



Carnegie Vanguard High School

for the Gifted and Talented

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A Top 10 High School in the US

CARNEGIE VANGUARD AND MISSION

Carnegie Vanguard High School was established in the fall of 2002 as the successor to the highly successful school-within-a-school Vanguard program at Jesse H. Jones Senior High which was created in 1977. Today Carnegie is the only Vanguard high school in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) with 100% of the students identified as gifted and talented in academics. The mission of Carnegie Vanguard High School is to provide a unique and challenging learning environment to prepare the diverse gifted and talented students of HISD for leadership in a global society.

STUDENT BODY

Carnegie Vanguard's students seek academic excellence in a community that values diversity, acceptance, and close relationships with faculty. Our 623 current students come from every area of the Houston Independent School District. 10% of students are African Americans, 21% are Asians, 36% are Caucasians, 30% are Latino and Hispanic, and 3% are other races. In 2014, 1410 students applied for admission for a freshmen class size of 175, about seven applicants for every seat.

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Carnegie Vanguard's rigorous academics have been widely recognized in the country. For the past several years, Carnegie Vanguard has been consistently ranked as a top 30 public high school in the country by several major magazines and journals:

US News and World Report: # 17 in 2013, #23 in 2014, #6 in 2015
Newsweek: #11 in 2011, # 13 in 2012, #28 in 2013, #143 in 2015
Washington Post: # 13 in 2013, #11 in 2014 and #9 in 2015

CURRICULUM

Carnegie Vanguard offers only Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as Honors elective courses in core subject areas. The curriculum for every course is written to go above and beyond state and district standards. Carnegie Vanguard courses move at a quicker pace, cover more material, and are project-based. They rely heavily on discussion and seminar style delivery of course information and the use, interpretation, and delivery of research. Each Carnegie Vanguard student is required to take at least 10 AP courses before graduation: AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature, AP Capstone {Seminar and Research}, AP Physics 1, AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP US History, AP Economics, and AP US Government and Politics.

SIGNATURE COURSE

TEXAS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PROJECT is a required course that offers a non-traditional learning experience to Carnegie students to explore their gifts and talents. Through the course, students develop innovative products, compile portfolios, and conduct in-depth creative research. Each student is matched with a mentor from the academic or professional community, and prepares for a public presentation of her/his work or performance at the end of the school year to be evaluated by an audience that includes experts in the field.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Carnegie Vanguard students complete a rigorous program of study that requires a minimum of 26 credits for graduation. It includes 4 years of English (including AP English Language and AP English Literature), 4 years of Social Studies (5 AP courses), 4 years of Science (to include Biology, Chemistry, and AP Physics 1), 4 years of Mathematics, 2 years of Capstone {AP Seminar and AP Research}, at least 2 years of one Foreign Language, one year of Fine Arts, one year of Physical Education, and 2 credits of Electives.

GRADING SYSTEM*

A student's grade point average is computed on a 4.0 weighted scale. The theoretical maximum GPA is 4.93 on a 4.0 scale, reflecting the number of required unweighted regular courses as well as Pre-AP, AP, and honors courses, which carry additional grade point. All courses are included in the cumulative GPA.

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Pre-AP, AP, Honors Courses	Regular Courses
A	90 – 100	5	4
B	80 – 89	4	3
C	75 – 79	3	2
D	70 – 74	2	1
F	Below 70	0	0

GPA Distribution of Top 20% of Class 2016 (Junior Year)

Class Ranking	Top 3%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%
GPA Range	4.82-4.95	4.75-4.79	4.70-4.73	4.43-4.68

* A Carnegie student who ranks bottom quintile at school would rank top quintile nationally. A top quintile ranking at Carnegie is equivalent a top 2% national ranking; a top 16% ranking at Carnegie would translate to a top 1% national ranking. An average Carnegie student who ranks right in the middle (50th %) would rank around the top 8% nationally.

INTERPRETING CLASS RANKING

Because admission to Carnegie Vanguard is very competitive and all students are identified as gifted and talented, class rank cannot be regarded as a valid indication of preparation for college for the students at Carnegie. Should rank be considered an important factor, Carnegie students should actually be measured against the totality of Houston ISD's senior class, approximately 11,000 students. There are seven applicants for each available seat at Carnegie Vanguard.

