

THE
ALTAMONT
SCHOOL



THE NEW RENAISSANCE LIVES HERE

EDUCATING THE NEW RENAISSANCE STUDENT

Picture a school where it's cool to be smart; where a top runner might star in a play, a science whiz might tutor a younger peer in English, or a once-shy student might become the class president; where passionate teachers go the extra mile for every student every day; where the arts are as important as athletics; where students of different backgrounds and cultures share in the process of discovery; where reading is revered; where multiple language offerings include Latin, Greek, and Mandarin Chinese; and where upholding the Honor Code is a source of real pride. * Picture The Altamont School, a place devoted to educating New Renaissance Students, future leaders armed with multiple skills, broad perspectives, and a love of learning. We help our students ask good questions, while discovering their hidden talents and tapping their latent

passions. Our core competencies prepare our students for entering a world of change, where they'll face problems we can't yet imagine. * At Altamont, we're not simply preparing students to enter a "good" college, although our college attendance list stacks up with those



Sarah Whiteside, Head of School

of the best independent schools in the United States. Rather, we're helping them reach deep within themselves to become masters of their own lifelong journeys of discovery. If we do our job well, our students will never stop asking good questions. At the end of the day, The Altamont School is about preparing each student to live a more meaningful life and shape a more livable world.

THE NEW RENAISSANCE LIVES HERE

PREPARED FOR LIFE

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“THE TEACHERS
TREAT YOU
WITH RESPECT,
SO YOU MATURE FASTER. THEY
EXPECT YOU TO DO WELL.”

WILSON TAYLOR '06
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY



GLOBALLY ENGAGED

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“ANY TIME YOU
GO ANYWHERE AND JUMP
IN THE WATER

IT’S A LEARNING
EXPERIENCE.”

KURT KRISTENSEN
BIOLOGY TEACHER



ETHICAL LEADERS

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“I’VE LEARNED THAT IF YOU CAN
**OVERCOME
CHALLENGES**
YOU CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING.

IT’S JUST AMAZING.”

DALLAS HENDERSON '09
PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT



DIVERSE AND
MULTIDIMENSIONAL

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“ALTAMONT
GAVE ME
A VOICE.

AND I’VE MADE FRIENDS
I COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED
FROM DIFFERENT ETHNIC
AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS.”

RAINESHA MILLER ’09



RESEARCHERS AND SYNTHESIZERS

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“THE TEACHERS
ARE REALLY
ENGAGED AT
ALTAMONT.

THE CLASSES ARE INTERESTING
BECAUSE THE TEACHERS ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT THE SUBJECT.
THEY TRUST STUDENTS; AND,
IMPORTANTLY, THEY ADD HUMOR.”

MARY PATY BRYANT '10



COLLABORATORS

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

“WE HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP

A LOVE OF
LEARNING

IN AN ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH THEY’RE FREE TO
MAKE MISTAKES.”

ALLY LEONARD
SPANISH TEACHER



“LITERATURE IS MY UTOPIA. HERE I AM NOT DISENFRANCHISED.
NO BARRIER OF THE SENSES SHUTS ME OUT FROM THE SWEET
GRACIOUS DISCOURSE OF MY BOOK FRIENDS.” —Helen Keller

ACADEMIC LIFE: RIGOROUS & EXTENSIVE



THE ARTS: PERVASIVE & INTEGRAL

“WHAT ARTISTS CALL POSTERITY
IS THE POSTERITY OF THE
WORK OF ART.” —Marcel Proust



ACTIVITIES: ENGAGING & EXPANDING

“NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED
WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson



≡ ACADEMIC LIFE ≡

“I BELIEVE IN HARD WORK AND SOLID PREPARATION. IF YOU EXPECT A LOT OF STUDENTS, THEY WILL GIVE A LOT IN RETURN.”

—Jim Palmer, English Teacher



In small classes, students feel free to express opinions, take stands, let their voices be heard.

“OUR STUDENTS ARE WELL PREPARED WHEN THEY GO ON TO COLLEGE BECAUSE THEY KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE AND THINK. THEY HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED AT ALTAMONT BY EXCELLENT TEACHERS.”

Sarah Whiteside, Head of School

The Rewards of Rigor

“Tough.” “Demanding.” “Rigorous.” These are some of the words students use to describe an Altamont education. That said, they’re glad to be at a school that challenges them, a place where it’s considered cool to do well in the classroom.

Teaching As a Passion, Not a Job

“I love these students; they’re insatiable.” “The Altamont culture celebrates learning, so students can discover their calling without fear of being stigmatized.” These are some of the views you’ll hear when talking with Altamont teachers. They know their subjects, and they’re passionate about conveying their love of learning—and teaching.

