Where promise and potential become reality.

The Athenian School is unlike any other high school. You’ll join some of the most intellectually curious, hard-working students in the world and be highly attractive to great colleges and universities. At Athenian academic mastery and hands-on learning are just the beginning. We offer an exciting intellectual adventure that paves the way for a life of opportunity and achievement. Here you’ll cultivate friendships, and character, as well as the skills and confidence that provide a foundation for success and contribution well after college. It’s up to you to discover how far an Athenian education will take you.
For over fifty years, we have celebrated originality and independent thought at Athenian. Our legacy starts with teachers who transform an ordinary class or activity into an unforgettable experience. Imagine building a real airplane; debating current events; exploring ways to oppose genocide; or constructing greenhouses in Peru. Teachers will be there to mentor and support as you question assumptions, test your knowledge in hands-on projects, and explore complex theories. Think of your Athenian experience as a practical workshop for awakening ideas.
The Athenian campus is a perfect place to build your confidence as a member of the global community. Ours is a warm, intellectual, multi-cultural community alive with a vibrant buzz and people like you who want to make a difference. Plus it’s seriously fun here. There’s time to try new things—take a foray into sculpture or soccer, test your limits on a hike into the High Sierra wilderness, or cross the Bay to San Francisco for some incredible food and theater.

Our graduates find success. You’ll see that Athenian provides a powerful education—one that prepares you not only for an outstanding college, but for a life of meaningful contribution. This is where it begins.
A lifelong journey of meaningful contribution begins.
Academic accomplishment infuses the Athenian campus. You see it in the quality of our teachers—all outstanding scholars whose love of teaching illuminates the classroom. Visit and you’ll observe energetic discovery and creation, lively discourse, and shared intellectual inquiry.

Teachers embrace academic challenge and know how to awaken imagination by cultivating connections between disciplines. Maybe you’ll observe that a Jimi Hendrix song perfectly illustrates balanced tension between chaos and order—or what David Bohm’s theory of a holographic universe has in common with a strand of DNA.

At Athenian you’ll develop your own viewpoint on academic and cultural topics. And in a classroom with 15-17 other students from diverse cultural backgrounds, multiple perspectives cultivate an even deeper understanding.
By its very nature, Athenian prepares you well. Our faculty are delighted to help you find the direction that best suits your interests and ambitions. Athenian develops in you the skills to live fully and come up with new ideas to make a positive impact on the world’s future. The problems of the world cannot be solved by scientists, artists, or humanists alone; we need the talents of every one of you. Teachers at Athenian are aware that curious minds ask challenging questions. They go out of their way to fuel exploration.

Recent graduate, Krishan Canzius ’14, earned recognition as both a National Merit Finalist and a National Achievement Finalist, a distinction awarded to less than 1% of high school seniors. Krishan, who was also a dedicated cross country runner and teacher’s aid for physics, is studying theoretical physics at Dartmouth College.
At Athenian my children are intellectually challenged and take part in foreign exchange, sports, and arts. They also have learned to take responsibility for themselves and the world around them.

Laura Murdock Victorino, parent, trustee, Danville, CA

From studying in Europe and participating in robotics, to designing a hand-held water purifier in Applied Science, with every step at Athenian I became an active learner.

Jaret Lee PhD, alumnus from Taiwan, Cornell University, Rice University, UC Santa Barbara

Athenian athletics offer inspired coaching and a genuine commitment to the broader purpose of sports—developing physical and mental toughness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Georgeann Cisell Taylor, alumni parent, Jakarta, Indonesia
We come from the San Francisco Bay Area and all around the world. We’ve accomplished a lot over the last few years. We won seven recent athletic league championships. We visited schools in India. We learned how to write a screenplay. We received an ACE grant to implement green programs. We practiced sailing. We hiked Death Valley and the High Sierra. We learned to meditate. We won best delegate at a recent Model U.N. conference. We helped build a classroom in Costa Rica. We volunteered at a center for underprivileged urban kids. We won the GM industry design award for our robot (our team’s third win!). We created an innovative system to reduce landfill waste. We drew up plans for a biodiesel project to fuel our school’s vehicles. We rocked the spring cabaret. We cleared roads in the Romanian mountains, and were written up in the science section of the San Francisco Chronicle. Oh—and we build real airplanes.
By its very nature, Athenian prepares you to take on the world. We live, study, and play every day with students from all corners of the world, and celebrate our differing cultures, traditions, histories, and religions. Athenian also offers unmatched opportunities for international exchanges and service projects around the globe.

