Henderson High School Programs Guide

Complete Guide to Henderson High School Academic Programs and Opportunities

Executive Summary

Henderson high schools offer exceptional academic programs, comprehensive career preparation, and extensive extracurricular opportunities that prepare students for success in college and careers. This comprehensive guide details the advanced academic programs, specialized pathways, college preparation initiatives, and unique opportunities available to Henderson high school students across the district's outstanding secondary schools.

Henderson High School Program Overview

Comprehensive Academic Excellence

Preparing Students for 21st Century Success

Henderson High School Program Highlights:

- Advanced Placement (AP): 25+ AP courses available across Henderson high schools
- International Baccalaureate (IB): Global education programs preparing students for worldwide universities
- Career and Technical Education (CTE): Industry-focused programs with professional certifications
- STEM Excellence: Science, technology, engineering, mathematics specialized programs
- **Dual Enrollment:** College credit opportunities through university partnerships
- Honors Programs: Advanced coursework for academically motivated students

Academic Program Statistics:

- AP Exam Participation: 1,898 AP exams administered annually at Coronado High alone
- College Scholarships: \$34 million in scholarships earned by Coronado seniors annually
- **Graduation Rate:** 90.7% Henderson vs. 87% Clark County average
- College Attendance: Higher than state average percentage attending post-secondary education
- Industry Certifications: Students earning professional certifications during high school
- Dual Credit Hours: Thousands of college credit hours earned during high school

Henderson High School Academic Strengths:

- Math Proficiency: 43% Henderson vs. 30% Nevada average
- Reading Achievement: 69% Henderson vs. 44% Nevada average
- College Readiness: Students well-prepared for university-level coursework
- Career Preparation: Comprehensive career and technical education programs
- Global Competency: International programs preparing students for global citizenship
- Innovation Focus: Programs emphasizing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving

Advanced Placement (AP) Programs

Comprehensive AP Course Offerings

College-Level Learning in High School

AP Program Benefits:

- College Credit: Opportunity to earn college credit through AP exam scores
- Academic Rigor: College-level coursework preparing students for higher education
- Competitive Advantage: AP courses enhance college application profiles
- Cost Savings: College credit reduces future tuition costs
- Intellectual Challenge: Rigorous coursework for academically motivated students
- Teacher Expertise: Highly qualified teachers with specialized AP training

AP Core Subject Areas:

English and Language Arts:

- AP English Language and Composition: Advanced composition and rhetorical analysis
- AP English Literature and Composition: In-depth literary analysis and critical writing
- AP Seminar: Research skills, collaboration, and academic discourse
- AP Research: Independent research project and academic presentation
- College Writing Preparation: Skills needed for university-level writing courses
- Critical Thinking Development: Advanced analytical and evaluation skills

Mathematics and Computer Science:

- AP Calculus AB: Single-variable calculus and mathematical applications
- AP Calculus BC: Multivariable calculus and advanced mathematical concepts
- AP Statistics: Statistical analysis and data interpretation
- AP Computer Science A: Java programming and computer science principles
- AP Computer Science Principles: Computational thinking and technology impact
- Mathematical Modeling: Real-world applications of mathematical concepts

Sciences:

- AP Biology: Advanced biological concepts and laboratory investigations
- AP Chemistry: College-level chemistry with extensive laboratory work
- AP Physics 1: Algebra-based mechanics and wave phenomena
- AP Physics 2: Electricity, magnetism, and modern physics
- AP Physics C: Calculus-based mechanics and electricity/magnetism
- AP Environmental Science: Environmental systems and sustainability

Social Studies:

- AP United States History: Comprehensive U.S. history with document analysis
- AP World History: Global historical patterns and cultural development
- AP European History: European political, social, and cultural development
- AP Government and Politics: American political systems and civic engagement
- AP Psychology: Psychological theories and research methodologies
- AP Human Geography: Spatial relationships and geographic analysis

World Languages:

- AP Spanish Language and Culture: Advanced Spanish communication and cultural analysis
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture: Hispanic literary traditions and cultural contexts
- AP French Language and Culture: Advanced French communication and francophone cultures
- AP German Language and Culture: German language proficiency and cultural understanding
- Language Immersion: Opportunities for authentic language use and cultural exchange
- Global Communication: Preparation for international communication and careers

