2025-2026 GALA SCHOOL PROFILE

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL:
Girls Academic Leadership Academy (GALA): Dr. Michelle King School for STEM is the first and only **PUBLIC all-girls STEM school** in LAUSD and California. GALA serves girls in grades 6-12. Established in 2016, GALA is a leader in student achievement; girls have the opportunity to excel in academics with a focus on STEM, leadership, and social-emotional skills. Our pillars are excellence, leadership, wellness, and honor. GALA is a Title 1 school and we welcome girls who are committed to a rigorous college-prep curriculum. GALA has achieved a **100% graduation rate and, last year, a 100% college acceptance rate.**

ADMISSIONS:
GALA is an LAUSD public school. GALA is not a charter and not a magnet school. New student applications are through the LAUSD Choices application website from October 1-November 14.

6th Grade: 100 new students admitted
7th Grade: 0-10 new students admitted.
8th Grade: 0-10 new students admitted

9th Grade: 0-20 new students admitted
10th Grade: 0-10 new students admitted
11th Grade: 0-10 new students admitted

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT

Class of 2026:	**79**
Total (6th-12th):	714
Middle School (6-8):	307
High School (9-12):	407

2025-2026 ETHNICITY
(rounded to nearest whole percentage)
30% Latinx
29% Caucasian
14% African American
12% 2 or more ethnicities
11% Asian
 3% Filipino or Pacific Islander
 2% Unknown

DEMOGRAPHICS
GALA students come from 84 different schools around Los Angeles, and their families reside in over a 102 different zip codes.

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE
GALA features an Advisory and seven periods. Mondays, all classes meet. Tuesday-Friday, we follow an alternating block schedule (90 minutes each). A-days are Tues./Thurs. (Advisory, periods 1, 3, 5) and B-days are Wed./Fri. (Advisory, periods 2, 4, 6). The 7th period is a required elective, meeting four times a week.

School Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:30am-3:33pm and Tuesdays 8:30am-2:33pm

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
In 2016, LAUSD aligned their graduation requirements with the A-G University of California minimum subject requirements. GALA requires girls to complete STEM courses above these so our students are best prepared for the rigor of college courses. GALA requires 2 years of Computer Science in high school, a graduation requirement unique to any other LAUSD school.
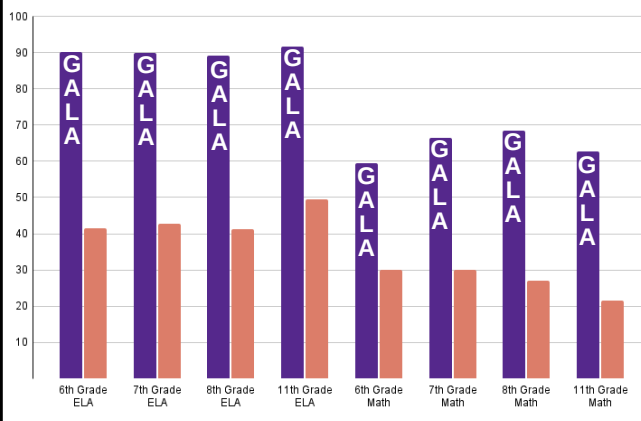
A-G	UC/HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	UC/HS REQ. # OF YEARS	GALA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	GALA REQ. # OF YEARS
A	Social Science	3	**Social Science**	**3**
B	English	4	**English**	**4**
C	Mathematics	3	**Mathematics**	**4**
D	Science	2	**Science**	**4**
E	Language Other Than English	2	**Language Other Than English**	**2**
F	Visual/Performing Arts	1	**Visual/Performing Arts**	**1**
G	College Prep Elective	1	**College Prep Elective**	**1**
	LAUSD EXTRA REQ Physical Education Health (1 Semester) Ethnic Studies (1 Semester) Computer Science Advisory	2 1 1 0 0	**GALA EXTRA REQUIREMENTS** **Physical Education** **Health (1 semester)** **Ethnic Studies (1 semester)** **Computer Science** **Advisory**	**2** **1** **1** **2** **4**