Not only do we learn views and values that sometimes contrast with our own, we learn to invite curiosity about the richness and diversity of all human societies.

In addition to encouraging fluency in a world language, Athenian’s curriculum offers more than twenty global courses such as African-American Literature, The Literature of the Vietnam War, and Dismantling Terror: A Historical Examination of the Middle East.

- **International March Term Trips:** Our teachers have recently led programs in China, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Mexico, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

- **Study Abroad:** Just a few recent exchange destinations include South Africa, Tasmania, India, Scotland, Argentina, Germany, Australia, France, and Thailand.

- **International Service Projects:** Recent Round Square International Service projects have taken our students to Australia, Botswana, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, and Romania.

- **Round Square Conferences:** Athenian is a founding member of this international consortium of schools through which students are invited to attend the annual conference, which has been held in India, South Africa, Thailand, Jordan, Switzerland, Germany and Singapore.

- **International Students:** Our students come from more than a dozen countries across five continents, including Canada, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR (China), Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and Ukraine. They join students from the United States to form a truly global experience.
Athenian’s curriculum sets the stage for learning how to think big. One way we do that is by inspiring you with outlets that engage the analytical capacities of your mind with imaginative and creative experiences.

From our beginnings in 1965, Athenian has provided a well-rounded education that lasts a lifetime: emphasizing intellectual growth, fitness of body and character, commitment to humane values, aesthetic sensitivity, and readiness for adult citizenship and leadership. This sort of balance of mind and body is more important now than ever for individual well-being.

**Arts**
Whatever your passion—oil painting, jazz, dance, drama, or documentaries—we offer an array of arts courses and guest teachers, including artists from Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and hip hop theatre expert Marc Bamuthi Joseph. Plan to showcase your talents in the fall and spring evening concerts, the winter musical, and the spring Art and Film Festival.

**Active Learning**

**Athletics and Physical Fitness**
We all know that the state of our body influences our mind. Here’s your chance to build your fitness or engage in athletic endeavors. Ultimate Frisbee, rock climbing, sailing, hiking, yoga, and dance—we have great facilities and many choices of activities. You can also join an array of sports teams, fifteen in all. (See the Culturally Rich page for more information).

**Carter Innovation Studio** is a place to turn your ideas into reality. Wondering what would happen if you made it recyclable, portable, or turned it inside out? Work with professionals and let your inner inventor run wild.

**Athenian Engineering Collective** is an award-winning robotics program where you can build and compete with a robot designed by you and other students. You’ll work alongside professional engineers and learn sophisticated hardware and software. This experience can be the springboard into a high tech career.
Athenian Clubs are ideal for connecting with like-minded peers. Explore a new culture, write for the student newspaper or literary magazine, or devise a new way to conserve water. If we don’t have a club you want, start it!

**Athenian Wilderness Experience**

Build important skills for college and life: problem solving, teamwork, clear decision making, adaptability, and confidence. All eleventh-grade students share in this exhilarating 26-day wilderness adventure in the Sierra Nevada mountains or Death Valley National Park.

It was my experience at Athenian that led me to decide to major in engineering. In my introductory college engineering courses I soon realized how valuable my experience had indeed been, as my other classmates struggled to learn everything I had already picked up in high school.

Floris Van Breugel, PhD, ’04
Cornell, California Institute of Technology, University of Washington
Researcher: insect information processing with videography and 3D multi-target computer tracking
Jason's Story

Jason graduated from Stanford University in 2009 with a degree in human biology and a specialty in neuroscience.

Growing up, he had a noticeable hunger for learning but his parents were frustrated that he wasn’t more engaged by school. Jason came to The Athenian School and was like a kid in a candy store when he arrived; he absorbed everything available to him.

At Athenian Jason thrived, but his interdisciplinary mind wasn’t satisfied by just one interest. He had a desire to combine his studies in science, art, and the humanities into something greater. At this point, he encountered Athenian's humanities program which offers a rich selection of English and history seminar-style classes such as Literature of India, Plato, Utopian Fiction, and Global Economics. It’s a class listing you’d expect to find on a college campus.

