

MAYBECK

HIGH SCHOOL



Be curious.
Be inspired.
Be yourself.

A note to students

If you want a school where your ideas will be heard; where you will learn with others who share a hunger for knowledge and insight; where you will be challenged to grow and stretch; where you will develop close relationships with your teachers; where you will be accepted for who you are, then Maybeck is the right place for you.

Every student and staff member are an important part of our supportive community. We learn with and from each other. We explore our similarities, our differences, and the qualities that make each of us our own inimitable person.

Maybeck requires effort and a commitment to academic and creative curiosity, but our promise is that the work will inspire you. Every day is an opportunity to pursue your passion, deepen your understanding of a lab or a text, or challenge a preconceived

thought. When you graduate from Maybeck you will be more than ready for college and the world beyond. You will be able to appreciate and learn from voices that are not your own. You will be a strong writer. You will have confidence in your ability to analyze complex concepts and to draw your own conclusions. You will discover your own voice. You will have confidence.



Philosophy

Maybeck is a community dedicated to learning, where diversity flourishes amid mutual support, respect and responsibility. Through our small classes, high expectations, and spirit of exploration, our students prepare for college and other opportunities and acquire the tools to engage actively and creatively in the wider world.

Our community. Our seminar-style classes, camping trips, advisory program, travel programs and off-cite learning foster close relationships between students and faculty. Teachers know students by name, and students know each other across grade levels. We all meet together frequently for conversations, speakers, and programs.

Dedication to learning. Our faculty teach with passion and skill, and we expose our students to a range of teaching methods, assessments, and projects. Students choose from a variety of academic classes and electives, and some students opt to take college classes at University of California, Berkeley (Cal) or Berkeley City College (BCC). Staff meet once a week to discuss our students: their successes and their growth.

Diversity flourishes amid mutual support, respect, and responsibility. Maybeck students come from a variety of social and economic backgrounds, cultures, traditions and faiths. We provide a safe environment for all students and all forms of diversity; students can be themselves and express themselves fully.

Programs outside of the classroom. In the fall, we hold a school-wide retreat that allows for students and staff to learn together in small and large groups on topics that emerge from readings, lectures and films. We gather under trees, by rivers, and around tables to create outdoor classrooms that hold the promise of what will come in the academic year ahead. We begin the work of learning together in generous space and with generous time to remind ourselves that learning is not a race but is a joy and a responsibility. We close the year with another retreat where we reflect on our year, speak about the change to come, and celebrate our seniors. During the year we offer trips through our program, *Maybeck Beyond*, where students are given the opportunity to participate with staff on hikes, one- and two-night camping trips, trips to Bay Area locations for lectures, museum visits, and performances, and to attend games and events on the Cal campus.

Engaging actively and creatively in the wider world: All of our students have the opportunity for travel: regional, national, and international. Additionally, all our students participate in community service projects which expose them to areas of interest beyond the classroom. Our students experience different perspectives through guest lecturers, films, and presentations.



ABOUT MAYBECK

Founded in 1972

Only Independent High School in Berkeley

Typical enrollment 115 students





Academics

As a college preparatory school committed to academic excellence, Maybeck designs its curriculum to allow each student to reach their highest level of achievement.

Teachers provide detailed personal feedback and gain a focused perspective on their students' skills and needs.

Students collaborate to help each other succeed, and work across grade levels inside and outside the classroom.

Learning Objectives

The schoolwide curriculum achieves five broad learning objectives for each student. These objectives provide a central structure for our classwork—and also recognize and embrace the learning that happens outside classroom walls.

