



Thomas Downey High School

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, six years granted 2019-2024
Downey initiated an AVID program in 2003-04 to foster a wider college-going presence on campus.

School Profile 2020-2021

CEEB Code 052000

David Sanchez: Principal
Nicole Burrows: Associate Principal, Curriculum and Instruction
Sam DeLaRosa: Assistant Principal, Pupil Services
Nancy Moradi: Assistant Principal, Student Supervision
Debbie Garrett: School Registrar (209) 574-1697

IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

GRADING & INSTRUCTION:

March – June 2020: During this time frame, guidance from the state of California made it clear that grading policies of school districts must ensure equity, and students' grades could NOT suffer in any way due to the pandemic. With this in mind, Modesto City Schools Board of Education trustees approved a resolution regarding grading, officially making students' third quarter grades their final grades for the year. Online distant learning occurred from home after California schools were ordered to close. This remote learning was to be considered "new learning" and would allow students the opportunity to raise their third quarter grades. In some instances, if a student did not earn credit for the 3rd quarter, then their grade was reported as "credit" or "no credit" on the transcript.

August – December 2020: From home, Downey students continue to engage remotely with their assigned teachers in online distant learning instruction. The grading policy hasn't changed from a standard traditional school year at Downey.

CURRICULUM & SCHEDULING:

March – June 2020: In order to protect the health and safety of students, parents and staff in the California school system, State and Public Health Officials directed all schools in our state to close. Modesto City Schools teachers were instructed to resume school remotely (from home) with students through online distance learning and operated on the same seven period (49 minutes) day.

August – December 2020: From home, Downey students continue to engage remotely with their assigned teachers in online distant learning instruction. The curriculum hasn't changed from a standard traditional school year at Downey. Only difference now is Downey currently operates on a modified block schedule as opposed to seven period day. Two days a week, students with periods 1, 2, 3 meet remotely and the other two days, students with periods 4/5,6,7 meet remotely. On these days, each period is 80 minutes long. On Wednesday, students meet in all periods 1-7 for 25 minutes each. On most Wednesdays, the class periods are reduced to 25 minutes per period to provide time for staff collaboration activities.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & SPORTS:

March – June 2020: During this time frame, all sports and school related activities at Downey were suspended.

August – December 2020: All sports and school related activities at Downey continue to remain suspended until further notice. This MAY change in the future per direction at the district level given from State and Public Health Officials.

AVAILABILITY OF SAT/ACT EXAMS:

March – June 2020: During this time frame, student options for taking in person SAT/ACT exams were severely affected by test center closures.

August – December 2020: In person SAT/ACT exams continue to be affected by test center closures. Due to these challenges, many colleges/universities have announced test-optional policies at their institutions for the Class of 2021.

Counselors

Academic Guidance Counselors: Michelle Luz, Tish Nuno-Traverso, Kelly Ragan, Leah Verderame

College Counselor: Christine Hammell

The student to counselor ratio is 600:1 and there is one college counselor to serve the entire campus of over 2,000+ students. With these numbers, the counselors are often limited in their ability to not only assist, but get to know their students and their students future plans. The college counselor is meant to fill in the gaps, but again, with over 2,000+ students, it is difficult to personally reach and assist each student in meeting their college and career goals.

Campus Visits

Private or Public Colleges and Universities are welcome to visit our campus. Visits and presentations may be arranged by calling or emailing the college counselor.

Community and School

Thomas Downey High School is the second oldest high school in the city of Modesto. Downey opened its doors to students on September 1951 and celebrated its 60th anniversary September of 2011. Its mascot is the Knight. Modesto is in the center of one of the greatest agricultural areas in the nation; the fertile Stanislaus County Valley. Dairy products, nuts, fruits, wine, grapes and poultry are some of the top commodities. The population of Modesto has already doubled in recent years to over 210,000.