Jason chose to take Ancient Eastern Thought, a literature course with a strong dose of philosophy intermixed.

When an independent project was assigned, Jason chose to focus on Buddhist forms of meditation. He had never been introduced to meditation, so Jason’s teacher encouraged him to look outside the boundaries of the spiritual practice and into the scientific aspects of meditation. This led Jason to focus on what happens to the human brain in a meditative state.

In researching the project, Jason read hundreds of pages on meditation and brain science so that he could write a well-reasoned and scientifically sound overview of the current state of our knowledge. This launched Jason on an adventure of intellectual exploration that took him to Stanford University, where he graduated with a specialty in neuroscience.

Jason’s commitment to making a meaningful contribution to the world, something at the core of Athenian, led him to start a company that designs products based on new behavioral science research on habit formation and behavior change. He uses this research to build products that seamlessly fit into people's lives (and make them better). A second company he founded, Kite.io, which built new search technology, was acquired by Quixey in 2014. Quixey is one of the world leaders in app search, and is backed by Google Chairman Eric Schmidt and Alibaba.
Globally Connected

For Athenian students, the Round Square program provides a chance to build an international network of friends and unforgettable experiences. A recent student spent a month in Buenos Aires and improved her fluency in Spanish. Another went to school in South Africa where he lived with a family in a safari and wildlife park.

Students participating in service programs have traveled to disadvantaged communities in Peru, Romania, Kenya, India, and beyond. We’re not just discussing the devastating effects of poverty in the developing world, we’re pitching in to build schools, dig wells, and clear roads.

You can read highlights from our recent trips on the Round Square Exchange blog. To learn more, visit www.roundsquare.org.

Athenian’s pillar of international and multicultural understanding speaks most powerfully to me because I feel that Athenian has truly opened my eyes to all the world has to offer.

Kelsey Strand, ’14
University of California, Santa Barbara

Round Square is an educational philosophy carried out by a worldwide association of schools to enrich the student experience through international learning, service, conferences, and exchanges. As one of Round Square’s founders, Athenian is both an educational leader and role model.

The Round Square Pillars are:

• Environmental Stewardship
• Outdoor Adventure
• Community Service
• Education for Democracy
• International and Multicultural Understanding
• Leadership
International Experiences

Athenian’s international programs lay the groundwork for developing a life of meaning and purpose as global citizens. You’ll have many rich opportunities to build your cross-cultural skills and make a positive difference in the world through overseas study and service.
projects, March Term travel, or serving as a delegate to a Round Square conference. On campus you’ll engage with a wide spectrum of international classmates. Few schools offer the quality and number of international opportunities you’ll find at Athenian!
Service is a big part of the experience here at Athenian—because so many of us have figured out how interesting, enriching, and fun it can be. Whether packing lunches at our local food bank, cleaning an ecologically-sensitive seashore, raising a school building in South Africa, or constructing a water well for a small village in Thailand, service is the starting point for enacting positive change in the world. It also grounds us in the important things, like respect for people from all walks of life, hard work, integrity, and self-esteem.

Life is busy at Athenian, but the time we take to cultivate generosity of spirit through service lasts a lifetime. It’s also an essential part of our mission to develop well-rounded, conscientious leaders who will make positive differences in the world.

Last year, twelve of us students, along with two chaperones, travelled to East Africa to do what we love best: give back. Coming to Athenian has truly sparked an interest in me that I hope to continue for life.

Simone Batiste ’15, Oakland, CA
University of San Diego
Learning doesn’t stop in the classroom. In fact, it’s just the beginning.
Inspiring Innovation

Here’s a taste of our courses and programs designed to ignite creative and critical thinking and prepare you for an evolving future. Few schools offer these opportunities.

**Humanitas** explores the question, “What is it to be human?” In this interdisciplinary course, you’ll study the mythological understanding of human origins from various historical, behavioral, and scientific perspectives.

**Democracy in Action** students research societal issues, study decision-making, and learn about budget, finance, and technology. Students then design a project to better Athenian or the wider community.

**Robotics** gives students the opportunity to design, program, and build a robot to compete regionally and nationally. You’ll be mentored by professional engineers and use sophisticated software and hardware.

