

THE
ALTAMONT
SCHOOL

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Head of School: Sarah Whiteside

Director of College Counseling: Cameron Gaede

Director of Admissions: Thomas Goldsmith

Registrar: Laura Anne Ottaviani-Chacon

College Board Code: 010335

TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE, HONOR
ACADEMIC PROFILE 2016-2017

THE SCHOOL: The Altamont School is a coeducational, college preparatory school located atop Red Mountain in a residential area five minutes away from downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Altamont was established in 1975 through the merger of the Birmingham University School and the Brooke Hill School. The school serves approximately 374 students in grades 5 – 12, with an upper school enrollment of 182. 19% of the student body are Asian American/Indian, 10% are African American and 1% are Hispanic.

ADMISSIONS: Admission to Altamont is competitive. An applicant's academic record, the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE), interview and teacher recommendations are all considered in the admissions evaluation. Personal references are important, but the admissions committee accepts students based on academic ability and the behaviors required by the Altamont Honor Code and Standards for Students as outlined in the student handbook. Altamont seeks students from all ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds who can benefit from a challenging academic program.

FINANCIAL AID: Of the students enrolled at Altamont for the 2016-2017 school year, approximately 30% share \$1,056,910 in scholarships and financial aid. For the 2016-17 school year, scholarships and financial aid equal 15% of tuition revenue.

MISSION: The mission of The Altamont School is to improve the fabric of society by graduating compassionate, well-educated individuals capable of independent thinking and innovative ideas. To this end, the school attracts, nurtures, and challenges students whose commitment to truth, knowledge, and honor will prepare them not only for the most rigorous college programs, but also for productive lives.

HONOR CODE: To underscore our environment of trust and integrity, our Honor Code is an integral part of Altamont. This code affirms our values and traditions and facilitates the transition from the Altamont community to the world at large. Our Honor Court consists of 6 members: President of the National Honor Society, President of the National Junior Honor Society, 2 upper school students elected by the student body, and 1 upper school student selected by the faculty. The Head of School appoints 1 faculty sponsor who serves in a non-voting role.

ACCREDITATIONS: The Altamont School is accredited by SACS and holds membership in the NAIS, AAIS, SAIS, ERB, SSSFA, The College Board, NACAC, and SACAC. Altamont complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM: With few exceptions, upper school core courses are taught at the **Honors** or **AP** level. **Senior Seminars** are semester-long, intensive seminars offered in the English, History, and Science Departments. With approval, juniors may take History and Science seminars. Students must take a minimum of five major subjects each year, and must accumulate 23 ½ credits to graduate. In addition, all Altamont students must read three books a month outside of class. Students must meet departmental requirements in English, Foreign Language, History, Mathematics, Science, Fine Arts, Speech, and Physical Education/Health.

Graduation Requirements (fulfilled in upper school only):

- *English:* 4 years, which include 2 semesters of Senior Seminars
 - *Foreign Language:* 3 consecutive years of the same language*
 - *History:* 3 years *
 - *Mathematics:* 3 years (students must complete Pre-calculus)*
 - *Science:* 1 year of each of the following lab sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Lab Techniques; OR 1 year of Biology, Chemistry, Lab Techniques, and two additional years of science courses.*
 - *Fine Arts:* Two Fine Arts courses are required. One course, Jazz Band for example, may be taken twice to meet this requirement. The school recommends that students take a Fine Arts Course each year.
 - *Health:* 1year
 - *Physical Education:* 1 year
 - *Speech:* 1 year
- *We strongly recommend that students take four years of Foreign Language, History, Mathematics, and Science.

Grading System:

- **100-Point Scale:** Altamont's grading system is based on an unweighted 100-point scale. Official grades are given at the end of each semester and at the end of the school year.
- **4.0 Scale:** To reflect the academic rigor at Altamont, we provide an unofficial weighted GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Course Offerings: (H) Honors (AP) Advanced Placement (SS) Senior Seminar

