WHERE THE STUDENT SPIRIT THRIVES
At Crystal, I CAN BE MY BEST SELF.

I am on an exciting academic journey, surrounded by teachers who believe in me and students who inspire me. I am on a learning adventure of my own making, where I can flex my creativity and critical thinking skills. At Crystal, I am challenged and championed.

I AM KNOWN.
LEARN.

LIVE.

THRIVE!
If you love learning,

It’s a seven-year journey that I am taking with my teachers and friends. They are like family to me.

—Cricket D.

Trying something new is the rule.
YOU’LL LOVE CRYSTAL.

Crystal students get a thrill from challenging themselves academically and intellectually. And our caring and invested faculty recognize that passion!

Crystal teachers hone in on the sweet spot that is just beyond each student’s comfort zone and teach to it. Students discover, again and again, that they are capable of learning and achieving more than they ever imagined.

NOT THE EXCEPTION.

“I wasn’t a dancer or singer, yet I discovered I could still play a role in the musical. There were a lot of rehearsals and I had a lot to learn. In the end, it was all about the journey. I tried it and I discovered I loved it. I made so many friends and at the end of the performance, I felt amazing!”
I’m curious and EAGER TO LEARN.

“At Crystal, I did everything from write a new national anthem for the United States to produce an iMovie for a book report. I helped code a drive mechanism in robotics and created a graphic personal narrative in English. I was encouraged to think beyond my own experiences to understand ancient Asian societies in *Comparative Cultures*. Crystal’s approach to learning enhances my natural curiosity.”

—Benjamin A.

They stand on desks and SING AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS!

“Crystal teachers know how to get our attention. In my science class, Dr. K. might stand up on a desk and juggle to make a point. Or Mr. Diamond will haul in golf clubs to teach perpendicular axes. Our teachers are known to get goofy, because we can have fun and be serious about schoolwork at the same time.”

—Will C.
How far can I reach?

I am encouraged to take intellectual risks.
Every day I get to go to school with my best friends.

People outside Crystal know us for what we do in the classroom. Once our students become a part of the school, they realize that our academic reputation is built on something equally important—the enduring relationships that form throughout our community.

“There are no limits. It begins with a single step. Then anything is possible.”

—Lucy Dillon ’13, Upper School dance teacher
“Middle Schoolers are brimming with energy and exuberance. Their curiosity is contagious. They have a deep sense of wonder and are excited for this journey to the future.”

—Chris Schoberl, Head of Middle School
We jump start the day with fun!

Every Wednesday before class, Middle Schoolers dive into something completely unique: Great Start! They lace up their trail-running shoes, roll out the yoga mats, or assemble for a vocal ensemble. They jump on a mountain bike for a canyon ride with Dr. Schoberl or join Mr. Gummerson for Outdoor Survival Skills. Great Start! is a fun way for teachers to share their passions with their students.
My teachers open doors TO A WHOLE NEW WORLD.

“In World History, we studied what life was like for kids our own age in different cultures. We had the option to choose what we were most interested in. I researched and compared my life as a 12-year-old to that of a 12-year-old in Ancient Rome. It was really cool!”

—Charlotte D.

Joy and happiness go hand in hand with ambition and academic achievement.

By giving them a space of their very own, we encourage Middle Schoolers to be truly themselves. We understand that in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, the best learning happens when students’ social and emotional needs are being met.
While I love my classes, I’m glad they’re not all-consuming. I have time to play baseball, hang out with my friends, and continue singing in my choir.

—Charlie B.
I’m on a journey to become a global citizen.

In eighth grade, all students pack their passports for exciting language immersion trips around the globe. These experiential learning adventures foster independence and engage students in cultural exchange, community service, and fun!

I found a community that is THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME.
“When I started sixth grade, I was a little worried Crystal might be cliquey. It turns out that just doesn’t happen here. There are groups of friends, but they are flexible and open. We are always mixing it up. At lunch I rarely sit by the same people two days in a row.”

—Mateo M.
Being here is like being WITH FAMILY.

“Crystal teachers, advisors, and coaches show up—for games, events, and performances. One of my teachers leads an afterschool game of pick-up basketball with students and faculty. Our teachers understand the importance of that connection, both on and off campus; they are there to applaud my performance in the fall play.”

—Natalie H.
We are THE GRYPHONS!

“One of the best-kept secrets about Crystal is our athletics program. Every student who wants the opportunity to play—and commits to it—will have a chance to succeed.”

—Upper School Athletic Director
Building BRILLIANT MINDS.

Crystal’s Upper School program offers diverse options that invite collaboration and discovery. High School is a time of intense self-reflection and energized self-direction. These four years are marked by distinctive experiences and important milestones. From school trips to sports, community service projects to academic competitions, Crystal students lean into their experiences, learn from their failures, and celebrate successes.

“It’s cool to be smart at Crystal. That’s exactly why I teach here.”

—Ned Diamond, Upper School math teacher
Our goal is the best support to FIND YOUR BEST FIT.

With one of the lowest college counselor-to-student ratios in the Bay Area, our seasoned counselors serve as advisors and advocates, helping students identify schools where they will be challenged and thrive.
Our journeys **AS SCHOLARS**...

Senior Projects represent a signature milestone for the graduating Crystal student and are the culmination of many experiences. Students select a topic or project and a mentor, then dedicate the entire month of May to translate, illuminate, and communicate their topics in unique and compelling ways.

