



EAST PALO ALTO
ACADEMY

YEAR END REPORT 2016-2017





EPAA has a lot to offer. Advisory, senior seminar, exhibitions, office hours, tutors, college classes, and the staff in general. All of these are a great part of what makes EPAA what it is.

JAVIER H., EPAA CLASS OF 2017



WELCOME TO EAST PALO ALTO ACADEMY

At EPAA, we are dedicated to providing all students a high-quality education that prepares them for college and beyond.

We offer a unique blend of personalized learning, college preparation, early college access and wellness programming. From rising 9th graders through graduating seniors, EPAA nurtures the skills, perseverance and confidence our students need to succeed.

We are a small neighborhood school with a big impact. The majority of EPAA graduates are not only the first in their families to attend college, but also the first to graduate from high school.

We believe a high quality education is a precious right that should be afforded to all. We want every student to make the most of his or her opportunity to learn. Every day, EPAA’s award-winning and exceptionally dedicated faculty and staff strive to

reach our vision that all students will graduate college-ready, empowered with the knowledge, skills and passion to positively impact their own lives, their community and the global society.

Nestled in the heart of East Palo Alto, EPAA serves over 300 students in grades 9 through 12. We are a public charter high school in the Sequoia Union High School District, so tuition is free and admission is available to all students who apply on a first-come, first-served basis through the district’s open enrollment process.

We are proud that our faculty, staff and students call EPAA their home away from home and the people on campus their family.

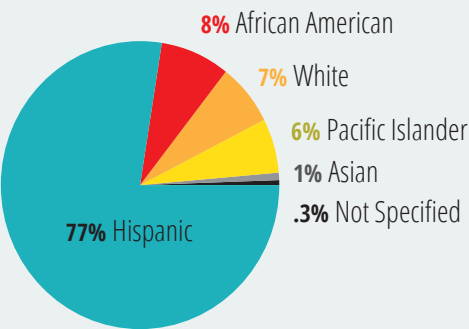
95%

Average annual graduation rate for last five years



Amika Maria
Maran Guillaume
Principal

EPAA STUDENTS



95% Free and reduced lunch

75% Bilingual second language learners

87% First generation college-bound

65% First generation high school graduates

A CAMPUS DESIGNED FOR LEARNING

EPAA offers a state-of-the-art facility that includes a College and Career Center, science labs, laptop computers for all classrooms, a library, and a new gymnasium. The **MakerSpace**, also known as the **Dream Lab**, is a creative hub where

students design hands-on projects with technology including a laser-cutter, a 3-D printer and Computer-Aided Design. In the **Music Lab**, students create songs, mixes and arrangements using instruments and electronic music equipment.



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It has helped me a lot to have small classes every year because I receive that attention from the teachers to keep me on track.

Edwin M., EPAA
Class of 2017, UC Santa Cruz

“

I benefited the most with exhibitions. Since that moment, I understood that I am more capable than I thought I was.

Jennifer Z., EPAA Class of 2017,
San Francisco State University

EDUCATION THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

At EPAA, all students are expected to develop the skills and habits necessary to succeed in our complex world.

Every student takes UC/CSU A-G classes, required for college-bound students, including English, history, language, math, laboratory science and fine arts.

Beyond the core courses, EPAA offers a variety of enriching electives: AP Spanish, AP Statistics, Introduction to Acting, Mobile Apps Development, Spanish for Native Speakers, Creative Writing, Drama, and Student Leadership, in addition to various other courses through our Early College program in partnership with Cañada College. All students develop real-world critical thinking and presentation skills through annual student projects known as Exhibitions.

- **Small class sizes** allow for **personalized attention** to all students.
- **Our experienced Guidance Counselor**, Glenda Ortez-Galan, works with each student to select the courses that meet their needs and interests.
- **Teachers and tutors** offer **academic support** outside of school hours.



THE EPAA PATHWAY TO COLLEGE AND CAREER

EPAA students are regularly admitted to UCs, CSUs, and prestigious private colleges. They also are fortunate to earn college scholarships from a number of organizations, including the East Palo Alto Academy Foundation (EPAAF), an education foundation dedicated solely to EPAA and its graduates.