According to standardized test results of ACT and SAT, an average student at Carnegie Vanguard would rank between the top 8% to the top 12% in the nation.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS - CLASS 2016 (N = 148)

National Merit Scholars	Number of Students	Percent of Class
National Merit Semifinalists	10	7%
Commended Scholars	37	25%
Hispanic Scholars	16	11%

NATIONAL AP SCHOLARS - CLASS 2015

AP Scholars	Number of Students	Percent of Class
National AP Scholars	32	19%
Scholars with Distinction	64	38%
Scholars with Honors	7	8%
AP Scholars	51	34%
Total Scholars	122	81%

SAT REASONING TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2015 (N = 144 tests)

SAT Reasoning Test Scores	Middle 50%	Carnegie Mean	National Mean
Critical Reading	590 – 710	654	495
Math	620 – 710	666	511
Writing	570 – 680	628	484
Total Score	1780 – 2100	1948	1490

ACT TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2015 (N = 107 tests)

ACT Summary	Middle 50%	Carnegie Mean	National Mean
English	24 – 33	29.3	20.4
Math	26 – 32	29.5	20.8
Reading	24 – 33	30.1	21.4
Science	24 – 33	29.1	20.9
Composite	25 – 32	29.6	21

SAT SUBJECT TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2015 and 2016

Subject	Number of Students	Carnegie Mean	National Mean†
Biology	5	762	625
Chemistry	28	719	666
Physics	18	671	667
Math, Level 1	14	679	619
Math, Level 2	44	730	690
World History	9	647	618
US History	17	689	645
English Literature	17	674	618

ADVANCED PLACEMENT DATA (2014 - 2015)

Carnegie requires all freshmen to take AP Human Geography, sophomores take AP World History, juniors to take AP English Language and AP US History, Physics 1, seniors to take AP English language, US Government, Microeconomics and two other AP classes. The information below is for the whole school, NOT just juniors and seniors.

Subject	Total Exams	% of 3, 4, 5
Art History	18	94%
Biology	22	95%
Calculus AB	34	88%
Calculus BC	28	100%
Chemistry	46	80%
Chinese Language	1	100%
Comp Government	12	100%
Computer Science A	13	69%
English Language	154 (all juniors)	84%
English Literature	138 (all senior)	77%
Environmental Science	72	65%
European History	13	85%
French Language	10	100%
Human Geography	160 (all freshmen)	69%
Latin	6	100%
Macroeconomics	21 (all seniors)	86%
Microeconomics	136	63%
Music Theory	1	100%
Physics 1	153 (all juniors)	29%
Physics C - E and M	29	76%
Physics C - Mechanics	32	91%
Psychology	41	90%
Seminar	40	70%
Spanish Language	50	96%
Spanish Literature	22	100%
Statistics	115	77%
Studio Art - 2D Design	5	100%
US Government	137 (all seniors)	75%
US History	154 (all juniors)	77%
World History	142 (all sophomores)	82%
All Subjects	1,805	72%

† Data available at <https://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-subject/scores/average>

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

English

English 1 - Pre-AP	(required)
English 2 - Pre-AP	(required)
AP English Language and Composition	(required for juniors)
AP English Literature and Composition	(required for seniors)
Literary Genres - Film Analysis	
Literary Genres - Horror	
Creative Writing	

Mathematics

Algebra 1 - Pre-AP	(required)
Geometry - Pre-AP	(required)
Algebra 2 - Pre-AP	(required)
Pre-Calculus - Pre-AP	
AP Calculus AB/BC	
AP Statistics	
Computer Science - Pre-AP	
AP Computer Science	
Post Calc/Advanced Topics in Math	

Social Studies

AP Human Geography	(required for freshmen)
AP World History	(required for sophomores)
AP US History	(required for juniors)
AP European History	
AP Macroeconomics	(required)
AP Microeconomics	
AP US Government and Politics	(required)
1968 History and World Wars	
World Religions and Sociology	
AP Psychology	
Philosophy 1 and 2	
AP Capstone	(required)
Mythology	

Sciences

Biology - Pre-AP	(required)
Chemistry - Pre-AP	(required)
AP Biology	(required)
AP Chemistry	
Organic Chemistry	
Anatomy & Physiology	
AP Physics 1	(required for juniors)
AP Physics 2	
Physics C Mechanics	
Physics C Electricity and Magnetism	
AP Environmental Science	
Wildlife Studies	

Foreign Languages

French 1	
French 2 and 3 - Pre-AP	
French 4 - AP French Language and Culture	
Latin 1	
Latin 2 and 3 - Pre-AP	
AP Latin Vergil	
Chinese 3 - Pre-AP	