A comprehensive, public high school, Downey is located in the heart of Modesto and as had an important place in the local landscape of Modesto over the last 65+ years. Some of our notable Downey graduates include... Joe Rudi, major league baseball player; Tony Graziani, NFL football player; Olympian American Discus Record Holder, Suzy Powell; 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics silver medal winner in water polo, Doug Burke; former US Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman and filmmaker, George Lucas. In fact, the movie American Graffiti, was written and directed by George Lucas. The school that students in the film attend is called "Dewey High" (a reference to Downey) but filmed at Petaluma High School, the architectural twin to Downey High. The Block "D" athletic jackets and school colors in the movie are royal blue and white, identical to Downey's school colors.

Downey is one of seven high schools in the Modesto City Schools system, serving over 14,000 students in grades 9-12. Downey has a current enrollment of over 2000 students and its student body comes from a wide range of backgrounds and neighborhoods. Light industry, farms, businesses, construction and professional offices anchor the residential areas that comprise our attendance area. Downey also has a number of students whose parents commute to the Bay Area while appreciating the quality of life in Modesto. We continue to possess a heterogeneous school population that mirrors the ethnic make-up of our town.

With the vast majority of the student population being first generation and low income, many of Downey's students have significant responsibilities outside of school that limit their ability to participate in extra-curricular activities or even enroll in Advance Placement courses that require extra hours of homework. Instead many have to work to financially help their families. In addition, since many of their parents work two or more jobs, it's the students who become full time care givers to younger siblings after school. With these responsibilities, most students don't have extra time, let alone the means to enroll in prep classes to help gain higher scores on standardized tests.

Technology is a major focus at Downey. Teachers are encouraged to infused technology into the curriculum and use it to strengthen the integrated instruction that occurs across disciplines. Every faculty member has access to computerized resources and has a detachable hybrid computer laptop called a surface pro connected to internet in each classroom. Staff on campus can correspond with each other directly by email. For the last three years, "one to one" computer devices have been provided to every student at Downey so integration of technology can be introduced into the curriculum. Two hardware computer room labs are equipped with computers for use by the business department & CTE/ROP class.

The Downey campus encompasses 94 classrooms, two gymnasiums, an auditorium a library and recently added Agriculture Greenhouse. It also includes a complete complex of athletic fields, stadium and a swimming pool. In 2007, state of the art synthetic turf was installed in Chuck Hughes Stadium. Full renovation of the Downey swimming pool and modernization of its classroom and other facilities has been completed.

Downey is considered a Renaissance school by which student achievement and good attendance is acknowledged through Renaissance recognition programs and activities. Downey has a career and college counseling center on site that is available to students and also offers an afterschool tutoring program with additional transportation services.

In 2014, Modesto City Schools added a District Instructional Facilitator (DIF) to each school site. The District Instructional Facilitator at Downey is a full-time teacher who mentors and assists faculty with the improvement of lesson design, instructional delivery, student engagement, implementation of technology, and the effective use of assessments. In addition, Modesto City Schools hired Intervention Specialists at each school site too. Their primary responsibility is to provide an instructional and behavior intervention program that is fully integrated into the school's curriculum, including positive behavior intervention & support plan that is central to the learning process.

To prepare students to enter the world of work, Modesto City Schools hired full time Career Navigator Techs at each high school site last year. Their primary responsibility is to support dual enrollment and vocational education programs articulated with CTE/ ROP courses and Modesto Junior College. In addition, Downey initiated an AVID program in 2003-04 to foster a wider college-going presence on campus and employs an AVID Site Coordinator who works as a member of the instructional leadership team. AVID is currently offered in multiple sections to include ninth through twelfth graders.

Curriculum & Scheduling

In 2001 Thomas Downey High School was named California Distinguished School and it is the first high school in the district to achieve this coveted recognition. In 2019, Downey was granted a six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Downey operates on a seven period (49 minutes) day, with two overlapping lunch periods. Students may opt to enroll in a zero or an eighth period class from limited offerings including choir, jazz band, orchestra, photography, work experience, P.E., school service, drivers' education or leadership. Downey provides a comprehensive curriculum providing classes for students of all abilities and interests including Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP/Honors and college preparatory (CP) courses. Some of our English Learner (EL) student population is also served by ALD classes and receive English support. A diverse set of special education programs are also offered to special ed students. Rich, vocational CTE/ROP education programs articulated with Modesto Junior College, prepare students to enter the world of work.

