) (not offered 2019-20)
- AP Government (beginning 2018-19)

MATHMATICS: VistaMath is an integrated mathematics program adapted from Phillips Exeter Academy. This is a fully problem-based, student-centered, investigative approach in keeping with our philosophy of teaching math as a meaningful language. (3 years required; 4 years recommended)

Courses
- Math 1: Integrated Mathematics (Algebra 1)
- Math 2: Integrated Mathematics (Algebra II & Geometry)
- Math 3: Advanced Integrated Mathematics (Geometry & Trig)
- Honors Math 3
- Math 4: Pre-Calculus
- Honors Math 4
- Advanced Topics in Mathematics
- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus AB and BC
- Honors Multivariable Calculus

WORLD LANGUAGES: Proficiency in a second language, as defined by ACTFL standards, is a requirement for graduation. (3 years required)

Courses
- Spanish I, II, III, and IV and Honors Spanish II and III
- Spanish III and Honors Spanish IV for Heritage Speakers
- Honors Topics in Advanced Spanish: Film and Literature (2019-20)
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Spanish Literature (not offered 2019-20)
- Mandarin Chinese I, II, III, and IV
- AP Chinese Language and Culture

SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY: Our modular science program gives students the opportunity to study physics, chemistry, and biology in rotating trimesters. In addition to reinforcing cross-over skills, this design allows understanding in each science to build as the student’s critical thinking and math skills develop. (3 years required)

Courses
- Modular Science I, II, III (physics, chemistry, biology)
- Advanced Topics in Science (Engineering and Invention)
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Advanced Practicum in Laboratory Science
- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism (not offered 2018-19)
- Robotics I (beginning 2017-18)
- Introduction to Computer Science (online only until 2017-18)
- AP Computer Science (beginning 2017-18)

THE ARTS: Student artwork and original music fill the walls and halls of Vistamar, as creative expression is part of the culture of the school. (1 year required)

Courses
- 2-D Art and Advanced 2-D Art
- 3-D Art and Advanced 3-D Art
- Advanced Studio Art
- Digital Media Art and Advanced Digital Media Art
- Digital Photography and Advanced Digital Photography
- Film Making and Advanced Film Making (Production)
- Film Theory (only offered 2018-19)
- Advanced Studio Art and Advanced Studio Art II
- AP Studio Art (2-D, 3-D, and Drawing)
- Drama and Theater Arts (2016-17)
- Acting and Advanced Acting for Stage and Film
- Theater Production and Advanced Theater Production
- Music Workshop and Ensembles (2015-17)
- AP Music Theory
- Digital Composition and Audio Technology (beginning 2019-20)
- String Orchestra (not offered 2019-20)
- Rock Ensemble
- Jazz Band

EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES: Launched in 2017-18, these are ungraded experiential opportunities for students to explore interests with like-minded faculty. Health and wellness sessions and community engagement are embedded. The Class of 2020 all explored Visual Literacy as freshmen.

Visual Literacy (class of 2020 only)
- Exploratory Electives
- Sample topics have included choir, cooking, creative writing, dance, glow-in-the-dark biology, journaling and tea, mock trial, nature walks, origami, The Beatles, yearbook.
DISTRIBUTION OF ALL GRADES IN SELECTED ACADEMIC CLASSES ENROLLING JUNIORS IN 2018-2019

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<th>COURSE</th>
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<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class of 2020
Mean GPA: 3.84
Median GPA: 3.88
Middle 50% GPA Range: 3.57-4.18
(Weighted 4 point scale; does not include junior year transfers)

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

95% of our 635 total graduates have gone on to 4-year colleges, and over 60% elected to leave California. Below is a partial list of where Vistamar graduates have matriculated.

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Belmont University
Beloit College
Bennington College
Bentley University
Berkeley College of Music
Boise State University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
Brown University
Bucknell University
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
California Maritime Academy
CSU Chico
CSU Dominguez Hills
CSU Fullerton
CSU Long Beach
CSU Monterey Bay
CSU Northridge
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Colgate University
College of the Atlantic
College of William and Mary
Colorado College
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Duke University
Elon University
Emory University
FIDM
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
Georgetown University
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Hampton University
Harvey Mudd College
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Marist College
MIT
McGill University
Miami University (OH)
Middlebury College
Minnesota College of Art and Design
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon State University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Saint Louis University
San Diego State University
San Francisco Art Institute
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Santa Monica College
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Oriental / African Studies (UK)
Scripps College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Skidmore College
Smith College
Sonoma State University
So. California Institute of Architecture
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
St. John’s College (NM)
St. Mary’s College (CA)
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Trinity College, Dublin
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Arizona
University of the Arts, London
University of British Columbia
University of California: all 9 campuses
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh
University of Miami (FL)
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of New Mexico
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Virginia Tech
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University (CT)
Wheaton College (MA)
Whitman College
Willamette University
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University