

Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy

FULLY ACCREDITED BY THE SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



California Charter School #930 • CBN 053 609 • IBO School Code 2139

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Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy, an International Baccalaureate World School chartered through the Humboldt County Office of Education, was founded to create a respectful, nurturing, safe and inspiring learning atmosphere in which the arts, academics and responsible citizenship are valued equally. The school's curriculum is based on confronting primary source documents, critical thinking, travel, musical and dramatic performances, community service, analytical and creative writing, and university-level courses. Global awareness and international experiences are a vital part of the school's program in which students are exposed to the most emotionally compelling, intellectually demanding and aesthetically enriching materials possible.

The school's educational philosophy is inspired by Dr. Sinichi Suzuki's belief that every student is capable of learning at a high level and by the humanitarian approach to learning developed by Ake Leander at Nordens Folkhogskola, Biskops Arno in Sweden where both the school's Principal and Head of Academics have studied and taught. Because the fine arts and global experiences are an important part of the school's educational philosophy, students participate in and experience numerous performances, concerts and exhibits throughout the year, and many of these performances are shared when they travel abroad. They have performed at International Festivals and schools and given workshops in China, Scandinavia, France, Spain, Japan, Mexico, Thailand, Bali, Ghana, Vietnam, Guatemala and Morocco. In addition to the cultural aspects of these trips, the students often work in orphanages and engage in other service related activities. They produce two major classic dramatic productions each year, perform in musicals and operas, and contribute numerous concerts and art exhibits to the local community.

Another important aspect of the school's program is a series of required Literature Seminars in which students attend a formal dinner discussion of the novel they have read. Before graduating, the students will have read and explored eight classic novels in this informal context.

In addition to their International travel and Literature Seminars, every student sings in the choir once each week and participates in weekly all school meetings in which the students, through dramatizations and small group discussions, address issues related to the well being of the school community.

A popular activity is the Cotillion class in which students are exposed to formal etiquette and manners. They complete the course with a Cotillion Ball. In contrast to a school prom, the students come without dates, and their goal is to practice the manners and dances they have learned and make certain that every single person has a pleasant evening.

Parents are encouraged to play an active part in both the social and academic aspects of the education of their children. All school meetings occur monthly in which students, parents, staff and community members participate. These meetings provide a forum for exploring both social and academic issues that are of concern, for sharing travel experiences and for enjoying a variety of creative activities.

The school's teachers are highly qualified professionals and recognized as dedicated educators. The school's Principal and Head of Academics hold Ph.D.s in their fields of expertise, Theatre and Philosophy respectively, and have received both local and international honors for their work as educators. The school's International Baccalaureate Coordinator holds a Masters Degree in Curriculum Development and Arts Education from Stanford University. Other faculty have also received a variety of recognitions.

The school's graduates are attending or have graduated from Stanford, Harvard, Sarah Lawrence, Brown, St. John's, Rhode Island School of Design, Johns Hopkins, Swarthmore, Bowdoin, Mills, Whitman, Reed, Lewis & Clark, Williams, Prescott, Colburn Conservatory of Music, Carleton, Bard, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, New York University, George Washington, American, University of San Francisco, Brigham Young, Willamette, Oberlin, Brandeis, Hampshire, Pacific, Wheaton, University of Denver, University of California (at Berkeley, Davis, LA, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz) and State College campuses, Quest College in Canada, the University of British Columbia, the Sorbonne, and the University of London.

NPA's students have been honored as National Merit Scholars and Finalists, with National Achievement Scholarships, National Hispanic Recognition Scholar awards, and with the federally sponsored Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship. They have participated and been honored in national and international music, poetry, dance and theatre competitions including the NFAA ARTS Awards and the Milosz Magin International Piano Competition in Paris (our school was the first to be represented in all divisions; an alumnus won the Gold Medal 2005 in the Concert Pianists Division). The school's graduates have gone on to receive highest honors in the performing arts at their universities with fellowships and scholarships to their graduate schools, including the prestigious Beinike Scholarship and the Watson Fellowship. They have also received Rotary and Government Scholarships to Italy, Germany, Norway, India, Egypt and Canada, and have completed internships in France, Russia, Bolivia, China, England and Sweden.

NPA was named a Gold Medal School and was ranked #4 Best Charter High School in the United States and #18 Best High School in the United States when U.S. News & World Report released its Best High Schools 2012 rankings.

Past years have also found NPA recognized among the most prestigious national best high schools. In 2009 and 2010 the Newsweek Challenge List ranked NPA among the best in the nation in preparing students for college. The 2011 Washington Post "High School Challenge" Best High Schools list ranked NPA as the #13 Best High School in the United States and #1 in California.

Every NPA student is expected to fulfill the University of California's a-g requirements. In addition to their course work, freshmen and sophomores are required to write a research paper of at least ten pages each semester on topics of their choice and present the results of their research to the student body. Every junior and senior student is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program and continues to receive supplementary instruction from local, national, and international experts in different fields. The students are encouraged to take initiative and assume responsibility for their own learning. Between five and ten percent of the students come from countries outside the United States.

Because there are no entrance exams for admission, the students come from a wide range of social, academic and economic backgrounds. Anyone willing to embrace the school's Code of Conduct and attempt the academic and creative challenges offered is welcome.