Fine Arts:

- AP Art History: Global artistic traditions and cultural contexts
- AP Studio Art: Portfolio development in drawing, painting, or design
- AP Music Theory: Advanced music composition and harmonic analysis
- Creative Expression: Development of artistic skills and aesthetic understanding
- Cultural Appreciation: Understanding art's role in human expression and society
- Portfolio Development: Professional-quality artistic portfolios for college applications

AP Program Implementation and Support

Ensuring Student Success in Advanced Coursework

AP Teacher Qualifications:

- Subject Matter Expertise: Advanced degrees and extensive experience in subject areas
- AP Training: Specialized College Board training and ongoing professional development
- Best Practices: Implementation of research-based AP teaching strategies
- Student Support: Commitment to supporting all students in achieving success
- Collaboration: Working with colleagues to align curriculum and assessments
- Innovation: Incorporating new technologies and teaching methodologies

AP Student Support Services:

- Prerequisite Preparation: Ensuring students have necessary background knowledge
- Study Groups: Peer study groups and collaborative learning opportunities
- Tutoring Services: Additional academic support for struggling students
- Exam Preparation: Intensive preparation for May AP examinations
- Time Management: Skills development for managing rigorous coursework
- Stress Management: Support for handling academic pressure and expectations

AP Exam Preparation:

- Practice Examinations: Regular practice tests and mock AP exams
- Review Sessions: Intensive review sessions before May examinations
- Study Materials: Access to prep books, online resources, and study guides
- Test-Taking Strategies: Techniques for maximizing performance on AP exams
- Score Interpretation: Understanding AP scores and college credit implications
- College Application: Using AP scores effectively in college applications

AP Program Outcomes:

- Pass Rates: Henderson students achieving qualifying AP exam scores
- College Readiness: Students well-prepared for university-level coursework
- Scholarship Opportunities: AP achievement leading to merit-based scholarships
- University Recognition: AP scores enhancing college admission prospects
- Cost Savings: Reduced college costs through earned AP credit
- Academic Confidence: Increased confidence for tackling challenging coursework

International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs

IB Diploma Programme Excellence

Global Education for World-Class Universities

IB Programme Philosophy:

- International Mindedness: Global perspective and intercultural understanding
- Critical Thinking: Development of analytical and evaluation skills
- Community Service: Emphasis on service learning and civic engagement
- Academic Rigor: Challenging curriculum preparing students for university success
- Holistic Development: Balance of academic, creative, personal, and social growth
- Lifelong Learning: Cultivation of curiosity and love of learning

IB Diploma Requirements:

Six Academic Subject Groups:

- Group 1 Studies in Language and Literature: Analysis of literary and non-literary texts
- Group 2 Language Acquisition: Second language learning and cultural understanding
- Group 3 Individuals and Societies: History, geography, psychology, economics
- **Group 4 Sciences:** Biology, chemistry, physics, environmental systems
- Group 5 Mathematics: Mathematical analysis, approaches, applications
- Group 6 The Arts: Visual arts, music, theatre, film studies

Three Core Components:

- Extended Essay: Independent research project of 4,000 words
- Theory of Knowledge (TOK): Philosophy of learning and critical thinking
- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): 150 hours of extracurricular engagement

IB Assessment Methods:

- Internal Assessments: Projects and coursework completed during the programme
- External Examinations: Comprehensive examinations in all subject areas
- Extended Essay: Research project demonstrating independent inquiry skills
- TOK Essay: Philosophical reflection on knowledge and learning
- CAS Portfolio: Documentation of creativity, activity, and service experiences
- Oral Examinations: Speaking assessments in language courses

IB Programme Benefits and Outcomes

Preparing Students for Global Success

University Recognition:

- Global Acceptance: IB diploma recognized by universities worldwide
- Competitive Advantage: IB students often preferred by top universities
- Advanced Standing: University credit and advanced placement opportunities
- Academic Preparation: Excellent preparation for rigorous university programs
- Research Skills: Strong foundation in independent research and critical thinking
- International Perspective: Global mindset valued by universities and employers