Student Activities

A variety of visual art, performing art, foreign language, industrial technology, agricultural and CTE/ROP courses enhance our core academic programs at Downey. Downey also provides an extensive extra-curricular program which involve academic competitions, athletics, community activities, clubs, student government, vocational and performing arts experiences. Such programs offer both students and staff the opportunity to understand and appreciate the full high school experience

Grading System

The grading system for all classes is based on a five-step scale: A-Outstanding, B-Above Average, C-Average, D-Below Average, F-Failing. The lowest passing mark for graduation is a D-. Grades are determined by student achievement relative to the objectives of the designated instructional level and the teacher.

Senior Rank in Decile

Un-weighted Senior Rank is determined by the **cumulative un-weighted GPA** from **ALL** classes (including PE) taken in grades 9-11 and does not include additional points for honors courses. Weighted Senior Rank is determined by the **weighted GPA** from **ALL** classes in grades 9-11, including the extra point for honors and AP courses in which the student earned grades of A, B, or C. **CAL Grant GPA** on the transcript refers to the college GPA for grades 10 and 11 with no weighting. Students in special education and placement at alternative education sites are not ranked.

Beginning with 2018-2019 school year, our district changed from exact ranking to decile ranking. Our belief in educating the entire student extends beyond academics, which is why students are encouraged to broaden their experience with electives. Students who choose to participate in non-honors elective courses such as Band, Drama, Leadership, Athletics, and Journalism often have a lower exact ranking than those who do not participate. It is because of this that the district decided decile ranking was more fair and appropriate and for students than exact ranking. The top 5% until the top 50% are identified on the transcript. Students in the bottom 50% are not given an official decile rank on their transcript.

Advanced Placement

11 Advanced Placement Offerings	
AP English Language/Composition	AP Statistics
AP English Literature/Composition	AP European History
AP Spanish Language	AP U.S. History
AP Spanish Literature	AP Government
AP Physics	AP Human Geography
AP Calculus AB	

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	67%
American Indian/Alaska	.4%
Native Asian	1.7%
Black or African American	1.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/Filipino	.9%
White	21%
Other	7.1%

Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Semester/Credits
English	8/40
Social Science	7/35
Mathematics	6/30
(Must pass Algebra)	
Science	4/20
Visual Performing Arts or Foreign Language	2/10
Physical Education	4/20
Practical Art	1/5
Health	1/5
230 credits required for graduation.	

SAT/ACT Data

	SAT Class of 2020		ACT Class of 2020	
	ERW	Math		
Downey Mean	517	509	Downey Composite	21
CA Mean	534	531	CA Composite	23
National Mean	531	528	National Composite	21

College Acceptance Matriculation: Class of 2020

The following information is based on students who have confirmed their intent to enroll as of May 1st. Eighty-six percent of the class of 2020 intends to pursue post-secondary education at four-year colleges/universities or two-year community colleges and vocational/trade schools. Twenty-three percent plan to attend four-year universities; Sixty-three percent plan to attend two-year colleges and trade schools. Downey graduates from the class of 2020 were accepted to the following campuses:

Brigham Young University-Provo
 California Baptist University
 California State University-Chico
 California State University-Fresno
 California State University-Fullerton
 California State University-Los Angeles
 California State University-Monterey Bay
 California State University-Sacramento
 California State University-Stanislaus
 Columbia College
 Concordia University-Wisconsin
 Delaware State University
 East Los Angeles College
 Fresno City College
 Huston-Tillotson University
 Modesto Junior College
 Oregon State University
 Ottawa University-Phoenix

Pacific University
 Pomona College
 San Diego State University
 San Francisco State University
 San Joaquin Delta College
 Santa Barbara City College
 Sierra College
 St. John's University
 Triton College
 UEI College-Stockton
 University of Arizona
 University of California-Los Angeles
 University of California-San Diego
 University of California-Santa Barbara
 University of Central Missouri
 University of La Verne
 University of the Pacific