



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 2021-2022

CEEB Code 052000

David Sanchez: Principal
Phillip Jaramillo: Assistant Principal
Marilen DeLaCruz: Assistant Principal
Patrick Rodden: Assistant Principal
Debbie Garrett: School Registrar (209) 574-1697

UPDATE OF COVID 19 IMPACT ON SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

In the spring of 2020, Thomas Downey High School along with most high schools across the nation, had to shut down and complete the remainder of the school year in distance learning. Students did receive letter grades for spring 2020 semester coursework. In March of 2021, we reopened in a hybrid setting. The vast majority of last year juniors (now current seniors) were unable to take SAT/ACT exams due to test center cancellations. A large majority of our students do NOT have the means to drive to other towns to take the SAT/ACT.

For fall of 2021, our campus fully reopened to in-person learning and are mandated to wear masks on campus. Because of State Bill AB104, students will have the option to choose to have Pass/No Pass grades posted on their transcripts for the 20-21 school year. Currently our curriculum and school schedule hasn't changed from a standard traditional school year at Downey and all fall sports and extracurricular school activities are still scheduled to take place.

Counselors

Academic Guidance Counselors: Michelle Luz, Daniela Tapia, Marysa Recinos, 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 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. Currently virtual visits and presentations may be arranged by scheduling a day and time on Naviance College Rep Visit platform.

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 will celebrate its 70th anniversary September of 2021. 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 has had an important place in the local landscape of Modesto over the last 70 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. In fact, many 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 kind of 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 teacher has access to computerized resources and has a computer laptop that can be 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 hardwire computer room labs are equipped with computers for students use by our CTE digital/graphic courses.

Downey has 91 certificated teachers with a maximum class size of 39. The Downey campus encompasses 85 usable 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. In addition, full renovation of the Downey swimming pool and modernization of its classrooms 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 Navigators at each high school site last year. Their primary responsibility is to support dual enrollment and vocational education programs articulated with CTE 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 jazz band, orchestra, photography, work experience, P.E., school service and 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 for English support. A diverse set of special education programs are also offered to special ed students. Rich, vocational CTE 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 courses enhance our core academic programs at Downey. Downey also provides an extensive extra-curricular program which involve academic competitions, athletics/sports, community activities, clubs, student government, vocational and performing arts experiences. Such programs offer students the opportunity to understand and appreciate the full high school experience.

Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Semester/Credits
English	8/40
Social Science	7/35
Mathematics (Must pass Algebra)	6/30
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.	

Grading System

The grading system for all classes is based on a five-step, 4-point 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, the district decided decile ranking was far more fair and appropriate 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.

SAT/AT 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

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	AP Biology

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino.....	67.1%
American Indian/Alaska.....	.4%
Asian.....	1.9%
Black or African American	1.8%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.....	.5%
White.....	20.9%
Filipino.....	.5%
Mixed.....	4.2%
No Response.....	2.7%

College Acceptance Matriculation: Class of 2021

The following information is based on student self-reported responses to a senior survey, indicating intent to enroll at a post-secondary institution as of May 1. Sixty-eight percent of the class of 2021 intends to pursue a post-secondary education at four-year colleges/universities or two-year community colleges and vocational/trade schools. Twenty-one percent plan to attend four-year universities; Forty-seven percent plan to attend two-year colleges and vocational/trade schools. NOTE: Higher than usual "unknown" choice and low response to the senior survey can be attributed to COVID and online learning. Downey graduates from the class of 2021 were accepted to the following campuses:

Advanced College
Cabrillo College
California Beauty College
California State University-Chico
California State University-Fresno
California Polytechnic State -SLO
California State University-Long Beach
California State University-Monterey Bay
California State University-Sacramento
California State University-Stanislaus
Canada College
Cogswell College
College of Marin
College of the Siskiyous
Columbia College
De Anza College
Humboldt State University
Humphreys University
Merced College
Modesto Junior College
Mount Marty College
Mt. San Antonio College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego State University
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
San Francisco State University
San Joaquin Delta College
San Jose City College
San Jose State University
Santa Monica College
Sonoma State University
Southern Virginia University
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California-Merced
University of California-San Diego
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California -Santa Cruz
University of Nevada-Reno
University of Oregon
Utah Valley University
Xavier University of Louisiana