- Since 2007, **EPAAF has awarded over \$2.4 million in scholarships** (\$500,000 in 2017-18 alone) to EPAA graduates.
- EPAAF's **College Success Counselor**, José Rodriguez, coaches and supports EPAA graduates through their journey towards a college degree.

EPAA students are lucky to have many resources to call on when looking ahead to college and career.

- All Advisory teachers work with their students to explore interests and strengths, and to navigate the process of identifying and applying to colleges.
- The College and Career Center, led by our College Information Specialist, Jose Heredia, is a hub for information about colleges and scholarships, including individualized advice. Representatives from colleges visit the Center and meet with students throughout the year.
- In the Senior Seminar class, students reflect on their goals and craft plans for the future, and obtain professional guidance in applying for college admission and financial aid.
- Career Day brings EPAA alumni and other members of the community to school so students can explore a wide range of career options.
- Free SAT preparation
- Personalized college planning with the Naviance database
- Annual field trips to colleges



Senior Seminar was the class where I analyzed everything I had done for the past 4 years and how it will determine my final decision for plans after high school. If it wasn't for this class, I wouldn't have ended with the plans I have now (attending UC Davis).

Yuliana V., EPAA Class of 2017



Once you take an Early College class, you understand that college is possible.

Darian R., EPAA Class of 2020



THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM: GETTING A HEAD START

Experiencing college without leaving the high school campus and at no charge? This is what EPAA's Early College Program is all about. Students have the opportunity to:

- **Take college classes**, taught by professors from Cañada College, on EPAA's campus.
- **Earn college credits** that give them a head start toward a college degree.
- **Experience what college classes** will be like, challenging themselves and gaining confidence.

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Thanks to my Early College experience, I realize that I do have what it takes to succeed in college.

Neil P., EPAA Class of 2018





HEALTHY STUDENTS, SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Physical and emotional health plays a critical role in students' ability to focus on coursework and move ahead on the path to graduation and college. EPAA is committed to ensuring a safe, healthy and effective learning environment for all students, and provides free services for students including:

- **On-site counselors** and a fully licensed psychiatrist from Stanford University
- **A Restorative Justice Coordinator**
- **Bi-weekly visits** from the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Teen Health Van

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I benefited most from working with a counselor this year. It made me the student I know I am and the person I have become. I am so grateful for having a counselor on campus to just open up to.

Student, Class of 2018

ADVISORY: THE HEART OF AN EPAA EDUCATION

Advisory at EPAA means building connections. Thanks to Advisory class three times per week, every EPAA student is paired with a trusted, caring teacher-advisor who supports their academic progress, social-emotional learning and college readiness.

Misla Barco has been teaching Advisory, as well as Spanish, at EPAA for almost two decades. She draws a circle with a point in the center, representing Advisory. **“Advisory is the center that connects all of EPAA. It is not only the center of important information for students. It is the connector with families and the community.”**

“

I can't imagine this school without Advisory. I don't think we'd have the sense of family where we know everybody. The sense is we are all here to support you. Advisory facilitates that.

Misla Barco, teacher



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT 2017

Meet Luis Martinez, EPAA Class of 2007

When East Palo Alto Academy graduate Luis Martinez talks about his high school years, it's clear that the school has made a difference in his life. **"EPAA had a big impact on me, and on my family," he reflects.**

Now a college graduate with a rewarding career in information technology, Luis almost did not go to college. Only when his teacher-advisor, Marisol Castillo, asked about his college plans did he consider applying. With her gentle encouragement and support throughout the application process, Luis went on to earn his degree in Business Management from San Jose State University, where he later earned a certificate in Data Analytics too.

Thanks to the EPAA Advisory system, Luis remembers that his teacher-advisor **"was always there. We always knew she cared. I was not the best student. It makes a difference to have someone point out the good in you and the potential that you have."** Luis further built up his academic confidence through EPAA's Early College program and developed leadership skills as a Student Ambassador.