PRINCIPAL & FOUNDER
Dr. Liz Hicks
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Jason Benoit
Julianne Tetreault
COLLEGE COUNSELOR
Tiffany Hervey
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Tara Hallinan
MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Rebecca Gross
BSAP COUNSELOR
Dr. Jeina Dadrass
ACCREDITATION
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) - 6 years
RECOGNITIONS
- California Distinguished School
- Top 20 High Schools in CA (US News & World Reports)
- Top 1% of Middle and High Schools in California (niche.com)
- Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll: High-Achieving School
- CA Senate, CA Assembly, LA City Council, LA Mayor's Office

AWARDS
- College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, 8 years
- MS Robotics, Lego Team City
- HS Robotics, First Tech Challenge Regional Award
- Gold Level National Math Club
- Mock Trial State Competitors
- National Merit Scholars
- Questbridge & Posse Scholars
- NCWIT Student/Teacher Awards
- SAMPE STEM Teacher Award
- CIF City Championships: Volleyball, Soccer, Tennis
- CIF Sports Scholar Athletes

MEMBERSHIPS
- International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS)
- Student Leadership Network

FACULTY
- 36 fully-credentialed teachers, most hold advanced degrees

FACILITIES
Architecture Studio, Field & Track, Graphic Arts Studio, Multi-Purpose Room, Robotics Field, Stage Performing Space, Garden

TUITION-FREE
GALA is a public school, tuition-free and donation dependent. No student is admitted or denied based on financial capacity.
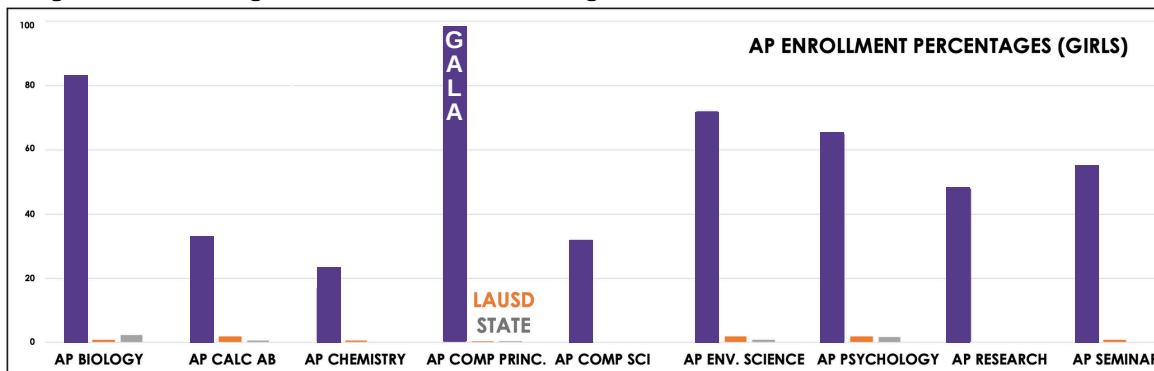
CALIFORNIA STANDARDIZED TESTS
All standards higher (some double) that of LAUSD and California averages. At the time of this printing, 2025 CAASPP scores were not yet publicly available. The statistics below are from 2024.

CAASPP Published Test Results
Meets and Exceeds Standards Percentages

CAASPP TEST SCORES - 2024 Meets and Exceeds Standards Results		
GR	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	
6	GALA SCORE: 90%	LAUSD SCORE: 42%
7	GALA SCORE: 90%	LAUSD SCORE: 43%
8	GALA SCORE: 89%	LAUSD SCORE: 41%
11	GALA SCORE: 92%	LAUSD SCORE: 50%
	MATHEMATICS	
6	GALA SCORE: 59%	LAUSD SCORE: 30%
7	GALA SCORE: 66%	LAUSD SCORE: 30%
8	GALA SCORE: 68%	LAUSD SCORE: 27%
11	GALA SCORE: 63%	LAUSD SCORE: 21%

ADVANCED PLACEMENT
GALA is changing educational gender norms of girls taking AP STEM classes. AP Computer Principals is required. GALA does not have grade pre-requisites for AP classes. Any student can take AP classes and the AP test if they are willing to do the academic rigor. 100% AP enrollment. All AP testing is free to GALA students.