Skill Development:

- Critical Thinking: Advanced analytical and evaluation capabilities
- Research Methodology: Independent research and academic writing skills
- Time Management: Managing complex academic workloads and deadlines
- Cultural Competency: Understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures
- Communication: Advanced written and oral communication abilities
- Leadership: Opportunities for leadership through CAS activities

Personal Growth:

- Self-Directed Learning: Development of independent learning skills
- Intellectual Curiosity: Cultivation of lifelong learning attitudes
- Social Responsibility: Commitment to community service and civic engagement
- Ethical Reasoning: Development of ethical decision-making capabilities
- Cultural Awareness: Understanding of global issues and perspectives
- Personal Reflection: Regular reflection on learning and personal growth

Career Preparation:

- Global Mindset: Preparation for international careers and opportunities
- Problem-Solving: Advanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Adaptability: Flexibility and adaptability in diverse environments
- Innovation: Creative thinking and innovative problem-solving approaches
- Collaboration: Ability to work effectively in diverse teams
- Leadership Potential: Foundation for future leadership roles

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

Comprehensive CTE Pathways

Preparing Students for High-Demand Careers

CTE Program Philosophy:

- Career Preparation: Direct preparation for high-demand career fields
- Industry Alignment: Programs aligned with regional economic needs
- Hands-On Learning: Practical, experiential learning opportunities
- Industry Partnerships: Collaboration with local employers and organizations
- Certification Opportunities: Industry-recognized credentials and certifications
- College Integration: Programs supporting both workforce entry and college continuation

Health Sciences Pathway:

- Medical Assistant: Training for medical office and clinical support roles
- Nursing Preparation: Foundation for nursing education and careers
- Health Information: Medical records and health information management
- Emergency Medical Services: EMT training and emergency medical care
- Pharmacy Technology: Pharmaceutical support and medication management
- **Sports Medicine:** Athletic training and sports injury prevention

Information Technology Pathway:

- Computer Programming: Software development and coding skills
- **Cybersecurity:** Network security and information protection
- Network Administration: Computer network setup and maintenance
- **Digital Media:** Web design, graphics, and multimedia production
- Database Management: Data organization and information systems
- Help Desk Support: Technical support and customer service

Engineering and Technology Pathway:

- CAD Design: Computer-aided design and engineering graphics
- **Robotics:** Robotics programming and automation systems
- Manufacturing Technology: Modern manufacturing processes and systems
- Automotive Technology: Vehicle maintenance and repair systems
- Construction Technology: Building trades and construction management
- Aerospace Engineering: Aviation and aerospace industry preparation

Business and Marketing Pathway:

- Entrepreneurship: Business startup and small business management
- Marketing: Digital marketing, advertising, and consumer behavior
- Accounting: Financial record-keeping and business accounting
- Business Management: Leadership, operations, and human resources
- International Business: Global business and international trade
- E-Commerce: Online business operations and digital commerce

Hospitality and Tourism Pathway:

- Culinary Arts: Professional cooking and food service management
- Hotel Management: Hospitality industry operations and customer service
- Event Planning: Special event coordination and management
- Travel and Tourism: Tourism industry operations and travel planning
- Gaming Management: Nevada gaming industry career preparation
- Restaurant Management: Food service operations and restaurant business

Industry Partnerships and Work-Based Learning

Real-World Experience and Professional Connections

Employer Partnerships:

- Local Business Collaboration: Direct partnerships with Henderson area employers
- Industry Advisory Committees: Business leaders guiding program development
- **Guest Speakers:** Regular presentations from industry professionals
- Facility Tours: Behind-the-scenes tours of local businesses and industries
- Career Mentorship: One-on-one mentoring from industry professionals
- Networking Opportunities: Professional networking events and career connections

Work-Based Learning Opportunities:

- **Internships:** Structured work experience with local employers
- **Job Shadowing:** Observation of professionals in various career fields
- Apprenticeships: Formal training programs leading to professional careers
- Service Learning: Community service projects related to career fields
- Cooperative Education: Part-time work combined with classroom instruction
- Externships: Short-term intensive workplace experiences

Industry Certifications:

