



CAHS

Columbus Alternative High School
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(City Wide Alternative – Northside)

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The CAHS Vision

Each student who enters Columbus Alternative High School excels in college-level coursework and graduates from CAHS with scholarships: passionate, open-minded, and prepared to thrive as a contributing global citizen in college and beyond.

The CAHS vision defines both the expectation and the culture of CAHS while driving the work of every staff member, student, and parent/guardian of its community. Columbus Alternative High School is a lottery-based, college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) World School with a tradition of excellence. CAHS was established in 1978 as a Columbus City Schools' magnet high school and is designed for serving the needs of the highly academic student. All academic courses are delivered at an honors level through a humanities-based curriculum with a focus on the fine and performing arts.

Each student who enters CAHS begins his or her journey through ninth grade humanities and is expected to complete an AP or IB college-level English course by the culmination of the junior year. In addition, CAHS students are not only expected to pursue the necessary prerequisite coursework for earning a Diploma with Honors, but also to take four years of core curriculum courses with CAHS teachers or on college campuses. Students may choose the IB Diploma or take any combination of the expansive array of AP, IB courses or Post Secondary Educational Opportunities for fulfillment of this requirement. The academic course offerings at CAHS include Level One through AP and IB courses in: world languages (Spanish, French, and Latin), technology, film, visual arts, instrumental and vocal music.

Learning is extended through the co-curricular Internship program. Through this required opportunity, junior and senior students are released one day per week to more than three hundred sites throughout the city of Columbus and surrounding communities to experience reciprocal learning and service. Leadership opportunities and activities at CAHS abound through more than thirty student-led clubs and organizations, and although CAHS does not offer interscholastic sports, students may participate through their home high schools.

A multitude of involvement opportunities include: In The Know Academic League (2013-2018 City Champions), Poetry Slam competitions (2018 City Champions), nationally-ranked chess team, Student Senate, National Honor Society, the CAHSMIC Herald school newspaper, the Shades award-winning literary magazine, art fairs, plays and musical productions, concerts, and many other school functions and activities.

CAHS is one of The Washington Post's **Most Challenging High Schools**, one of only five central Ohio high schools ranking in the top 500 and in the top 10 in Ohio. The Class of 2019 earned more than \$15 million in merit-based scholarships, and graduates have gone on to some of the most selective colleges and universities across the nation including: Harvard, Cornell, Howard, and The Ohio State University.

CAHS continues to be nationally-recognized for its excellence in student achievement, graduation and college admittance rates this year, the Washington Post named CAHS one of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Best and Rigorous High Schools. Also in 2020, CAHS was selected as one of the Most Successful high schools in Ohio by Great City Schools. This distinction was attributed to CAHS closing the achievement gap for student groups while maintaining the highest level of advanced studies offerings.