Solid Support

Because of the rigorous academic demands, students need to feel supported. And they do. Every student matters at Altamont; every student’s academic problems get addressed. No one falls through the cracks. The teachers want every single student to succeed. All they ask in return is that students strive to give their very best at all times.



One student plus one laptop can add up to new discoveries.



“STUDENTS FEEL CONFIDENT TALKING TO TEACHERS AFTER CLASS—OR ANYTIME—AND THEY TAKE THAT CONFIDENCE ON TO COLLEGE. TEACHERS, IN TURN, FEEL VERY MUCH A PART OF EACH STUDENT’S SUCCESS.”

—Pattie Bank, Math Teacher



The outdoor classroom provides an ideal setting for good discussions and new discoveries.



“TEACHERS ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY LIKE TEACHING AND THEY LIKE KIDS. WHEN I TELL FRIENDS AT OTHER SCHOOLS ABOUT ALTAMONT, THEY THINK I’M TALKING ABOUT OZ!”

Carl Parke, Dean of Students, Upper School

An Extraordinary Reading Program

Every student in every grade at Altamont must read three extra books every month: one classic for English, one book for another subject, and one book for “fun.” The requirement reflects the School’s focus on reading; there are reading clubs, for example, in English and history and even for parents and alumni.

Fall Project Week

For one week in October, every student participates in Fall Project Week, a mind-expanding time during which students and teachers head out to explore new sites, gain new experiences, and develop new ideas.

Titles of recent Project Week forays convey the range of offerings available: Following Ancient Footsteps in Athens and Istanbul; Paris and Beyond; Discovering Spain and Portugal; Exploring the Emerald Isle; Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; Literary Tour of Historic Savannah and the Barrier Islands; Shallow Fishing in the Coastal Islands; D-Day Museum in New Orleans; Discovering the Cultural and Artistic Treasures of Chicago; the Mississippi Delta Tour: Books, Blues and Barbecue; Gators and Groupers. Juniors participate in a college tour, either in the Northeast or Southeast. (See Admission section.)

Students needing financial assistance to participate in one of the Project Week trips may apply for aid through the Mary Hames Travel Fund.

Celebrating Academic Excellence

The Altamont School celebrates students demonstrating excellence in various academic fields. The annual Altamont Intel Science and Engineering Fair attracts great interest and wide publicity. All students prepare a poem for the annual Poetry Festival, and finalists read their selections before the entire student body. Classics students attend the Alabama Junior Classical League Convention, and French students take home top honors at the state French convention. Chemistry students regularly gain honors at the State Chemistry Olympiad.

The rigorous curriculum includes, for example, three different calculus courses and an Honors Math Seminar. In addition to taking speech courses (offered at four levels), students have the opportunity to participate in

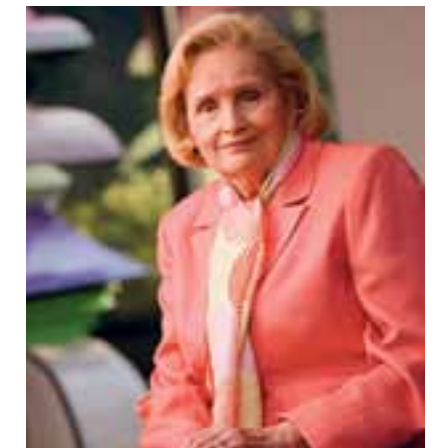
Altamont’s award-winning Forensic Team. For more information on the extensive courses available, go to: www.altamontschool.org/aboutus/academics.asp

A School of Many Languages

French and Spanish. Latin and Greek. And now, for the first time, Mandarin Chinese. Every “New Renaissance Student” should be exposed to foreign languages and cultures. At Altamont, they gain such exposure, many of them in two languages outside of English.

Honors and AP

Because of the intensity of the academic demands, virtually every course at The Altamont School is an “honors course.” That said, some courses receive a special “honors” designation. In addition, students can select from among a wide array of AP courses. Not surprisingly, those who do take AP courses typically fare very well.



“SECONDARY EDUCATION IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN COLLEGE,” SAYS MARGARET LIVINGSTON, A MEMBER OF ALTAMONT’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR OVER 30 YEARS. “AT ALTAMONT, THE STUDENTS GET A GREAT FOUNDATION, LEARNING HOW TO SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES WELL.”



Science teacher Maureen Frye shares a laugh with a student.

THE ARTS

“MUSIC, ART, PAINTING, THEATER, PHOTOGRAPHY—THE ARTS ARE VERY MUCH A PART OF THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF OUR ‘NEW RENAISSANCE STUDENTS’ AT THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL.”