Playing on EPAA's soccer team was a highlight for Luis. The EPAA family – parents, relatives, friends and teachers – would all come out to cheer on the team at a big game. Luis notes that EPAA makes a point to involve students' families, and his parents found their experience to be as positive as he did. Carrying on the family tradition, Luis's brother graduated from EPAA and is currently pursuing his degree at San Jose State.

Luis is quick to point out EPAA's advantages both then and now. The school is located in his hometown, and carries the pride that comes with being a neighborhood school having strong ties to the community. Its dedicated teachers know and believe in their students, and opportunities for learning and leadership abound. Above all, EPAA encourages students to dream big and prepares them to make their dreams come true.



My advisor was an advocate for me, and for all of us. She was a big reason I wanted to go to college. I still give her most of the credit for my decision to get a college degree.

Luis Martinez

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

Families and the community are valued partners in promoting academic achievements and personal growth among EPAA students.

EPAA parents have many opportunities to be involved in the school and to get to know the school leadership, participate in student conferences and events, and enjoy parent education programs.

Community organizations, focusing on arts, finance, leadership, debating skills and more, work closely with our students, often on EPAA's campus. Students learn real-world skills and expand their perspectives by providing 25 hours of community service each year.

7,500

Community Service hours
contributed by EPAA
students in 2016-17



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I volunteered for Canopy, planting trees in our community. It was rewarding to see families happy when we planted trees at their homes.

Elsa A., EPAA Class of 2018

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I volunteered with the MLK Jr. Freedom Center and the Institute for Community Leadership, serving 200 community service hours in one month. I learned independence and leadership.

Jesus C., EPAA Class of 2017,
CSU East Bay



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When you have a concern, they really listen to you and help you to solve a problem.

Gabriela Chavez, EPAA Parent

If you want your child to have better opportunities, support towards graduating, and for your child to go to college, then EPAA is the best option.

Uriel Espino, EPAA Parent

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I come all the way from Newark because I feel this is a great school.

Mirella Murillo, EPAA Parent

EPAA was the best school for my daughter because teachers really care about the students. My daughter was able to accomplish her goal to go to San Jose State University!

Rosa Alas, EPAA Parent

EPAA is grateful to many partners for their support of our vision that all students will graduate college-ready, empowered with the knowledge, skills and passion to positively impact their own lives, their community and the global society. For their vital role in our mission, we thank EPAA students, families, teachers and staff, community organizations and the Sequoia Union High School District, as well as our supporters and volunteers, including East Palo Alto Academy Foundation board members and Charter Advisory Board members.