- Professional Credentials: Industry-recognized certifications and licenses
- **Testing Centers:** On-site testing for professional certification examinations
- Preparation Programs: Intensive preparation for certification examinations

- Continuing Education: Ongoing professional development and skill updates
- Career Advancement: Certifications supporting career progression
- Employer Recognition: Credentials valued by local and national employers

Job Placement Support:

- Career Services: Resume writing, interview skills, job search strategies
- **Job Fairs:** Direct interaction with employers seeking entry-level workers
- Alumni Networks: Connections with program graduates in various careers
- Placement Assistance: Direct assistance with job placement after graduation
- Follow-Up Support: Ongoing support for recent graduates entering workforce
- Career Counseling: Guidance for career transitions and advancement

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Programs

Integrated STEM Education

Preparing Students for Innovation and Discovery

STEM Program Components:

- Advanced Mathematics: Calculus, statistics, mathematical modeling
- Laboratory Sciences: Physics, chemistry, biology with extensive hands-on experiments
- Engineering Design: Design thinking, problem-solving, prototype development
- Computer Science: Programming, software development, computational thinking
- Research Methods: Scientific methodology and independent research projects
- **Technology Integration:** Use of cutting-edge technology across disciplines

Advanced Technologies Academy (ATA) STEM Excellence:

- Nevada Ranking: #2 Best Public High School in Nevada
- STEM Specialization: Focused curriculum in science, technology, engineering, mathematics
- Industry Partnerships: Collaborations with technology companies and research institutions
- Research Opportunities: Student research projects and scientific investigations
- Competition Teams: Mathematics, science, engineering, and robotics competitions
- University Connections: Partnerships with universities for advanced research

West Career & Technical Academy STEM Programs:

- Engineering Focus: Civil, mechanical, electrical, aerospace engineering programs
- Biomedical Sciences: Health sciences and medical technology preparation
- Advanced Manufacturing: Modern manufacturing technology and processes

- Environmental Technology: Sustainability and environmental engineering
- Information Systems: Computer science and information technology integration
- Innovation Labs: State-of-the-art facilities for hands-on STEM learning

STEM Competitions and Enrichment

Challenging Students to Excel in STEM Fields

Mathematics Competitions:

- American Mathematics Competitions (AMC): National mathematics contest series
- American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME): Advanced mathematics competition
- USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO): Elite mathematics competition
- Math League: Regional and national mathematics team competitions
- Local Math Competitions: University-sponsored mathematics contests
- Problem-Solving Teams: Collaborative mathematics problem-solving

Science Competitions:

- Science Olympiad: Team competition in various science disciplines
- Science Fair: Independent research projects and scientific presentations
- ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair): Elite international science competition
- Chemistry Olympiad: National chemistry competition for top students
- Physics Bowl: National physics competition and problem-solving
- Environmental Science Competition: Sustainability and environmental research

Engineering Challenges:

- FIRST Robotics: Design, build, and program robots for competitions
- **VEX Robotics**: Robotics engineering and programming challenges
- Future City Competition: Urban planning and engineering design
- Bridge Building: Engineering design and structural engineering
- Solar Car Challenge: Renewable energy and automotive engineering
- Rube Goldberg Competitions: Creative engineering and problem-solving

Technology Competitions:

- **CyberPatriot:** Cybersecurity and information technology competition
- Programming Contests: Software development and coding competitions
- App Development: Mobile application design and programming
- Web Design: Website development and digital media creation
- Game Development: Computer game programming and design

• Technology Fair: Student technology projects and innovations

STEM Career Preparation

Pathways to STEM Careers and Universities

University Partnerships:

- UNLV Collaboration: University of Nevada Las Vegas research and program partnerships
- CSN Dual Enrollment: College of Southern Nevada engineering and science courses
- Research Universities: Connections with major research universities nationwide
- Summer Programs: University-based STEM camps and research experiences
- Mentorship: University faculty and graduate student mentoring
- Scholarship Opportunities: STEM-focused scholarships and financial aid

Industry Connections:

