



SIERRA ACADEMY OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

WE ARE CREW... NOT PASSENGERS

School Profile

Address

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Location

Nevada City is located in the Sierra Nevada Foothills in Northern California, 75 miles from Sacramento. Students attend SAEL from at least 16 different middle schools in Nevada and Placer Counties and from outside the state. Of the 3,117 residents of Nevada City, the median household income is \$43,770 and 34% of residents have earned a BA or higher.

School Year

SAEL's academic year is divided into two semesters with official grades issued in January and June. Official test scores are reported directly from the testing facility.

Grading

- 4 Exemplary
- 3 Mastery Achieved
- <3 Not Yet Achieving Mastery

Established in 2014, Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning (SAEL) is a public charter high school. SAEL supports 200 students to do more than they think possible through the nationally recognized EL Education model. Using interdisciplinary, project-based learning, students go into the field, engage with experts, and produce high quality work that has a real world impact. College preparatory curriculum and rigorous inquiry support our goal to have 100% college acceptance for all. SAEL is WASC accredited, all staff are appropriately certificated and nine hold Masters Degrees. The ethnic breakdown of SAEL's students is 70% White, 13% Hispanic, 8% multiple races, 4% Native American, 2% Asian, and 1% African-American. 30% of SAEL's student body receives free and reduced lunch. 50% of seniors are first generation college students. Some of the colleges our students have been accepted to include U of CA - Berkeley, Davis, and Santa Cruz, Harvey Mudd College, Lewis and Clark College, Reed College, CA State U - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Humboldt, Sacramento, and Chico, CO School of the Mines, Oberlin College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Prescott College, Colorado College, Regis College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Willamette University, and Northern Arizona University.

Mastery Based Grading

Students must master content based on Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards at a 3.0 level or higher in order to earn credit for a class. This means SAEL's GPA span may appear skewed as all students are supported to obtain a high level of mastery in order to "pass." In addition, students are pushed to thrive above and beyond. Growth mindset is a tenet of our program and students are not ranked. The following practices allow for differentiation at SAEL:

- Additional inquiry experiences offered for every major project to take learning deeper
- Explicit teaching and grading of Character in all classes, especially the 15:1 Crew advisory class
- Daily office hours by appointment for teachers and students
- Two week intensives at the end of each semester for enrichment or targeted academic support and interventions
- Enrichment Intensives include Panama Bio-Cultural Leadership, The Science of Art, College Road Trip, Chemistry, Cooking, 100 Mile Hike, Coding, Community Service, Art of Nature, Music, Filmmaking
- Biannual Student Led Conference presentations, 10th grade Passages, and 12th grade Final Word

SAT Score Range

Evidence Based Reading and Writing Range

Scores	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
700-800	20%	6%
600-690	50%	13%
500-590	20%	56%
400-490	10%	25%

Mathematics

Scores	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
700-800	10%	6%
600-690	20%	6%
500-590	60%	44%
400-490	10%	44%

GPA Distribution: Class of 2019

4.0 and above	7%
3.75-3.99	13%
3.5-3.74	19%
3.25-3.49	37%
3.0-3.24	15%
<3.0	9%
Average GPA	3.44

Post Graduation Plans

4-year private or state college	58%
Community college	34%
Trade School	6%
Military	2%

Graduation Requirements & Course Offerings

Classes	Offering and Typical Year
English 40 credits	English 9 (9th), English 10 (10th), English 11 (11th) , English 12 (12th)
Math 30 Credits	Integrated Math I (9th), Integrated Math II (10th), Integrated Math III (11th), Trig & Pre-Calculus , AP Calculus
Social Studies 30 credits	World Geography (9th), World History (10th), US History (11th) , Economics and American Government (12th)
Science 30 credits	Integrated Science I (9th), Integrated Science II (10th), Conceptual and Computational Physics (11th) , AP Environmental Science (12th), STEAM (12th)
Foreign Language 20 credits	Spanish I (9th), Spanish II (10th), Spanish III (11th)
Visual & Performing Arts 10 credits	Intro to Art (10th), Music History and Appreciation (11th)
PE/Adventure 30 credits	PE/Adventure I (9th), PE/Adventure II (10th), additional electives
Crew 40 credits	Crew 9 (9th), Crew 10 (10th), Crew 11 (11th), Crew 12 (12th)
Senior Project 5 credits	Senior Project & Internship (12th)
Electives 10 credits	See below

- Students had the option of taking bold classes as honors
- AP and Honors courses receive +1 GPA points

Additional Electives Offered:

Anthropology, Biking, Child Development, Climbing, Cross Fit, Dance, Drama, Fairness Committee, Horticulture, International Sports & Culture, Intro to Technology, Marine Biology & Film, Musicology, Nature & Literature, Odyssey of the Mind, Psychology, Robotics & Computer Science, Society and Natural Resources, Soccer, Speech and Debate, Street Art, Tech Squad, Visual Art, Whole Athlete, Yoga