In the **The Airplane Project**, students help build a fully functional, FAA approved two-seat airplane. Our third plane is being built now.

**The Athenian Wilderness Experience (AWE)** is described by graduates as one of their most worthwhile experiences. Required in the junior year, it takes you backpacking in the Panamint Range of Death Valley or the Sierra Nevada high country in and around Yosemite National Park.

The **Art and Science of Making** course immerses students in inventing. In the Carter Innovation Studio, students dissect and recreate objects before making their own creations. This course is taught jointly by faculty from art and science.

In the **Migrants, Nomads, and Aliens** seminar, students explore people on the move through literature, film, guest lecturers, and cultural exchanges. Themes include the journey as metaphor, the meanings of nostalgia and home, and the conflict between tradition and modernity.

In the **Bay Area BlendEd Consortium**, students from Athenian and four Bay Area independent schools take in an online and face-to-face experience. BlendEd expands Athenian’s course offerings using a new learning platform.
I am proud to tell people I belong to the Athenian community because it continues to give me the opportunity to develop into the person I’ve always dreamed of becoming.

Melina Gross ‘15, Danville, CA
Brandeis University

From building a preschool in South Africa to seeing the Queen of England at a conference, I just can’t get enough of these international experiences.

Rachel Allen ‘14, Alamo, CA
Elon University

I’ve worked on converting a 1989 Honda Civic to electric, and am currently developing a medical diagnosis accessory for smartphones. Because of the exposure Athenian has given me, I am continuing my studies in engineering in college.

Holden Leslie-Bole ’14, Orinda, CA
Yale University
Many languages are spoken and traditions celebrated at Athenian, and there's an energy here that brings people and ideas together. From artists to software designers, we're not only some of the most intellectually adventurous students, but we're passionate about serving others and enjoying our many interests. Well into the night, you'll see that the campus is alive with people using the library, theater, art studios, athletic facilities, and dormitories.

Whatever interests you—politics, rock climbing, history, yoga, or the art galleries of San Francisco—the fabric of life here is culturally rich, textured, and filled with choices. Located on 75 acres of rolling hills and meadows at the foot of Mt. Diablo, the Athenian campus is also a beautiful setting with lots of comfortable nooks where you can take time to ponder or kick back with friends.

**Culturally Rich**

**Clubs and Organizations**
- Airplane Construction
- Ambassador Leadership Program
- Art Club
- Asian Club
- Azine (student arts and literary magazine)
- Black Student Union
- Chess Club
- Christian Club
- Debate
- Electric Car Project
- Entrepreneurship Club
- Environmental Action Club
- FIRST Robotics Club
- Gender Equity Coalition
- House of Dance
- Interfaith Affinity Collective
- Interweave (gay-straight alliance)
- Investment Club
- Library Advisory Board
- Math Olympiad
- Muslim Unity Club
- Outdoor Adventure Club
- Photography Club
- Poetry Club
- Political Inclusion Club
- Round Square Club
- Students Against Gun Violence
- Students of Color Collective
- Weightlifting Club

**Team League Sports**
- Baseball *
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Cross-country running**
- Golf*
- Lacrosse (women's)
- Sailing
- Soccer*
- Swimming*
- Tennis*
- Track and field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling*

* recent league champion
** 7th in the state of California
Recent Campus Enhancements

The Athenian School has invested in projects that will enhance the learning experience of each and every student, providing them with the skills they need to become engaged global citizens:

- The new **Knoll Classroom Buildings** provide flexible learning spaces to foster collaboration and hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. Three new buildings house nine new humanities classrooms, one new science classroom, workrooms, and bathrooms. Each classroom is more than 650 square feet and some include an additional 150 square foot breakout room.

- A **renewed Main Hall** with Innovation Space enhances interdisciplinary learning, encourages innovation and creativity, and serves as the heart of the campus.

- A **remodeled Commons** is a vibrant activity hub for students and provides one-stop services, from counseling and meetings to gathering and retrieving mail.

These projects enrich every student’s Athenian experience, serve the Athenians of tomorrow, and better align our learning spaces with our mission.

The new buildings and facilities at Athenian compliment an award-winning green campus and array of programs:

- Our hillside and other solar arrays provide more than 50% of Athenian’s electricity needs. We also use solar panels to heat the pool.