- Technology Companies: Partnerships with Las Vegas area technology firms
- Engineering Firms: Connections with local engineering and consulting companies
- Research Institutions: Collaboration with scientific research organizations
- Healthcare Systems: Medical and biotechnology industry partnerships
- Environmental Organizations: Sustainability and environmental science connections
- Government Agencies: NASA, national labs, and government research partnerships

STEM Career Pathways:

- **Engineering:** Preparation for engineering programs and careers
- Computer Science: Software development and technology career preparation
- Medical Sciences: Pre-med and health sciences career foundation
- Research Science: Graduate school and research career preparation
- **Technology Innovation:** Entrepreneurship and technology startup preparation
- Environmental Science: Sustainability and environmental career pathways

Arts and Humanities Programs

Comprehensive Fine Arts Education

Developing Creative Expression and Cultural Understanding

Visual Arts Programs:

- Drawing and Painting: Foundation and advanced artistic techniques
- Sculpture and Ceramics: Three-dimensional art and pottery

- Digital Arts: Computer graphics, digital photography, multimedia design
- Graphic Design: Commercial art and visual communication
- **Photography:** Film and digital photography techniques and composition
- Art History: Study of artistic movements and cultural contexts

Performing Arts Excellence:

- **Theater Arts:** Drama, musical theater, technical theater production
- Music Programs: Band, orchestra, choir, jazz ensemble, individual instruction
- Dance Programs: Various dance styles, choreography, performance opportunities
- **Speech and Debate:** Public speaking, competitive debate, forensics
- **Broadcasting:** Radio, television, multimedia production
- Creative Writing: Poetry, fiction, journalism, literary magazine

Humanities and Literature:

- Advanced English: Literary analysis, creative writing, rhetoric
- **Philosophy:** Critical thinking, ethics, philosophical traditions
- Comparative Literature: World literature and cultural analysis
- Journalism: News writing, media literacy, school newspaper
- Foreign Languages: Spanish, French, German, Chinese language and culture
- Cultural Studies: Anthropology, sociology, global cultures

Arts Integration and Community Connections

Connecting Arts Education with Community and Culture

Community Partnerships:

- Local Arts Organizations: Collaborations with Henderson arts groups
- Professional Artists: Guest artists and mentorship programs
- **Cultural Institutions:** Museums, galleries, performance venues
- Media Organizations: Television stations, newspapers, radio stations
- **Community Theater:** Participation in local theater productions
- Arts Festivals: Student participation in community arts events

Performance and Exhibition Opportunities:

- **School Concerts:** Regular musical performances and recitals
- Theater Productions: Full-scale dramatic and musical theater productions
- Art Exhibitions: Student art shows and gallery displays
- Poetry Readings: Creative writing showcases and literary events
- Dance Recitals: Student choreography and performance opportunities

• Media Festivals: Film festivals and multimedia presentations

Competition and Recognition:

- State Arts Competitions: Nevada high school arts competitions
- National Contests: National-level arts competitions and festivals
- Scholarship Auditions: Preparation for arts scholarship auditions
- Portfolio Development: Professional-quality portfolios for college applications
- Awards and Recognition: Individual and group arts achievement recognition
- Arts Honor Societies: National Arts Honor Society and related organizations

Career Preparation:

- Arts Careers: Preparation for careers in creative industries
- Portfolio Development: Professional portfolios for college and career applications
- Internships: Work experience with arts organizations and media companies
- College Preparation: Preparation for arts programs at universities
- Technical Skills: Professional-level skills in various artistic media
- Arts Entrepreneurship: Business skills for independent artists and creators

World Languages and Global Education

Comprehensive Language Programs

Preparing Students for Global Communication

Spanish Language and Culture:

- Spanish I-IV: Progressive language learning from beginning to advanced
- AP Spanish Language: Advanced language proficiency and cultural analysis
- AP Spanish Literature: Hispanic literary traditions and cultural contexts
- Heritage Spanish: Programs for native Spanish speakers
- Cultural Immersion: Authentic cultural experiences and exchanges
- Community Connections: Partnerships with local Spanish-speaking communities

French Language and Culture:

- French I-IV: Comprehensive French language instruction
- AP French Language: Advanced French proficiency and francophone cultures
- French Culture: Literature, history, and cultural traditions
- Exchange Programs: Cultural exchange opportunities with French schools
- French Honor Society: Recognition for outstanding French students