—Sarah Whiteside, Head of School



Art teacher Linda Mason guides Stewart Adams '12 as he learns to express himself through pottery.

THE ARTS ARE CONSIDERED INTEGRAL TO AN ALTAMONT EDUCATION, NOT “EXTRA,” AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE. FOR EVERY PERSON, IN SOME AREA, DESERVES THE “ARTIST” LABEL.

Art is in the Air

Step onto the campus of The Altamont School and you will see and sense and hear the presence of art: on the walls; in music practice rooms; on the stage; in the photo lab.

Art matters, because it is through artistic expression that we reveal our common humanity: our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, angers and loves. Every student in every grade at The Altamont School spends time in and with and around the arts. Our graduates, eyes and souls opened to art’s beauty, continue to express their art, often through plays, concerts, and exhibitions right at the School.

Some High Notes

Many pages could be written about the multiple art offerings at Altamont, but highlights include: Two main stage theatrical productions (and numerous regional theater competition awards) every year in addition to winter and spring orchestral and choir concerts; a beginning orchestra, an intermediate orchestra and an advanced orchestra; an extensive strings program; an active Jazz Band, which serves as big band, small combo, pep band and show band; multi-media and video production studio; and visual arts offerings ranging from painting and sculpture to drawing and printmaking.



Music teacher Nick Lacanski helps former Jazz Band members make a recording for the Altamont Musicians Society.



“IT IS ART THAT MAKES LIFE, MAKES INTEREST, MAKES IMPORTANCE, FOR OUR CONSIDERATION AND APPLICATION OF THESE THINGS, AND I KNOW OF NO SUBSTITUTE WHATEVER FOR THE FORCE AND BEAUTY OF ITS PROCESS.”

—Henry James



THE ALTAMONT DINER, COLORFULLY
DESIGNED IN A RETRO-50'S LOOK, PROVIDES
HEALTHY OFFERINGS FOR LUNCH.

STUDENT LIFE

“MUSIC, SPORTS, TUTORING—WHEN IT
COMES TO ACTIVITIES, AT ALTAMONT YOU CAN DO
ALMOST ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO.”

—Adrian Pajaro-van de Stadt '09

Opportunities and Outlets

Write for the *Acta Diurna* (the student school newspaper)...organize “Mix-it-Up Day” for the Forum for Cultural Diversity in October...enjoy dinner with the Spanish Club...represent a country at a conference with the Model United Nations...help build a house for Habitat for Humanity...guide a tour as a member of Altamont Ambassadors...run for an office in the Student Government Association...start a new club.

Involvement Leads to Growth

Talk to Altamont seniors and you'll often hear the sentiment, “I never thought I would (act in a play or win a Science Fair or be elected president of the class or fill in the blank). What matters is not the activities students choose to join; what matters is their courage to step out, take risks, try new things. Involvement leads to self-discovery which, in turn, builds the confidence to take even more risks.

No Stereotypes, No Pigeonholes

At Altamont, athletes act in plays, science whizzes sing in the choir, debaters write for the paper, and on and on. As a result, students aren't pigeonholed or stereotyped. All activities are considered cool; all notable achievements are celebrated.



Friendships formed at Altamont often last a lifetime.



ALTAMONT STUDENTS
PROVIDE LIVING PROOF TO
THE NOTION THAT ACTIVE
PEOPLE ARE HAPPY PEOPLE.



“THESE KIDS ARE AMAZING—SO COACHABLE,
SMART, DRIVEN, MOTIVATED. BASICALLY, I LET THE
GAME OF SOCCER TEACH ITSELF.”

—Sean Gibson, Varsity Soccer Coach, Middle School History Teacher

ATHLETICS

“ALTAMONT PROVIDES GREAT OPPORTUNITIES
IN ATHLETICS AS WELL AS ACADEMICS.
THE SCHOOL NEVER HOLDS YOU BACK.”

—Shawn Tuteja '11



“Give it your best” serves as the Altamont mantra at all times, in all fields.

ALTAMONT'S TRADITION OF
EXCELLENCE EXTENDS TO
ALL FORMS OF ATHLETIC
ENDEAVORS, WHETHER IT'S
KICKING A SOCCER BALL,
RETURNING A TENNIS SERVE,
OR RUNNING A MILE.

Opportunities for All

Two words define athletics at The Altamont School: opportunities and excellence. Two out of three students compete on one or more of the School's 25 teams. The School fields boys varsity teams in baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, and track and field and girls varsity teams in basketball, cross country, fast pitch softball, golf, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

Middle School teams include baseball, basketball, cross country, soccer, track and field, and volleyball.