AP ENROLLMENT PERCENTAGES (GIRLS)

STUDENT PSAT AND SAT TESTING
- PSAT: Tests administered free on the GALA campus for 8th - 11th grades for no fee.
- SAT: 11th Grade SAT tests administered on the GALA campus for no fee.

GRADE AND GPA SCALE
GALA uses a 4-point scale to calculate grade point averages. LAUSD augments weighted GPA by adding 0.05 for each AP/Honors/select college courses per semester.
A = 4.0 **B** = 3.0 **C** = 2.0 **D** = 1.0

EQUITY GRADING & INSTRUCTION
Equity, standards-based grading is a growth-mindset approach to teaching and learning, based on the expectation that everyone can learn when provided the right conditions and support. Students are evaluated on a 4-point rubric provided per standard in each academic class.

2025-2026 AP CLASSES
AP African American Studies
AP Biology
AP Calculus AB
AP Chemistry
AP Computer Science A (Java)
AP Computer Science Principles
AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics 1
AP Psychology
AP Research (Capstone)
AP Seminar (Capstone)
AP Statistics
AP US Government & Politics
AP US History
AP World History

CIF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
Basketball   Soccer
Cheer   Tennis
Cross Country   Swim
Flag Football   Track
Lacrosse   Volleyball

ARTS
Architecture   Dance
Art History   Graphic Arts
Broadcast/Film   Musical Theater
Chorus   Orchestra

2025-2026 ELECTIVES
Architecture Design   Horticulture
Art History   Journalism
Art of Reading   Leadership
Art of Storytelling   Learning Lab
Broadcast   Math Lab
Choir   Music
Computer Science   Musical Theater
Dance   Organic &
Engineering Dynamics   Biochemistry
Esports   Robotics
Exploratory Science   Spanish
Film Analysis   Virtual Branding
Game Design   Weight Lifting
Graphic Arts   Yearbook
Graphic Design

6TH GRADE 10WK ELECTIVE WHEEL
Aerospace, Art through Storytelling, Intro to Computer Science, World Mythology

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
A capella Choir
ASB Leadership and Ambassadors
L.A.C.E.R After School Program
CIF High School Sports
Clubs (student-led)
College Prep
Concerts for Music, Dance, Musical Theater
Dances: 8th Gr, HS HoCo, 11th/12th Prom
Earth Day, Pi Day, etc
Field Trips
GALA-chella
Goddess Games
Musical Theater and Play Production
National Honor Society
Robotics Competition Teams (MS & HS)
Talent Show
Young Women's Career Conference

GALA CLASS OF 2025

100% GRADUATION
83 Students

OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS
in Scholarships and Financial Aid (attending schools)

100% AP STUDENTS

4.58 GPA Valedictorian
4.05 GPA AVERAGE Class of 2025

100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE
100% Attending College

Class of 2025 University/College Acceptances to 30 States, Washington D.C. and 2 Countries!

And Japan!

41% Girls Entering STEM in College

6TH GRADE COURSE MAP

ENGLISH: CC English 6
HISTORY: World History: Anc. Civ.
MATH: CC Math 6, Accelerated Math 6
SCIENCE: Integrated Science 6
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ELECTIVE WHEEL: Aerospace, Art through Storytelling, Intro to Computer Science, World Mythology
7TH PERIOD ELECTIVE: Art History, Art of Reading, Art of Storytelling, Dance, Exploratory Science, Game Design, Graphic Arts, Journalism, Leadership, Math Lab, Robotics