• Career Applications: French for international business and diplomacy

Other World Languages:

- **German Language:** German language and cultural instruction
- Chinese/Mandarin: Chinese language and culture programs
- Latin: Classical Latin for academic and linguistic foundation
- American Sign Language: ASL instruction and deaf culture awareness
- Independent Study: Self-directed study in other world languages
- Online Languages: Digital language learning opportunities

Global Education and Cultural Competency

Developing International Perspective and Understanding

International Programs:

- Model United Nations: Simulation of UN proceedings and international relations
- International Club: Cultural awareness and global citizenship activities
- Cultural Exchanges: Student exchange programs with international schools
- Global Issues: Study of contemporary international challenges
- International Baccalaureate: Global education philosophy and curriculum
- World Cultures: Comparative study of global cultures and traditions

Cultural Competency Development:

- **Diversity Awareness:** Understanding and appreciation of cultural differences
- Global Citizenship: Rights and responsibilities as global citizens
- Cross-Cultural Communication: Effective communication across cultures
- International Careers: Preparation for global career opportunities
- Cultural Sensitivity: Respectful interaction with diverse populations
- Global Problem-Solving: Collaborative approaches to international challenges

Study Abroad and Exchange:

- Summer Programs: International study tours and cultural immersion
- Exchange Students: Hosting international students and cultural learning
- Sister School Relationships: Ongoing partnerships with international schools
- Virtual Exchanges: Digital cultural exchange and collaboration projects
- Language Immersion: Intensive language learning experiences
- Global Pen Pals: International correspondence and friendship development

Support Services and Academic Intervention

Academic Support and Tutoring Services

Ensuring Every Student's Success

Academic Intervention Programs:

- Credit Recovery: Opportunities for students to make up failed courses
- Summer School: Acceleration and remediation programs during summer break
- Online Learning: Flexible online courses for credit recovery and advancement
- Individual Tutoring: One-on-one academic support in all subject areas
- Peer Tutoring: Student-to-student tutoring and academic assistance
- Study Skills Instruction: Time management, note-taking, test preparation

Learning Support Services:

- Academic Counseling: Individual guidance for course selection and planning
- **Progress Monitoring:** Regular assessment and tracking of student progress
- Parent Communication: Regular updates on student academic performance
- Learning Strategies: Techniques for improving study habits and academic success
- **Test-Taking Skills:** Strategies for standardized tests and classroom assessments
- Organizational Skills: Time management and assignment organization

Special Education Services:

- Individualized Education Programs (IEP): Customized education plans for students with disabilities
- **504 Plans:** Accommodation plans for students with specific needs
- Inclusion Support: Support for special education students in general education classes
- **Transition Planning:** Preparation for post-secondary life and careers
- Assistive Technology: Technology tools supporting students with disabilities
- Related Services: Speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling services

College and Career Guidance

Preparing Students for Post-Secondary Success

College Preparation Services:

- Four-Year Planning: Comprehensive academic planning for college preparation
- College Search: Assistance with college research and selection
- **Application Support:** Guidance through college application processes
- **Essay Writing:** Support for college application essays and personal statements

- Scholarship Search: Identification of scholarship opportunities and applications
- Financial Aid: FAFSA completion and financial aid guidance

Career Exploration and Planning:

- Career Assessments: Interest and aptitude testing for career exploration
- Industry Exposure: Career fairs, job shadowing, internship opportunities
- Professional Development: Resume writing, interview skills, workplace etiquette
- Labor Market Information: Current job market trends and career opportunities
- **Networking:** Connections with professionals in various career fields
- Alumni Networks: Connections with graduates in diverse career paths

Testing and Assessment Support:

- SAT Preparation: Test preparation for college admissions testing
- ACT Preparation: ACT test preparation and practice opportunities
- AP Exam Preparation: Intensive preparation for Advanced Placement examinations
- **PSAT/NMSQT**: Practice testing and National Merit Scholarship preparation
- Assessment Accommodations: Testing accommodations for students with disabilities
- Test Score Interpretation: Understanding and using test scores effectively

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