<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>Freshman English (H)</p> <p>Sophomore English (H)</p> <p>AP American Literature</p> <p>20th C. Am. Drama (H) (SS)</p> <p>20th C. World Lit.: East (H) (SS)</p> <p>20th C. World Lit.: West (H) (SS)</p> <p>Gothic Novel (H) (SS)</p> <p>Shakespeare (H) (SS)</p> <p>Modern Masterpieces (H) (SS)</p> <p>Southern Literature</p> <p>Speech</p> <p>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</p> <p>French I-IV (H)</p> <p>French V Lil. (H)</p> <p>AP French VI</p> <p>Latin I-III (H)</p> <p>Latin IV: Vergil (H)</p> <p>Latin V/VI: Ovid (H)</p> <p>Greek (H)</p> <p>Spanish I-IV (H)</p> <p>Spanish V: Peninsular Lit. (H)</p> <p>Spanish VI: Latin American Lit. (H)</p> <p>Spanish VII (H)</p> <p>Mandarin</p>	<p>HISTORY</p> <p>Anc. & Med. Civilizations (H)</p> <p>Europe & the Mod.World (H)</p> <p>AP U.S. History</p> <p>20th C. Europe (H) (SS)</p> <p>20th C. American (H) (SS)</p> <p>History of the New South (H) (SS)</p> <p>World History after 1990 (H) (SS)</p> <p>Latin America (H) (SS)</p> <p>Leadership (H) (SS)</p> <p>Vietnam (H) (SS)</p> <p>AP Macroeconomics</p> <p>AP Microeconomics</p> <p>MATHEMATICS</p> <p>Algebra (H)</p> <p>Geometry (H)</p> <p>Algebra II (H)</p> <p>Pre-Calculus (H)</p> <p>Statistics (H)</p> <p>Finite</p> <p>AP Calculus AB</p> <p>AP Calculus BC</p> <p>Diff. Equations (AP calculus prerequisite)</p> <p>Linear Alg. (AP calculus prerequisite)</p>	<p>Multivariable Calculus (AP calculus prerequisite)</p> <p>Common Denominator</p> <p>SCIENCE</p> <p>Biology (H)</p> <p>Chemistry (H)</p> <p>Lab Techniques</p> <p>AP Biology</p> <p>AP Chemistry</p> <p>AP Computer Science</p> <p>AP Environmental Science</p> <p>Physics (H)</p> <p>AP Physics 1</p> <p>AP Physics 2</p> <p>AP C. Physics</p> <p>Human Anat. & Physiology every other year</p> <p>AP Psychology</p> <p>Cross-Cultural Psychology (H) (SS)</p> <p>Sports Medicine I (H) (SS)</p> <p>Sports Medicine II (H) (SS) Sport Med I pre-rec</p> <p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Web Design</p> <p>Programming in Java</p> <p>App Development</p>	<p>FINE ARTS</p> <p>Fundamentals of Art</p> <p>Art I and II</p> <p>Ceramics</p> <p>Creative Writing</p> <p>Multimedia-Video Production</p> <p>Choir</p> <p>Orchestra</p> <p>Jazz Band</p> <p>Music History</p> <p>Music Theory</p> <p>Music Tech. & Composition</p> <p>The Music Biz</p> <p>Photography I - IV</p> <p>Photojournalism</p> <p>Journalism</p> <p>Acting I - IV</p> <p>Musical Theater</p> <p>Technical Theater</p> <p>AP Art</p> <p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</p> <p>PE</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Weight Training</p>
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CLASS OF 2017

Un-weighted, six semester, core GPA
(42 students)

The highest, six-semester GPA in the Class of 2017: 97.87

Class of 2017	
# students with all As on transcript	5
# students with at least 1 B on transcript	22
# students with at least 1 C on transcript	15
# students with at least 1 D on transcript	0

Standardized Testing Class of 2017**SAT I**

Middle 50%

EBRW	Mathematics
615-695	630-720

SAT I (Before 3/16)

Middle 50%

CR	Math	Writing
620-720	610-700	600-680

SAT Subj.	Mean	# of tests
Biology – M	730	1
Chemistry	770	3
English Lit.	690	3
French	560	2
Math I	620	1
Math II	721	9
Physics	785	2
US History	709	1
World History	630	1

ACT Composite 27-33

ACT Composite (Before 10/15) 26-31

Advanced Placement Scores: 40 of the 42 students in the class of 2017 have taken 116 exams. 90% earned scores of 3 or higher. 64% earned a 4 or a 5.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: 11 of the 42 students in the Class of 2017 will be recognized by National Merit.

CLASSES OF 2014-2016

Un-weighted, six semester core GPA
(121 students)

The highest, average, six-semester GPA 2014-2016: 98.30

Classes of 2014-2016	
# students with all As on transcript	23
# students with at least 1 B on transcript	42
# students with at least 1 C on transcript	36
# students with at least 1 D on transcript	20

Standardized Testing (2014-2016)**SAT I**

Middle 50%

CR	Math	Writing
590-730	590-720	550-710

SAT Subj.	Mean	# of tests
Biology – E.	675	4
Biology – M.	713	3
Chemistry	722	14
English Lit.	702	18
French	669	7
Latin	480	1
Math I	662	5
Math II	721	31
Physics	726	12
Spanish	658	4
US History	701	28

ACT Composite 24- 30

ACT Composite (Before 10/15) 26-33

Advanced Placement Scores: 106 students took 382 exams during the 2012-2014 school years. 88% earned scores of three or higher. 70% scored a 4 or a 5.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Of 121 students in the classes of 2014-2016, there were 18 National Merit Finalists, 19 Semifinalists, 1 National Achievement Finalist, 1 National Achievement Semifinalist and 15 Commended students.

FIVE YEAR COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS 100% of

Allamont graduates attend 4-year colleges and universities.