In addition to meeting University of California entrance requirements, all classes are designed to help our students to become:

Academically Engaged and Sophisticated

- Strong writing, discussion, and public speaking skills
- Sustained and thorough independent research
- Mastery of note-taking, organization, and time-management skills
- Self-direction in learning
- Comfort with a range of perspectives and interpretations
- Ability to look for deeper meaning
- Creative, complex, and logical reasoning

Independent, Confident, and Inspired Individuals

- Leadership skills
- Contribution to shaping the school's program
- Resourcefulness and risk-taking
- Strong communication skills
- Distinctive voices and expression of their own views
- Sense of self-confidence
- Self-reliance, self-discipline, and responsibility
- A strong work ethic

Explorers of Places and Ideas

- Domestic and international travel
- Comfort with the outdoors and an urban environment
- Political awareness and understanding of current events
- Academic curiosity
- Innovative thinking and problem-solving
- Willingness to participate in activities beyond the comfort zone

Active and Respectful Community Members

- Involvement in and commitment to community service
- Respect for differing viewpoints and compassion for others
- Embrace of diversity and cultural differences
- Collaborative learning and teamwork
- Exposure to non-hierarchical governance
- Dedication to environmental conservation

Well-Rounded People

- Physical and emotional well-being
- Participation in and appreciation for the visual and performing arts
- Engagement with hands-on activities
- Pursuit of individual passions

Learning Without Walls

We supplement in-class learning with a wide range of hands-on learning experiences. Each year, our Special Programs allow teachers to craft innovative and intensive learning experiences for small groups of students. During these two-week intersessions, we immerse ourselves in eclectic adventures, which change each year based on student and staff interest and current events. Some recent program offerings: environmental exploration in Alaska, audio visual production, circus arts and dance, ceramics, travels throughout France, Guatemala, Peru, Spain, and Turkey, kayaking in Baja, examining the issues of the unhoused in the East Bay, exploring the canyons of Utah, and a stay at a Buddhist practice center.

ABOUT MAYBECK

WASC accredited

Average teacher tenure: **8** years

5:1 student-to-staff ratio



Maybeck in the Philippines

In a recent Special Program adventure, 16 students took a 12-day journey to the Philippines. Led by two teachers—one a former Peace Corps volunteer in the region, one a former instructor with UC Berkeley's Underwater Scientific Research Diving program—the kids visited the gorgeous 2000-year-old Ifuagao rice terraces, learned to scuba dive, and explored the biodiverse tropical waters around the archipelago.

Along the way, they developed the habits of seasoned travelers, learning to orient themselves to the culture, customs, history, and geography of another country—and to pack light and travel healthy. Each student became the 'resident expert' on a topic of regional importance and presented their discoveries to the group in between excursions.

Community

At Maybeck, each student and teacher is valued for the individual contributions they make to our community. Whether under the redwoods, around the table in a seminar class, on the basketball court, in a science lab, or on the stage, each student has the chance to share their talents with their peers. We explore our differences and commonalities as we learn, grow, and deepen connections.

Our community is intentionally small. Our students form close bonds with each other and with staff as we work together, from the beginning-of-the-year camping trip to graduation. The 5:1 student-to-faculty ratio ensures that each student is known and included, and provides the opportunity for strong mentoring relationships.

We value our community time and make a point of coming together as a school at least once a week. We gather to share news, hear students perform, and discuss important topics. We meet weekly in advisory groups to hear school announcements, talk through school policy, and discuss upcoming calendar items. Staff who lead advisory groups support their students by acting as their advocate, their counselor, and their mentor. We pause classes a few times each year to explore timely topics in groups large and small.

Maybeck offers a range of affinity groups that are coordinated by our Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Students gather weekly to support each other and discuss school-wide, local, national, and international topics. Affinity groups also work to bring issues and celebrations to the school at-large. In addition to affinity groups, students lead a wide variety of clubs and organizations on campus, such as Model UN Debate Team, Mycology Club, Gardening Club, Cooking Club, Math Club, Chess Club, Philosophy Club, and Skateboarding Club. Clubs change every year according to student's interests.

Maybeck's mission statement calls for mutual support, respect, and responsibility. This can only be achieved with the wholehearted involvement of our entire community which is the principle we value most.

Our History

Maybeck was founded in 1972, when four teachers at a local high school began to use seminar-style discussions to teach history, science, and literature through current events—including the Vietnam War. The school's administration objected, and the long censorship battle that ensued crystallized the four teachers' belief in teacher autonomy. They were inspired to create a school with academic freedom at its core. Thus, from the very beginning, Maybeck has been run by teachers for students.

