



Carnegie Vanguard High School

for Gifted and Talented

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A Top 30 High School in the U.S.

CEEB Code: 443541

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 & 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, tolerance, and close relationships with faculty. Our 609 current students come from every area of the Houston Independent School District. 12% of students are African Americans, 17% are Asians, 41% are Caucasians, 27% are Latino and Hispanics, and 3% are other races. In 2013, 1300 students applied for admission for a freshmen class size of 188, 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: U.S. News & World Report, # 17 in 2013
Newsweek, #11 in 2011, # 13 in 2012, and #28 in 2013
Washington Post, #14 in 2011, # 10 in 2012, and # 13 in 2013

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 7 AP courses before graduation: AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature, AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP Economics, and AP U.S. 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 (2 AP English Language and Literature courses), 4 years of social studies (5 AP courses), 3 years of science (one year each in biology, chemistry, and physics), 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of one foreign language in a sequence, one year of fine arts, one year of physical education, and 4 credits of electives.

GRADING SYSTEM

A student's grade point average is computed on a 4.0 weighted scale. Grade points are assigned to each semester grade. The theoretical maximum GPA is 4.90 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	3
D	70 - 74	2	2
F	Below 70	0	0

GPA Distribution of Top 20% of Class 2014 (Junior Year)

Class Ranking	Top 3%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%
GPA Range	4.77-4.84	4.72-4.76	4.61-4.72	4.30-4.60

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 47,000 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 2014

National Merit Scholars	Number of Students	Percent of Class
National Merit Semifinalists	10	10%
Commended Scholars	28	27%
Achievement Scholars	1	1%
Hispanic Scholars	8	8%

NATIONAL AP SCHOLARS - CLASS 2014

AP Scholars	Number of Students	Percent of Class
National AP Scholars	16	16%
Scholars w. Distinction	57	55%
Scholars w. Honors	32	31%
Total AP Scholars	80	78%

SAT REASONING TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2013 (N = 88)

SAT Reasoning Test Scores	Middle 50%	Carnegie Mean	National Mean
Critical Reading	570 - 680	630	490
Math	590 - 680	620	510
Writing	570 - 670	620	480
Total Score	1730 - 2030	1870	1480

ACT TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2014 (N = 95)

ACT Summary	Middle 50%	Carnegie Mean	National Mean
English	23 - 32	27.3	20.2
Math	26 - 31	28.3	20.9
Reading	25 - 33	29.2	21.1
Science	24 - 30	27.0	20.7
Composite	25 - 31	28.1	20.9

SAT SUBJECT TEST RESULTS - CLASS 2014

Subject	Number of Students	Carnegie Mean	National Mean
English Literature	8	694	580
U.S. History	12	702	599
Math, Level 2	19	727	648
Physics	12	700	655

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**English**

English 1 - Pre AP (required)
 English 2 - Pre AP (required)
 English 3 - AP English Language and Composition (required)
 English 4 - AP English Literature and Composition (required)
 Literary Genres - Horror
 Literary Genres - Film Analysis
 Literary Genres - Shakespeare
 Creative Writing

Mathematics

Algebra 1 - Pre AP (required)
 Geometry - Pre AP (required)
 Algebra 2 - Pre AP (required)
 Computer Science - Pre AP
 Pre-Calculus - Pre AP
 AP Calculus AB/BC
 AP Statistics
 AP Computer Science

Social Studies

AP Human Geography (required)
 AP World History (required)
 AP U.S. History (required)
 AP European History
 AP Microeconomics (required)
 AP Macroeconomics (micro or macro)
 AP U.S. Government and Politics (required)
 1968 History
 World Religions
 World Wars
 Sociology
 Psychology
 Philosophy 1 & 2

Sciences

Biology - Pre AP (required)
 Chemistry - Pre AP (required)
 Physics - Pre AP (required)
 AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 AP Physics
 AP Environmental Science

Foreign Languages

French 1
 French 2 & 3 - Pre AP
 French 4 - AP French Language and Culture
 Latin 1
 Latin 2 & 3 - Pre AP
 Chinese 1
 Chinese 2 & 3 - Pre AP
 Spanish 1
 Spanish 2 & 3 - Pre AP
 Spanish 4 - AP Spanish Language
 Spanish 5 - AP Spanish Literature
 Arabic 1
 Greek 1

Fine Arts

Art 1, 2, & 3 - Pre AP
 Art 4 - AP Art
 AP Art History

Theatre 1, 2 & 3
Shakespeare - Theater

Other Courses

Debate 1 & 2
Business Computer Information System
Web Mastering
Physical Education
Health
Communication Application
Yearbook 1, 2, & 3
Independent studies
Houston Chronicle Internship
Texas Performance Standards Project

COLLEGE PLACEMENT CLASS 2013

98% matriculated at 4-year colleges or universities
1% matriculated at 2-year colleges (honors programs)
1% took a gap year before enrolling in a college
33% 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 - 2014

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. 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 2014 ACT SCORES

92% of Carnegie's 103 students in Class 2014 took ACT test (N = 95)

ACT Score	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25
# of Carnegie Students	3	6	6	5	5	10	11	7	7	9	8
Percent Rank at Carnegie	3%	9%	16%	21%	26%	37%	48%	56%	63%	73%	81%
Percent Rank Nationally	0.15%	0.5%	1%	2%	3%	5%	7%	9%	13%	17%	21%

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.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION 2009- 2013

Colleges in Texas

Abilene Christian University
Austin College
Baylor University
Houston Baptist University
Houston Community College Honors
Rice University
St. Edward's University
St. Mary's University
Southwestern University
Stephan Austin University
Texas A&M University College Station
Texas Lutheran University
Texas Southern University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Trinity University
University of Houston
University of North Texas
University of St. Thomas
University of Texas in Austin
University of Texas in Dallas
University of Texas in San Antonio

Out-of-State Colleges

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
Bryn Mawr College
California Polytechnic State University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Centre College
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Clemson University
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
DePaul University

Eckerd College
Emerson College
Emory University
Franklin Olin College of Engineering
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grinnell College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University, New Orleans
Macalester College
Marquette University
Missouri U. of Science and Technology
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Occidental College
Oklahoma State University
Pepperdine University
Purdue University
Reed College

Rensselaer Institute of Technology
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Smith College
Spelman College
St. John's University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
Tulane University
Tufts University
University of Alabama
University of Chicago
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Whitman College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University