

HOLDEN IS A GREAT FIT FOR STUDENTS WHO:

THRIVE
IN SMALLER
ACADEMIC
ENVIRONMENTS



DESIRE
RESPECTFUL
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH TEACHERS
& PEERS



YEARN
FOR A
TAILOR-MADE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT



ENJOY
A MIX OF
ACADEMIC AND
ELECTIVE
CLASSES



SEEK
A SCHOOL THAT
FIT'S THEM
INSTEAD OF
VICE VERSA



PURSUE
LEARNING IN
AND OUT
OF SCHOOL



AT A GLANCE

5:1 
Student-Teacher Ratio

6-12 
Average Class Size

30% 
Students of Color

35-40 
Total Student Population

Families Receiving
Tuition Reduction



12 
Average Number of Electives Per Semester

WASC
Accredited



FINALLY. A SCHOOL THAT FITS.

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ABOUT US

OUR LEGACY

Holden High School was founded in 1969 on the premise that the best way to educate young people is in a small, caring environment where each student is known and valued.

Deeply rooted in the alternative education movement, Holden provides a student centered educational experience that embraces diversity and nurtures students' unique gifts and talents.

Our students are bright and curious. Many have mild to moderate learning differences, have struggled in mainstream school settings, or have experienced trauma or other challenging circumstances. Holden provides a caring, empowering learning environment for Bay Area teens.

"I never would have made it this far in my life without the love and support I found at Holden." - Holden Graduate

THE HOLDEN DIFFERENCE

Too many high school students experience school as boring, tiring, or pointless. For nearly 50 years, Holden has helped teenagers change that relationship to learning and school.

Holden successfully educates a broad range of learners in a collaborative and creative environment. Students are engaged in learning as a process of discovery: they voice their opinions; seek their own knowledge; and think critically and independently.

We help students gain academic confidence, achieve emotional well-being, and overcome limiting self-beliefs.

SMALL SCHOOL, BIG BENEFITS

With no more than 40 students and a 5:1 student/teacher ratio, every student is seen, heard, and valued. Students form tight bonds with teachers, staff, and classmates. Holden's respectful environment and emphasis on positive relationship building buoys students who may have struggled in larger environments.

Holden faculty have a robust understanding of each student's strengths and areas of need. Teachers offer expert support for students when they struggle while celebrating their successes and triumphs.



TESTIMONIALS



Before Holden, Peri struggled with math and had poor school attendance. Now she excels academically and attends school regularly.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT HOLDEN?

"It's a real community. Everyone belongs. I love the freedom I have to express myself. I feel respected here."

HOW HAS HOLDEN HELPED?

"Holden understands me. The teachers helped me with my academics in a huge way. Before Holden I was getting an F in math and now I'm earning an A."

Peri
(Class of 2019)



Gabe
(Class of 2018)

Before Holden, Gabe dreaded school; He spent most of the day avoiding bullies. Now he feels safe and enjoys learning.

WHAT MAKES HOLDEN DIFFERENT?

"The teachers at Holden don't give up on students. I didn't do well in traditional schools. My ADHD means that I learn differently. The staff here works with me."

HOW HAS HOLDEN HELPED?

"Holden has given me lots of support as I pursue my passion for engineering and science. This includes working with a mentor at Lawrence Livermore Lab."

"In public school, the teachers didn't give me any individual attention. When I came here I got one-on-one help. At Holden, teachers really want you to succeed and they're willing to put in the extra time to see that you do."

- HOLDEN ALUMNI

"Holden saved my son. He went in shut down and depressed and came out happy and confident with great friends. He has a post graduate plan that is exactly right for him."

- HOLDEN ALUMNI PARENT

Before I came to Holden, I was home-schooled. The teachers are very interactive with the students. Holden has made me excited about my math homework! This school is really special."

- HOLDEN STUDENT



JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL REVOLUTION



ONE-ON-ONE COACHING + MENTORING

Students receive emotional support, help navigating personal relationships, and tools to create changes through conscious decision making in their lives.

FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT

Holden families benefit from meetings with a family counselor and their student's Resource Exploration Support Counselor. These meetings aid in mediating conflicts and improving interactions between family members. Eight meetings are included annually.

PREPARATION FOR LIFE

- Holden's curriculum incorporates the five tenets of Social Emotional Learning: Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship building, and responsible decision making.
- Holden graduates leave with a concrete post-high school plan. Life Skills courses help students identify and grow their real world strengths. Our College Empowerment class provides the resources and support for students to confidently apply to the colleges of their choice.
- Our Dreams, Passions, and Vision course helps students turn what they love into a career. Students build resumes and secure internships, jobs, and volunteer opportunities.

LIFE AFTER HOLDEN

Holden graduates move on to 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, gap year programs, jobs, internships, and vocational studies. All students leave with a detailed transition plan.