7TH GRADE COURSE MAP

ENGLISH: CC English 7
HISTORY: World History: Medieval Modern
MATH: CC Math 7, Accelerated CC Math 7, Algebra 1
SCIENCE: Integrated Science 7 and Health
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ELECTIVE - Choir, Computer Science, Exploring Architecture and Engineering, Exploratory Science, Graphic Arts, Music
7TH PERIOD ELECTIVE: Art History, Art of Reading, Art of Storytelling, Broadcast, Choir, Dance, Game Design, Graphic Arts, Journalism, Leadership, Math Lab, Robotics, Spanish, Yearbook

8TH GRADE COURSE MAP

ENGLISH: CC English 8
HISTORY: US History
MATH: CC Math 8 or Algebra 1 (Prereq. Accelerated Math), Geometry (Prereq. Algebra 1)
SCIENCE: Integrated Science 8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ELECTIVE - Choir, Computer Science, Exploring Architecture and Engineering, Exploratory Science, Graphic Arts, Music, Spanish
7TH PERIOD ELECTIVE: Art History, Art of Reading, Art of Storytelling, Broadcast, Choir, Dance, Game Design, Graphic Arts, Journalism, Leadership, Math Lab, Robotics, Spanish, Yearbook

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

HISTORY (A)

World History
US History
Econ & Government
AP World History
AP US History
AP US Government & Politics

ENGLISH (B)

English 9
English 10
American Lit/Cont.Comp.
English 12 Critical Media Literacy
AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature

MATH (C)

Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus
Intro Data Science
AP Calculus AB
AP Statistics

SCIENCE (D)

Biology
Chemistry
Organic & Biochemistry (11th/12th)
Physics
Physiology
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics 1
AP Environmental Science

LANGUAGE (E)

Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
LACCD: Other languages. LACCD LOTE courses are typically equivalent to 2 years of high school courses.

VISUAL/PERFORMING ART (F)

Architecture Design
Dance
Graphic Design
Music (Choir, Musical Theater, Orchestra)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exploring Computer Science
AP Computer Principles (D)
AP Computer Science A (C)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Advance PE 1
Advance PE 2
Weightlifting
CIF Sports:
  Basketball
  Cheer
  Cross Country
  Flag Football
  Lacrosse
  Soccer
  Swim
  Tennis
  Track
  Volleyball

AP ELECTIVES

AP African American Studies
AP Psychology
AP Research
AP Seminar

LAUSD REQUIREMENTS

Health (1 semester)
Ethnic Studies (1 semester)

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Architecture Design
Architecture Engineering Dynamics
Broadcast
Choir
Dance
eSports (new for 2025-2026)
Film Analysis
Graphic Design
Horticulture
Latin American Studies
Leadership
Math Lab
Musical Theater
Robotics
Speech & Debate
Virtual Branding & Design
Weightlifting
Yearbook

DUAL ENROLLMENT: On-campus optional dual enrollment track starting in 2025-2026 with the Class of 2029.
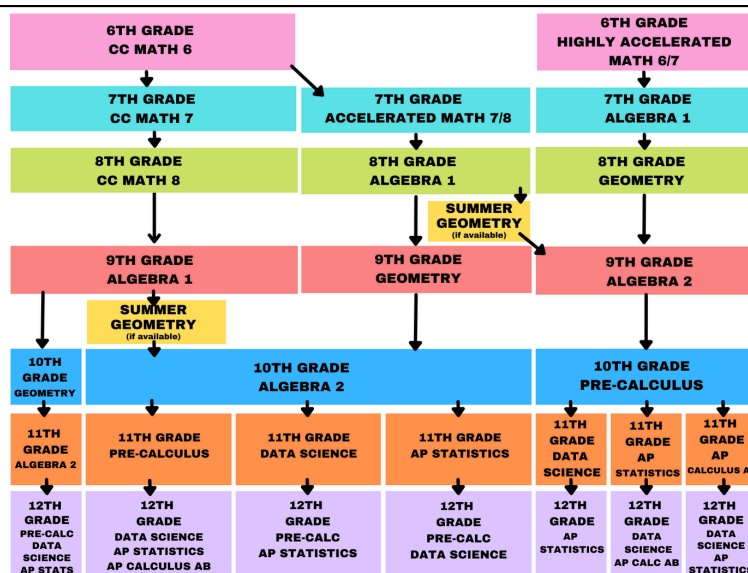
GALA MATH FLOW CHART

Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, students can accelerate in math beginning in 6th grade. 6th-grade acceleration is based on an assessment test. 7th-grade acceleration is based on the student's willingness to accept academic rigor and the teacher's recommendation.

The math chart illustrates the possible math trajectories at GALA. Summer Geometry is subject to course availability.

Course Handbook: www.galacademy.org/academics

Math Chart: www.galacademy.org/math

The first three graduating classes (2020, 2021, 2022) attended GALA 9th-12th grades. The first graduating class of students attending full-span (6th-12th grades) was the Class of 2023. 83 students in the Class of 2025 were accepted to colleges in 30 states, Washington D.C., and 2 countries. In the list of 2025 college acceptances below, every school denoted in bold has a Class of 2025 graduate attending. A parenthesis denotes multiple students attending.

Alabama State University
AMDA College of the Performing Arts - LA
Arizona State University-Tempe
Art Center College of Design
Babson College
Bard College
Barry University
Beloit College
Binghamton University
Boston University
Bucknell University
California Lutheran University
Cal. State Polytechnic Univ.-Humboldt
Cal. State Polytechnic University-Pomona
Cal. State Polytechnic University-SLO (3)
California College of the Arts
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
California State University-Bakersfield
California State University-Channel Islands
California State University-Chico
California State University-Dominguez Hills
California State University-Fresno
California State University-Fullerton
California State University-Long Beach
California State University-Los Angeles
California State University-Monterey Bay
California State University-Northridge
California State University-Sacramento
California State University-San Bernardino
California State University-San Marcos
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University (5)
Chicago State University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Colgate University
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Columbia College-Chicago
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Denison University
DePaul University
Drake University
Emerson College
Fordham University
Hampton University
Hofstra University

Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana State University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
List College - JTS
Loyola Marymount University
Michigan State University
Millikin University
Montclair State University
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Saint Mary's University (2)
New York Institute of Technology
New York University (2)
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art and Design
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State
Pepperdine University
Pomona College
Portaland State University
Prairie View A & M University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Robert Morris University
Saint Joseph's University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Simmons University
Skitmore College
Smith College
Sonoma State University
Sophia University
Southern California Inst. of Architecture
Southern Methodist University
Southern University and A&M College
Southern University of New Orleans

Spelman College
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College
St. Lawrence University
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Temple University
The Evergreen State College
The George Washington University
The New School
Tufts University (2)
Tulane University
Tuskegee University
University at Buffalo
University of Arizona
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis (4)
University of California-Irvine (11)
University of California-LA (5)
University of California-Merced
University of California-Riverside (5)
University of California-San Diego
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California-Santa Cruz (5)
University of Chicago
University of Colorado-Boulder
University of Colorado-C. Springs
University of Colorado-Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Jamestown
University of Maryland-Baltimore
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Nevada-Reno
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
University of N. Carolina Sch. of Arts
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
Univ. of Southern California (3)
University of the Pacific
University of Vermont

University of Virginia
University of Washington-Seattle
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State University

GALA CLASSES OF 2020-2024 WERE ALSO ACCEPTED TO THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:
Amherst College
Barnard College
Boston College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
California Institute of Technology
Case Western University
Cornell University
Duke University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Harvey Mudd College
Howard University
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
McGill University
Middlebury College
New School for Architecture
Northwestern University
Pitzer College
School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
SoCal Institute of Architecture
Syracuse University
Tufts University
University College-Dublin
University College-London
University of Pennsylvania
Vassar College
Wellesley College
Wiley College
Yale University