MID-ATLANTIC: American University(2), Barnard College (1), Dickinson College(1), Fordham University(3), George Washington University(2), Howard University (4), Johns Hopkins University(1), Skidmore College(1), University of Pennsylvania(2), University of Pittsburgh(2), Villanova University(2), Washington College(1)

MID-WEST: Beloit College(1), University of Chicago(1), Denison University(1), Grinnell College(1), Holy Cross College(1), Indiana University at Bloomington(1), Kenyon College(1), Northwestern University(2), Oberlin College(1), Washington University in St. Louis(1)

NEW ENGLAND: Bates College(1), Boston University(1), Brown University(3), Colby College(1), Cornell University(2), Harvard College(2), Long Island University(1), Massachusetts Institute of Technology(2), Northeastern University(4), Rochester Institute of Technology(1), University of Vermont(1), Wellesley College(3), Yale University(3)

SOUTHEAST: Agnes Scott College(1), Auburn University(12), Berry College(1), Birmingham-Southern College(15), Centre College(1), College of Charleston(1), The Citadel(1), Duke University(3), Elon University(3), Fisk University(1), Furman University(1), Georgia Institute of Technology(2), Hampden-Sydney College(6), Harding University(1), Hendrix College(1), High Point University(1), Maryville College(1), Millsaps College(1), Mississippi State(1), University of Mississippi(2), University of Montevallo(2), Morehouse College(1), Rhodes College(4), Samford University(1), Savannah College of Art and Design(1), Salem College(1), Transylvania University(2), Troy University(1), University of Alabama at Birmingham(11), University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa(29), University of Georgia(1), University of the South(5), University of South Alabama(1), University of South Alabama-EMSAP(1), Tulane University(2), Vanderbilt University(2), University of Virginia(6), Wake Forest University (1), Washington and Lee University(5), Watkins College of Art and Design(1)

SOUTHWEST/WEST: Brigham Young University(2), Cal. Poly, San Luis Obispo(1), Cal. State, Fresno(1), UC Berkeley(1), UCLA(1), Chapman University(1), Claremont McKenna College(3), University of Montana, Missoula(1), Pitzer College(2), Pomona College(1), Reed College(1), Rice University(3), Southern Methodist University(4), University of San Diego(1), University of Texas, Dallas-McDermott Scholar(1), Texas Christian University(1)

UNITED KINGDOM: University of St. Andrews(2)

ASIA: Temple University, Japan(1)

GRADUATES: Also, as our mission statement suggests, we believe deeply that we are preparing our students for life well beyond college, here is a short list of some of our most accomplished alumni: **Margaret Tutwiler '69**, Former Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and U.S. Ambassador to Morocco; **Diane McWhorter '70**, author; **Daniel Wallace '77** author, **Rebecca Gilman '82**, playwright; **Lanier Scott Isom '83**, author, **Warren St. John '87**, author. In line with that mission we have four Rhodes Scholars.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND PROGRAMS:

---**The C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center** is designed to give Altamont students an opportunity to learn leadership skills and give them hands-on opportunities to utilize what they have learned. Leadership opportunities and internships may be local or global in scope and nature.

---**Senior Seminars** in English, History and Science offer semester long, intensive college level courses.

--- A **Fall Project Week** offers experiential learning through travel, service, and outdoor activities and includes an annual college trip which includes visits to approximately 15 colleges and universities.

--- **Honor Code** and student-operated Honor Council.

--- Numerous opportunities in the arts, academic competitions, and speech and debate participation.

--- Varsity and Junior Varsity opportunities in nine sports.

--- Award-winning forensics.

--- Numerous service opportunities.

FACULTY: Altamont has an administrative and teaching staff of 48; student to faculty ratio is 12:1. 69% of the faculty have masters degrees or higher, 76% have taught at Altamont for five years or longer, and 21% are published writers. 30% of faculty and staff are alums. Students benefit from a strong advisory program and also have access to college advising and personal counseling.

ACADEMIC/ATHLETIC FACILITIES: Altamont's campus is located on 28 acres. The main school building houses 40 classrooms; two science wings; the Cabaniss-Kaul Center for the Arts; a Student Center; the Martin Hames Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden; a complete computer network with three 3D printers and science labs; a 14,000 volume library and extensive College Counseling Resource Center; and special studios for chorus, art, photography, orchestra, and audio and video production. The main campus includes six tennis courts, a track, a soccer field with discus cage, shot-put ring, long jump pit, pole vault pit, and golf cage. Two gymnasiums provide two basketball courts, three volleyball courts, athletic training room, and weight room. A second campus provides soccer, baseball, and softball fields.

SCHOOL CALENDAR : The school operates under a two-semester system. Class meetings follow a two-week, rotating cycle in which each period meets four times per week for a total of 240 minutes.

The Altamont School admits students of any race, color, creed, gender, 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, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions practices, and other School-administered programs.