- Various clubs and activities foster a sustainable future on campus and in our students’ lives: Conservation Club, recycling, and water-saving efforts.

- Our Wilderness Experience teaches “leave no trace” skills and an appreciation for the environment and natural world.

- In 2012 Athenian won Diablo Magazine’s Eco-Award and was named a U.S. Dept. of Education’s Green Ribbon School (one of only three California Schools designated in the first year of the program).

The Athenian community works together toward a dynamic and sustainable future.
Athenian feels like a real home for students in our residential community of more than 120 people. On our 75 beautiful acres, 60 boarding students (domestic and international from four continents) enjoy a feeling of family with the many on-campus faculty, staff, spouses, and children. Filmmakers, techies, scientists, artists, musicians, and more—you’ll meet some unforgettable people here, and leave with lifelong friends.

Our kitchen also offers a spectrum of organic fruits and vegetables and delicious homemade meals.

At Athenian you’ll get to know yourself well, including how you prioritize, collaborate, and handle responsibility. With teachers and their families and pets on campus, a little guidance is never far. Our campus is nicely situated to enjoy skiing, beaches, and the legendary theater and restaurants of the San Francisco Bay Area. You can expect is to have an amazing time here.

When I first moved into the dorm, I was surprised by how my dorm mom greeted me as a family member. Her warm welcome, as well as the friendly greetings from other returning boarders, provided me with the confidence to become part of this special and inclusive community.

Amanda Wu ’14, Chengdu China
University of California, Davis
 Admission

To be challenged intellectually, artistically, and physically.
To grow in knowledge, awareness, and character.
To learn how to help shape the future.
To create a solid foundation for a fulfilling life.

Does this sound like a place where you might belong? We’d like to show you more.

Where to start
Go to the admission page of our website. Inquire or apply through our website. Financial aid information is available there too. If you live within a reasonable travel distance, we encourage you to schedule a campus visit. Call or email us if we can help you in any way.

The Athenian School
Admission Office
2100 Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd.
Danville, California 94506
Phone: 925.362.7223
admission@athenian.org
www.athenian.org

My commute to Athenian has been more than worth it. Athenian is a community of passionate intellectuals, both faculty and students, unlike any in the area. The unique opportunities here have the potential to change lives. I have grown academically, athletically, and personally, expanding my comfort zone, including travelling to Kenya and Tanzania for two weeks.

David Weinman ’14, Hercules, CA
U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Athenian at a Glance

Athenian’s 75-acre campus of rolling, oak-covered hills lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, just 32 miles East of San Francisco. The Athenian School was founded in 1965 by Dyke Brown, then Vice President of the Ford Foundation. He envisioned a school with the goal of Periclean Athens—the full development of each citizen—intellectually as well as fitness of body and character, commitment to humane values, aesthetic sensitivity, and readiness for adult citizenship and leadership.

Today at Athenian you will find:

• Small classes average 15-17 students
• 360 students: 300 day, 60 boarding
• Hands-on learning
• Strong student voice
• 77% of teachers hold Masters or PhD degrees
• Founding member of Round Square Conference of Schools
• Honors, AP, and innovative classes
• Excellent college counseling
• The Athenian Wilderness Experience is completed by all students in grade 11.
• On-campus international community
• Nearly 60% of students identify as students of color.
• Award-winning robotics program
• Active parent association
Directions to The Athenian School

From San Francisco and the North Bay: take Highway 24 east to the 680 interchange in Walnut Creek. Follow Highway 680 south to Danville.

From San Jose and the South Bay: follow Highway 680 north to Danville.

In Danville, take the El Cerro Boulevard exit and drive east (uphill).

Follow El Cerro Boulevard for approximately 3 miles (it will become Diablo Road).

At the stop sign, turn left onto Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard.

The Athenian School is immediately on your right.

The Athenian School

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www.athenian.org
The Athenian School believes the best way to master academic subjects is to experience their application first hand. In our rigorous academic program, you and other talented students from San Francisco’s East Bay and around the world will immerse yourselves in coursework, inspiring each other to think critically, problem solve, and collaborate as global citizens. As an Athenian graduate, you will thrive in any of the nation’s best colleges, and be poised for a life of intellectual exploration and meaningful contribution.