With an enrollment of fewer than 15 in the first year, Maybeck began its life nomadically, with classes run in empty rooms at Cal. Three years later, the school had more than 60 students and had settled into the educational wing of a church across the street from Cal. Maybeck grew quickly to its current size—but has always remained small by design. The founders felt that the entire community should be able to travel anywhere together in two buses and set up camp to learn from the environment. We still believe in a classroom without walls, and still go camping together at the beginning and end of every school year.



Average classroom size of **12**
42% of students receive financial assistance
38% students of color

ABOUT MAYBECK



“There is something about this place, or maybe it’s just humanity, but I’ve never been surrounded by such unadulterated passion in my life.”

— *Maybeck Student Graduation Speech*

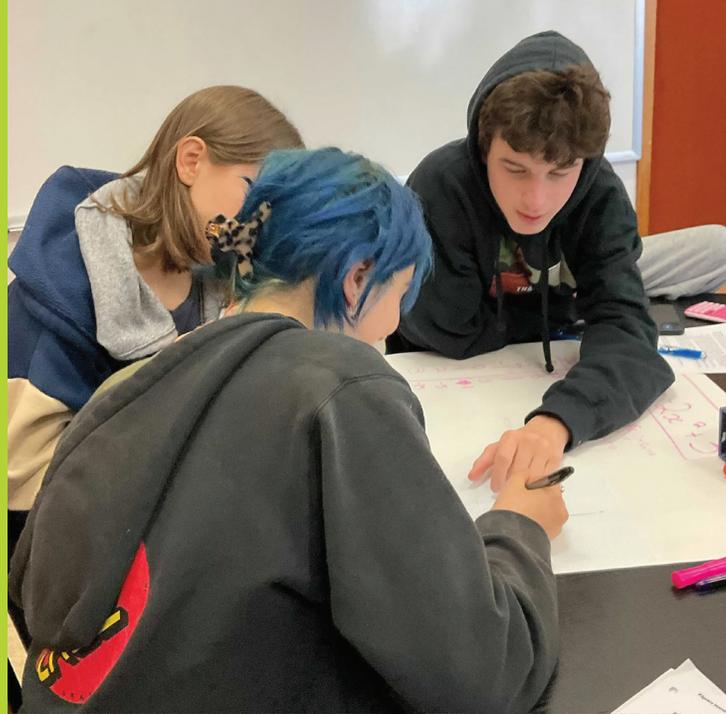
Life Beyond Maybeck

At Maybeck, the college admissions process is about finding the right fit, whether it’s a large university close to home or a small liberal arts college in another as-yet-unexplored part of the country. Students partner with our dedicated college counselor to develop timelines for standardized testing, get feedback on essay drafts, complete applications, conduct mock interviews, participate in resume writing workshops, and navigate the financial aid process. Strong relationships between students and teachers mean that Maybeck students receive insightful and personalized letters of recommendation. Each fall, admission representatives from around the country visit Maybeck; our students are highly sought after as well-rounded, passionate learners and skilled scholars.

Maybeck graduates have gained admission to these schools (partial list):

Bard College	St. Mary’s College of California
Beloit College	San Diego State University
Bennington College	San Francisco State University
Boston University	Sarah Lawrence College
Brandeis University	Scripps College
Brown University	Skidmore University
Bryn Mawr College	Smith College
Cal Tech	St. John’s University, New York
Carleton College	Stanford University
Columbia University	The New School
DePauw University	The University of British Columbia
Drew University	Trinity College
Drexel University	Tufts University
Fordham University	University of Brighton
Harvey Mudd College	UC Berkeley
Hofstra University	UC Davis
Lewis & Clark College	UCLA
Loyola Marymount University	UC Santa Cruz
McGill University	University of Colorado, Boulder
New York University (NYU)	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Oberlin College	University of Oregon
Pitzer College	University of San Francisco
Pratt Institute, Main	Wesleyan University
Reed College	Willamette University

95% of graduates apply to a 4-year university





“We’re poets, artists, musicians, scientists and just good people.”

— Maybeck Student Graduation Speech



Applying to Maybeck

We’ve tried to keep our application process simple, so we now use Ravenna for scheduling events and applying to Maybeck. Please go to ravenna-hub.com to get started.

