



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 come 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. 40% of SAEL's student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch. 50% of seniors are first generation college students. In the past three years, 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, Bard, Reed College, CA State U - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Humboldt, Sacramento, and Chico, CO School of the Mines, Oberlin College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Southern Oregon, Skidmore, Prescott College, Colorado College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Willamette University, Fort Lewis College, 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. All SAEL 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, Culinary Arts, 100 Mile Hike, Coding, Community Service, Art of Nature, Music Performance, Filmmaking, Drama, Fiber Arts
- 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 2019	Class of 2020
700-800	6%	14%
600-690	13%	43%
500-590	56%	43%
400-490	25%	0

Mathematics

Scores	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
700-800	6%	14%
600-690	6%	29%
500-590	44%	57%
400-490	44%	0

GPA Distribution: Class of 2020

4.0 and above	20%
3.75-3.99	13%
3.5-3.74	9%
3.25-3.49	20%
3.0-3.24	13%
<3.0	25%
Average GPA	3.37

Post Graduation Plans

4-year college	45%
Community college	49%
Trade School	3%
Military	3%

Graduation Requirements & Course Offerings

Classes	Offering and Typical Year
English - 40 credits	English (9th and 10th), English 11 (11th), English 12 (12th)
Mathematics - 30 Credits	Integrated Math I (9th), Integrated Math II (10th), Integrated Math III (11th), Trig & Pre-Calculus , AP Calculus AB & BC (Integrated Math I-III are equivalent to college-preparatory Algebra I and II, Geometry, and Introductory Statistics)
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 (11th), AP Chemistry (12th) (Integrated Science I and II are equivalent to college-preparatory Biology and Chemistry)
Foreign Language - 20 credits	Spanish I - Spanish IV
Visual & Performing Arts - 10 credits	Intro to Art, Music History, Dance, Music Performance
PE/Adventure - 30 credits	PE/Adventure I - III, additional electives offered
Crew - 40 credits	Crew (9th - 12th)
Senior Project - 5 credits	Senior Project (12th)
Electives - 10 credits	See below

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

Some Additional Electives Offered:

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