



Profile 2009-10: Girls boarding & day high school in Marin

San Domenico High School Snapshot:

Founded: 1850
Enrollment: 125
Faculty: 27
Grades: 9-12
Students of Color: 57%
Day/Boarding Ratio: 50/50
International Students: 32%
Student/Teacher Ratio: 4 to 1
Average Class Size: 9 students
Harkness Tables: 1

Mean SAT for Class of '09: 1810
% graduates who attend college out of state: 50%
% graduates attending a 4-year college: 100%
Division Head: Dean Partlow
Head of Schools: Mathew Heersche, Ed.D.
Admissions Officers:
Stacie Grant & Risa Oganessoff Heersche
www.sandomenico.org
twitter.com/sandomenico

A remarkable *place*. San Domenico's wooded, solar-powered 500-acre campus is in Marin County, just 20 miles north of San Francisco, California. Founded in 1850, our independent high school enrolls 125 girls from the Bay Area and around the world. In addition to a state-of-the-art athletic center & performing arts hall, our equestrian center, music conservatory, organic garden, swimming pool and tennis courts make our campus unique in Marin.

A close-knit *community*. We are proud to welcome students who are ethnically, culturally and geographically diverse. With 57% students of color, our student body is half day, half boarding. Of the boarding students, 60% come from foreign countries, finding a path all their own at our international academy.

A fantastic *faculty*. San Domenico has 27 full and part time faculty members, including 85% who hold advanced degrees. An additional 7 faculty are residents, living on campus and working within the boarding program. Our small classes can resemble a meeting at the local coffee house: students and teacher grappling with ideas, sparking new insights, caught up in the give and take of reasoned arguments. These are the pursuits that forge a mature intellect, and prepare young women for all the conversations that lie ahead.

Give yourself an *edge*. Female graduates of single-sex high schools demonstrate stronger academic orientations than their coeducational counterparts across a number of different categories, including higher levels of academic engagement, SAT scores, and confidence in mathematical ability and technology skills, according to a recent UCLA report.

College preparatory *curriculum*. Our coursework weaves academic disciplines together to give you a holistic view of human culture and thought. How has religion changed history? Do we see politics in art? Can literature encourage social justice? Because systems of knowledge are interconnected, we invite our students to encounter ideas within the complex fields that created them, preparing their minds to weigh the many nuances in human reality.

Additional *perks*. Tuition includes daily bus service that reaches San Francisco, Marin County, and the East Bay, as well as daily (often organic) lunch in our full-service cafeteria. We also are the only school in Marin with a full-time Registered Nurse on campus, with an infirmary.



Our unique curriculum highlights

Social Justice

Girls at San Domenico like to get involved: promoting sustainability, spreading awareness about human rights, making phone calls for the upcoming election. By graduation, they have thought a lot about how to change the world --and are ready to do it. Juniors choose a topic they wish to pursue for a two-year study, which culminates in a Rose Project research paper, oral presentation before a faculty panel, and a visual display at the annual Service Learning Fair. In addition to academic study, students work in their chosen project for a minimum of fifty hours.

Sustainability

Our solar-powered campus uses energy-efficient lighting and we compost all our food waste. One of the causes our students are passionate about is Teens Turning Green, a nationwide effort to remove toxins from the products we use in our daily lives. From serving locally grown organic food in the Dining Hall, caretaking our Native American Artifact Oak Trees on campus, to ecology lesson plans and field trips, we are proud to have been Sustainable long before it was fashionable.



Music

The Music Conservatory offers private instruction to students of all levels in piano, strings, voice, woodwinds, guitar and harp. Our chorus, San Domenico Singers, and orchestra, Sinfonia, welcome students of every level. Advanced string musicians enrolled in the Virtuoso Program pursue a dual focus of pre-professional music training and a college preparatory program. The "VP" has won the "Grand Champion" of the National Orchestra Festival© twice in recent years!

Drama

2010 marks our second year of participation in the prestigious Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, one of only 20 US schools chosen to perform. Our curriculum offers more than four years of conservatory-level theatrical training, as well as an average of five full-scale theatrical productions each year. The program covers all aspects of theatrical production, theatre history, literary criticism, acting technique, technical theatre training, public speaking, personal character development, playwriting & directing.

Art

Not only do we offer our students a broad range of artistic experiences, but we ground their creative pursuits in serious academic study. In dance and the visual arts (ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, photography), students put in the hours of practice necessary to excel, and they explore the history of the art form, its place in contemporary culture, even its business model.

Athletics

You can choose volleyball, cross country, tennis, basketball, soccer, badminton, and horseback riding. Some of our graduates go on to compete at the collegiate level, and we welcome everyone onto our teams. Even if you've never played before, there's room to learn. And your athletic experiences are important to your education: you test your strengths, build confidence, develop teamwork, and feel more energized.

Prepare for college, embark on your life

The Top 10 Universities & Colleges chosen by our graduates in the past 5 years:

University of California, Berkeley | Tufts | Scripps | Loyola Marymount | Whitman | Carnegie Mellon | Boston University | Santa Clara University | University of Puget Sound | MIT

We also see yearly acceptances at specialty schools such as RISD, Pratt Institute, New England Conservatory of Music, and John Hopkins' Peabody Conservatory.

Tuition Assistance: Our Tuition Assistance Program is an integral part of our Mission to provide an extraordinary education for our students, regardless of their ability to pay.

Mission & History: Ever since Sr. Mary Goemare established our school in 1850, we've offered a community of learning grounded in the wisdom of Dominican values. In that spirit we call on our students to study seriously, reflect deeply, create beauty, care for the natural order, and nurture the bonds of human community.