Fielding true “scholar athletes” in all grades, Altamont lists several players every year on The Birmingham News All-State Academic Team.



Shawn Tuteja '11 gives everything he's got to every challenge he faces.

A Tradition of Success

Over the years, the Altamont teams have done well on the playing fields. But what matters most are the lessons learned along the way: Give it your best at all times; work well with others to achieve a common goal; respect your opponents; conduct yourself with grace and style, whether winning or losing.

✦ OUTCOMES ✦

“WE WORK CLOSELY WITH STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS, HELPING THEM FIND COLLEGES AT WHICH THEY WILL THRIVE.”

—Cameron Gaede, Director of College Counseling



Josna Haritha '05 was one of 10 students selected annually to the Early Medical Professional Schools Admission Program sponsored by the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The program guarantees admission to medical school after college. Her brother Abhi '07 received the same honor two years later.

Finding the Right Match

“We begin working with students and their families in the eighth grade, trying to make the whole process as stress-free and snag-free as possible,” explains Cameron Gaede, Director of College Counseling.

Gaede encourages students and families to consider colleges that will be a good fit, not just those deemed prestigious by the outside world. “There are so many fine colleges in this country,” notes Gaede, “so we want students to keep an open mind.” That said, The Altamont School regularly has students admitted to many of the nation’s top colleges and universities (see list).

Leading College Tours

Every fall during Project Week, The Altamont School sponsors a college tour: either to schools in the Southeast for which students take a bus; or to schools in the Northeast for which they fly to Boston and then take a chartered bus.

Families needing financial assistance to participate in these tours may apply for aid through the Mary Hames Travel Fund, which offers assistance for college tour expenses and other School functions which require travel.

Representative Colleges Accepting Recent Altamont Graduates*

Amherst College
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Davidson College
Duke University
Furman University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Kenyon College
Oberlin College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Reed College
Stanford University
United States Military Academy
University of California at Berkeley
University of Pennsylvania
Vanderbilt University
Washington and Lee University
Wellesley College
Whitman College
Williams College

*For full listing, go to www.altamontschool.org



Cameron Gaede, Director of College Counseling, combines consummate professionalism with constant support as she helps students find the right college match.



“PARTICIPATING IN THE HONORS READING SEMINAR IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES. ALTAMONT EXPOSED ME TO THE ARTS, TO READING, TO LIFE.”

—Mary Katherine Stump '03; Georgetown University '07; Marketing Director, Thicket Magazine

ADMISSION

“THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL IS A DIVERSE
COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE CAN COME TOGETHER
IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST AND RESPECT.”

—Jimmy Wiygul, Director of Admissions

Striking the Right Match

We seek highly motivated students who crave greater breadth and challenge in all areas of school life. Because Altamont is a relatively small school (approximately 400 students, 16% minority), every student matters. Because we offer a wide array of activities, every student's contribution to school life counts.

Students deciding to apply to Altamont submit an application, a transcript, recommendations, and a score on the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE); finally, the applicant (with at least one parent) interviews with an admissions officer. The ISEE tests and admission interviews begin mid-fall. We notify applicants of admission decisions beginning in late fall.

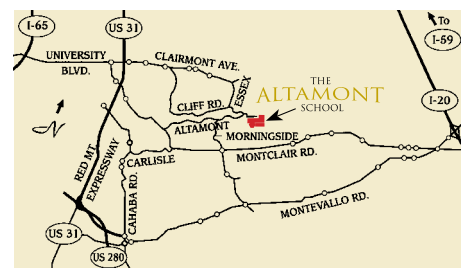


Come on Up the Hill!

The best way to get a sense of Altamont is to come up the hill and pay us a visit! Talk to students and, if possible, to some teachers and parents. Discover how the School prepares young people to meet the challenges of college—and life.

Contact:

The Admissions Office
205.445.1232
admissions@altamontschool.org



DEEP FRIENDSHIPS FORM
WITH STUDENTS FROM A WIDE
VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS,
THANKS TO THE CULTURE OF
SHARING AND SUPPORT AND
THE HIGHLY RESPECTED
HONOR CODE.

RECAPPING THE ALTAMONT DIFFERENCE

- * Advanced courses in small classes taught by passionate teachers
- * Languages from Greek to Mandarin Chinese, beginning in the 6th grade
- * An Outside Reading Program of Great Books across disciplines
- * A tradition of excellence in Visual and Performing Arts and Athletics
- * Annual School-sponsored college tours
- * Many opportunities to explore and develop new interests



The Altamont School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School.

It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions practices, and other School-administered programs.

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