- **The PHYSICS of BASEBALL**
- **FLY FISHING and HOW TO TIE FLIES**
- **An investigation into the SAN FRANCISCO AIDS crisis**
- **Build a LONGBOARD**
- **The origins of K-Pop**
- **LEARNING GRAFFITI ART**
- **ENGINEER AN INSULIN INJECTION PORT**
- **BECOMING AN NBA DATA SCIENTIST**
- **What makes Hitchcock “Hitchcock?”**
“My friends here are the best. Every person I know has introduced me to something new...a nonprofit where he volunteers, a book she can’t put down, an instrument, a different sport. We are all unique, and we’re bound together because we know that by encouraging, challenging, and cheering each other on, we are making the best of these awesome years.”

—IKEVIN C.
“I traveled the world through courses like Western Religions, Honors Spanish, and the Global Initiatives Program. I went on the China trip my freshman year and discovered how our cultures share common interests, from music to movies. As a junior, I completed a banking internship in Lima, Peru. That experience was a catalyst—it opened my eyes to the many things I could do.”

—Maddie L., Class of ’18
Go BEYOND.

In addition to core offerings in the areas of science, math, English, and history, students can explore the composition of matter through *Advanced Topics in Chemistry*. Or they can learn how and why cultures preserve history through our *Power of Memory* course and venture into *The Landscape of Francophone Identities via Cinema*. Crystal classes keep in step with our rapidly changing world and enhance each student’s natural eagerness to learn.

“

When I arrived at college, I wasn’t just well prepared, I was well ahead.

—Jeff G. ’11

“

At Crystal, BEING ME IS EASY.

At Crystal, cultures, religions, languages, race, and history come together, giving us a variety of voices and viewpoints. We believe that a broad range of interests and life experiences stimulates our thinking and strengthens our spirit. Crystal clubs—including the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, the Diversity Committee, the Asian Awareness Club, and the Polynesian Club—support the many interests and backgrounds of our student community.
Calling all painters and printmakers, dancers and musicians, sculptors and photographers, singers and actors...

“Our Fine Arts faculty are committed to nurturing each student’s self-confidence and independence. Inspiration flows both ways—from choreographing a dance to developing a multimedia installation—our students are discovering the joy of creating deeply meaningful, personal work and lifting each other up.”

—Kym Matossian, Upper School, Arts Department Chair
I’m expected to go
BEYOND MY COMFORT ZONE.
There’s more to school than tests, homework, and quizzes.

WE ARE DISCOVERING WHAT WE LOVE.
A constant conversation—
EXPLORING, IMAGINING, LAUGHING.

Magic happens in the Upper School academic hubs that house all of the teachers from a given discipline. Students stop in to get help from friends and teachers alike. The hub atmosphere is constantly buzzing with the exciting exchange of ideas. All the while, our students are forging a deeper understanding of subject content and greater engagement with their peers and teachers.

Imagine an unbounded future.

At Crystal, we believe our greatest responsibility is to prepare students to thrive in an ever-evolving world. We consciously foster a culture where students can develop the fundamentals, flexibility, and fire to solve big problems.
I am a force for **POSITIVE CHANGE**.

“We help students connect to the issues that shape their world. Crystal’s Human Development curriculum guides students toward meaningful engagement with our community. Whether we are serving hot meals to the homeless, advocating for disability rights through an online blog, or bringing garden vegetables to our local food bank, the HD program allows for critical understanding of issues, personal reflection, and identity development through authentic community engagement.”

—Tait Wade, Director of Equity and Social Justice

We commit to our students as scholars, but more important, we commit to our students as human beings.

—Kelly Sortino, Head of Upper School
“Every parent has a unique responsibility to their child, and I know the school is opened-minded about this. It’s an accepting culture and it’s an emotionally rewarding environment. These are the defining points of the Crystal experience.”

—Zach H., Crystal parent

I am encouraged to STRETCH MY THINKING.
Imagine a campus blanketed in snow...

Every year, a freakish weather event descends on Crystal. Students arrive to school on a beautiful sunny morning to discover that their teachers are bundled up in winter coats and wool hats. There is an unexpected announcement. Classes are canceled: It’s “Snow Day”! Then the magic starts.

3 CLAPS IN MR. DIAMOND’S CLASS

Crystal’s Got Talent Knowledge Bowl
KINDNESS PROJECT 6TH GRADE Laser Tag
ENGLISH STUDENTS YELLING BOWLING BALL SWINGING IN PHYSICS
“STELLA!” Holi Celebration
WHILE READING STREETCAR Seniors on Opening Day
Lunar New Year Banquet HAUNTED MANSION
Robotics Tournament
BOWLING BALL SWINGING IN PHYSICS
FUN IN THE SUN
SPIRIT WEEK Give a Hall
Junior/Senior Chant Convocation
FALL TECH WEEK ANNUAL CLASS RETREATS
Food, Folks & Fun

Junior/Senior “Kidnap”
This is a school WITH A SKIP IN ITS STEP.

“I have a full life outside of school and academic achievement fits into a bigger picture that includes family, friends, and fun. ‘No Homework Weekends’ help to strike a balance. It’s the time students need to hang out, laugh, dream, and recharge our batteries, all homework free!”

—Anna B.
At Crystal,
I LEARN. I LIVE. AND I THRIVE.

At Crystal, we uphold a rich tradition of academic excellence based on a forward-looking teaching approach. We believe that a solid academic foundation, a strong sense of self, and a diverse and supportive community are bedrocks for exploration and innovation. Our students initiate their own projects, they problem-solve with a team, and they transform challenges into opportunities. In a community where both teachers and students have an unquenchable thirst for learning, the sky is the limit.
I feel so fortunate to be at a school where I am encouraged to discover who I am and dream about who I want to become.

—Anjali K.
“At Crystal, I have found my favorite place.”

COME FIND YOURS.

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