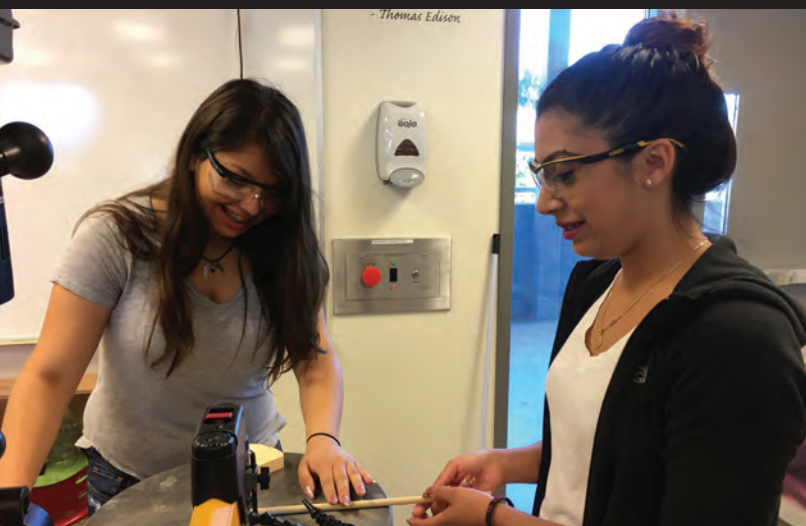
AmeriCorps	Karen Drachler	Melinda Hilder	RYAA-Sports
Derek Ang	Carrie DuBois	Rosemary Hodges	Paul Rydberg
Rebecca and Antonio Altamirano	Patrick Dunkley	Paitra Houts	Saint Francis Youth Club
Seth Ammerman, MD	East Palo Alto Academy Foundation	Sylvia and John Hughes	Jessica Salinas
Anonymous (3)	East Palo Alto Kids Foundation	Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trusts	San Mateo County Fire Department
Harvey and Nola Armstrong	East Palo Alto Police Department	Katie Hyde	Jaime Sanchez
L. Steven Ashley	East Palo Alto Rotary	IMPACT: Teen Drivers	Alan Sarver
Lisa Baldini	East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring	Georgia Jack	Elizabeth and Mark Schar
Misla Barco	Edgewood-Kinship	Mudita Jain	Daniel L. Schwartz
Paulo Blikstein	Timothy Emanuels	Shashank Joshi, MD	Quentin Sedlacek
Jo Boaler	Empower Philanthropy	Ari Kahan	Sequoia Union High School District
Jason Bogardus	Vlad Enache	Andrew Kaiser	Vidjealatchoumy Shriram and Kavitar Ram Shriram
Book Mentors	The Eustace-Kwan Family Foundation	Sonya Keller	Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula	Ever Forward Club	Lauren Koenig and Brad Koenig	Silicon Valley Urban Debate League
David Brazer	Family Giving Tree	Mrs. Barbara Lawson and Dr. Terry Lawson	Charles Simmons
Michelle Brega	Angela and David Filo	Seth Leslie	Rebecca Tseng Smith and Tom Tseng
Jenny Brill	Laura and John Fisher	Charles E. Letts Jr.	The Sottolano Family
Bryan Brown	Fit-Clean-Zone Program	Live in Peace	Stanford University
BUILD	Maria José Flockhart	Rosa Maldonado	Stanford Public Safety
Mr. and Mrs. Preston Butcher	Peter Fortenbaugh	Kelsey Martin	Deborah Stipek
Lawrence Butcher	Foundation for a College Education	Shachar Michaeli	StreetCode Academy
Anne E. Campbell	Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)	Sandra Mikhail	Student Conversation Association
Canopy	Renee Fung	Virginia and Douglas Mills	Tate Foundation
Catholic Charities	Future Profits of AbleWorks	Alice Miano	Team Esface
Jeff Chang	John W. Gardner Center, Stanford	Moms Against Poverty	Christopher Thomsen
Charles and Roberta Katz Family Foundation	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	Morgan Stanley	Heather C. Trippel and Roger F. Trippel
Albert Chou	Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund	Peter Morucci	John Underwood
College Spring	David Gonzales	Mural, Music, and Arts Project (MMAP)	US Bank
College Track	Google, Inc.	Laura Aryeh Murawczyk	Greg Vaughan
Community School of Music & Arts	Michelle Goudeaux	New Leaf	Lucy Milligan Wahl and Andrew Wahl
Sarah Connelly	Graduate School of Education, Stanford	Angela Nomellini and Kenneth Olivier	Maegan Warehouse
Ruth Ann Costanzo	Grousbeck Family Foundation	One EPA	Bret and Britt-Marie Waters
Cultural Kaleidoscope	David Grunwald	Madhavi and Umesh Padval	Allen Weiner
Linda Darling-Hammond	Grupo Palo Alto	Palo Alto Rotary	Peter Williamson
Liz and Mark Daschbach	Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford	Marc and Ragni Pasturel	Casey Wong
Danielle Dearborn	Leiko Hamada	Peery Foundation	Michael Wood
Colette DeFalco	Ed Han and Polly Liu	Makailah Perkins	Yellow Chair Foundation
Citlalli Del Carpio	Martha Hanks	Richard Petit	Youth Community Service
George Dennis	John Hennessy	Philanthropic Ventures Foundation	
Robert Dixon	Sofia Hibbs	José Rodriguez	
Dodge & Cox		Mindy Rogers and Jesse Rogers	
Mark Douglass		William Ross	
The Ducommun and Gross Foundation			

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We support the students
to believe they will finish
high school and college. By
the time they graduate, the
students come to believe
in themselves.

TEACHER MISLA BARCO





“

I want to make my
parents proud and
want to be the first
in my family to
attend and graduate
from college.

Christian C., EPAA Class of 2019



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