Foreign Languages (continued)

Spanish 1
Spanish 2 and 3 - Pre-AP
Spanish 4 - AP Spanish Language
Spanish 5 - AP Spanish Literature
Spanish 6 - Spanish Literature

Fine Arts

Art 1, 2, and 3 - Pre-AP
Art 4 – AP Art
AP Art History
Dance
Photography – Pre-AP
AP Photography
Theatre 1, 2, and 3
Shakespeare - Theater

Other Courses

Debate 1 and 2 - Honors
Physical Education
Health
Communication Applications
Yearbook 1, 2, and 3
Independent Studies
Texas Performance Standards Project

COLLEGE PLACEMENT CLASS 2015

97% matriculated at 4-year colleges or universities
3% matriculated at 2-year colleges (honors programs)
39% matriculated at out-of-state colleges

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Because of our constrained urban location, budget limit, newness of the school, and small size, Carnegie is able to offer only limited athletic opportunities to our students. Current athletic offerings include UIL baseball, cross country, tennis, and girls' volleyball. Lack of athletic resources puts a constraint on our students' athletic pursuits, and our students have to work much harder than their peers at other high schools to pursue their athletic passions.

CARNEGIE HIGHLIGHTS 2013 - 2015

Carnegie Vanguard Theatre performers won the 2014 UIL State Championship for Best One Act Play! "When the Rain Stops Falling". Robotics Club competed at World Robotics Championship, and CVHS 2013 Yearbook was featured in the official Balfour Best Yearbook of 2013. One student holds the title of West National Diving Champion (Earning gold medal on 1m springboard and the bronze medal on 3m springboard) and qualifies for Junior Olympic National Diving Championships in both events. Another student won a gold medal at the Junior Olympics in Baltimore and won the World Championships for Fencing in Croatia as one of the top fencers in the world. One student won the Chevron Houston Marathon for ages 16-19 division and qualified for Boston Marathon. One student won a silver medal in the National Scholastic Art Contest, while four students won the gold key medals in regional Scholastic Writing and Art Contest. Four Carnegie students ranked top 10 in the nation for the National French Contest. One member of Carnegie's Junior State of America (JSA) was elected to the highest office, Governor of Texas JSA.

CONVERSION OF CARNEGIE'S CLASS RANK TO NATIONAL RANK BASED ON CLASS 2015 ACT SCORES

77% of Carnegie's 139 students in Class 2015 took ACT test (N = 107)

ACT Score	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25
# of Carnegie Students	2	8	6	11	17	9	8	7	10	5	5	7
Percent Rank at Carnegie	2%	7%	6%	10%	16%	8%	7%	7%	9%	5%	5%	7%

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION 2012 - 2015

16% of Class 2015 (N = 139) matriculated at the most selective colleges with acceptance rate below 25%.

Colleges in Texas

Abilene Christian University
Austin College
Baylor University
Blinn College
Houston Baptist University
Houston Community College Honors
Rice University
St. Edward's University
St. Mary's University
Sam Houston State University
Schreiner University
Southwestern University
Stephen F. Austin University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University-Galveston
Texas Lutheran University
Texas Southern University
Texas State University
Texas Tech
Texas Women's University
Trinity University
University of Houston
University of Houston-Downtown
University of North Texas
University of St. Thomas
University of Texas in Austin
University of Texas in Dallas
University of Texas in San Antonio
University of Texas in Tyler

Out-of-State Colleges

Agnes Scott College
American University
Amherst College
Babson College
Beloit College
Bennington College
Bentley University
Boston University
Bowdoin College

Brandeis University
Bryn Mawr College
California Polytechnic State University
Cameron University
Carleton College
Centre College
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Coe College
Colby College
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell College
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Earlham College
Emerson College
Fordham University
Franklin Olin College of Engineering
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Grinnell College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University, New Orleans
Macalester College
McGill University
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
North Carolina School of the Arts
Northeastern University
Occidental College

Pepperdine University
Purdue University
Randolph-Macon College
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rose - Hulman Institute of Technology
Salem College
Savannah College of Art & Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hall University
Smith College
Soka University of America
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. John's University
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Temple University
Trinity College
Tuskegee University
University of Chicago
University of Indiana
University of Michigan
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Toronto
University of Virginia
Vassar College
Virginia Tech
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Wellesley College
Whitman College
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University