

School Profile 2022-2023



COTTONWOOD CLASSICAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

COTTONWOOD CLASSICAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a coed tuition-free charter school founded in 2006 and opened its doors in 2008. CCPS serves nearly 800 students chosen through a random admission lottery in grades 6-12. Students come from across Albuquerque and its surrounding communities. The Albuquerque metropolitan area has a population of 940,000 across four counties. Today, Albuquerque remains a cultural crossroads with a unique multicultural history and heritage. Native American, Spanish and Mexican traditions are a part of everyday life making it the epicenter of Southwestern art and culture.

The class of 2023 has 66 students. All Cottonwood students have returned to in-person learning and we will maintain a block schedule for the academic year.

Following the Paideia principles and pedagogy, Cottonwood offers the pre-university International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program to juniors and seniors. Our guiding principle is for students to become life-long learners who actively engage in the curriculum through project-based learning and Socratic seminars. The Cottonwood experience is infused with critical thinking, thoughtful discourse, and collaboration.

The student-to-teacher ratio is 16:1 in grades 11 & 12, and 24:1 in grades 6-10. Class size is mandated by the school's charter to remain below the state average. Cottonwood received an "A" grade from the New Mexico Public Education Department this year, and we are currently rated as the #2 Best Charter High School in New Mexico by niche.com and the #2 Albuquerque Public High School according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

ACCREDITATION: Cottonwood Classical is accredited and in good standing with Cognia, formerly AdvancEd, and the New Mexico Public Education Department. We are an authorized International Baccalaureate World School.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME: We require all juniors and seniors to complete the full IB Diploma Program, including the IB Core consisting of the Extended Essay, CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service), and TOK (Theory of Knowledge). All students are expected to test a minimum of one completed course.

Of the 70 students in the class of 2022, 42 completed 3 or more IB exams. 33 received a passing mark of 4 or above. Twenty-three students aimed to achieve the full diploma and 19 succeeded. The IB Diploma pass rate for the class of 2021 is 83%. Several seniors in the class of 2023 took IB exams last year. Students have the option to test in up to two courses as juniors. 9 took the Math AA SL exam and all 9 scored 5 or above. 11 took the History SL exam and 10 scored 4 or above. 11 took the Environmental Systems & Societies SL exam and 9 scored 4 or above.

Our IB Curriculum consists of these courses: (24 total including Core)

Group 1: English A1- English Literature HL

Group 2: Languages B- Spanish SL/HL; French ab initio SL

Group 3: Individuals & Societies- Environmental Systems and Societies SL; Psychology SL/HL; World History SL; History of the Americas HL; Philosophy SL/HL

Group 4: Experimental Sciences- Environmental Systems and Societies SL; Physics SL/HL; Biology SL/HL; Chemistry SL

Group 5: Mathematics- AA SL/HL; AI SL

Group 6: The Arts & Electives- Visual Arts SL/HL; Theater SL/HL

IB Core: Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Activity, Service; Extended Essay

*SL= Standard Level (up to 150 teaching hours) HL=Higher Level (240 teaching hours)

Cottonwood Classical does not rank its students.

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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

764

CLASS OF 2022

66

STUDENTS OF COLOR 62%

TEACHING FACULTY

63

% WITH ADVANCED
DEGREES

64%

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO
16:1 (IB)

24:1 (Gen. Ed)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: 27 credits are required for graduation, including four in English, four in Mathematics, four in Natural Sciences, three and one-half in Social Sciences (New Mexico, US, and World History, Government & Economics), four in Modern or Classical Languages, one in Physical Education, one-half in Health, four in Electives, and two in the IB Core (Theory of Knowledge/Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)/Extended Essay).

OUR TRANSCRIPTS: Cottonwood uses a semester schedule. Fall term grades are available mid-January; Spring term grades are available in late June. Grades are A-C, F (no D's) with a minimum passing grade of 70. Standard courses are weighted on a 4.0 scale. IB standard level classes are weighted an additional .11 and higher level courses are an additional .22 weight. The maximum grade point average for CCPS is 4.33. The highest GPA at the end of junior year for the class of 2023 was 4.24; the lowest was 2.28. The average cumulative GPA is 3.48.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: It is rare for our students to test before the spring of junior year—only six seniors have taken the ACT. The average composite ACT score is 29.

The class of 2023 is the inaugural class required to take the SAT per the state of New Mexico on a school day. 65 of the current seniors took the SAT in April 2022.

SAT Mean Total Score: 1115

Mean ERW Score: 566

Mean Math Score: 549

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS): Cottonwood Classical students are nominated for NHS after the first semester of tenth grade; they are selected in accordance with NHS bylaws and corresponding grades, citizenship, and character. Students selected as members of the NHS must maintain a 3.5 GPA and complete at least one monthly service project in order to remain in NHS. 22 seniors are in good standing for NHS.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Cottonwood offers 7NMAA sanctioned sports- track & field, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, golf, swimming and e-sports; as well as recreational/charter league soccer. Some students may compete in varsity athletics at their home high school. Popular student activities include Science Olympiad, Choir, Yearbook, Gender & Sexuality Alliance, Student Government, We The People, Model UN, Mock Trial, Speech & Debate, and Social Action Club.

DISCIPLINE POLICY: Suspensions and minor disciplinary matters are not listed on the transcript. Cottonwood Classical does report any change in enrollment status.

AFFILIATION: CCPS is a member of the College Board and the Rocky Mountain and National Associations for College Admission Counseling. CCPS subscribes to the N.A.C.A.C. Code of Ethics and Professional Practices.



COLLEGE MATRICULATION

2018-2022

Cottonwood Classical supports graduates who go in many varied directions. Over the past five years, approximately 95% of our graduates have gone to four-year colleges and universities, 4% have gone to two-year colleges, and 1% joined the military. Of the students attending four-year institutions, 1% have attended art schools or conservatories, 62% stay in New Mexico for college, and 1% left the country for their higher education.

(Numbers in parenthesis indicate schools where more than one student matriculated.)

Abilene Christian, Arizona State (6), Boise State, Brigham Young, Brigham Young (Idaho), Bryn Mawr, Cal Poly Humboldt, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (2), Central New Mexico CC (13), Coe College, Colorado College, Colorado State Fort Collins (3), Columbia University, Cornell College, Cornell U., Davidson, Eckerd, Fordham, Fort Lewis (7), Franklin & Marshall, George Mason, George Washington (2), Georgetown, Graceland U., Grand Canyon (3), Ithaca College, Johns Hopkins, Kalamazoo College, Kennesaw State, Lewis & Clark (2), Loyola Marymount, Mesalands Community College, Middlebury College, Montana State (Billings), New Mexico State (13), New Mexico Tech (10), New York U., North Central U., Northern Arizona U. (6), Occidental College, Olin College of Engineering, Pacific Northwest College of Art at Willamette, Pacific U., Point Loma Nazarene, Purdue (2), Regis, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2), Rhode Island School of Design, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Bahrain, Saint Louis U., Samford, Santa Clara U., Savannah College of Art and Design, Scripps, St. John's College (Santa Fe), Texas Christian, Texas Lutheran, Texas Tech (8), The Evergreen State College (3), The University of Tampa, Tufts, Tulane (Louisiana), United States Air Force Academy, University College Roosevelt Netherlands, U. of Alabama at Birmingham, UC San Diego (2), UC Santa Cruz, U. of Chicago (2), U. of Colorado Boulder, U. of Colorado Denver, U. of Kansas (2), U. of Lynchburg, U. of Mary Hardin (Baylor), U. of Minnesota (Twin Cities), U. of New Mexico (167), U. of North Texas, U. of Portland, U. of Puget Sound, U. of Rochester, U. of San Diego, U. of Southern California, U. of the Arts London, U. of Toronto (2), U. of Utah (2), Ursinus College (2), Washington State U., Wayland Baptist, Wesleyan, Western New Mexico U. (3), Western Washington U., Wheaton College, Whitman College, Whittier College, Williams College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute