



Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School  
7801 Jefferson St. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

**COLLEGE ADMISSION PROFILE**  
**CLASS OF 2021**  
**School code: 320124**

John Binnert  
Executive Director

Jennifer Dryfoos  
College Counselor

Cottonwood Classical is a charter school of the Albuquerque Public Schools. Founded in 2007 and offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to juniors and seniors for eleven years., we serve 778 students (chosen through a very popular admission lottery) in grades 6-12 – and as such we are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest charter school in New Mexico. CCPS received an A from the New Mexico Public Education Department last year, and we are historically rated as one of the top five public schools in the state by niche.com and *US News*. Students come from across Albuquerque and surrounding communities and represent the ethnic, racial, cultural, and economic diversity of this city.

The class of 2021 has 76 students, our largest senior class. Approximately 54% are students of color. Nine of our seniors came this fall from Desert Academy in Santa Fe, which shut its doors in August. We are fully online this fall (as we have been since spring break last year).

**Graduation Requirements:** English (4 units), Mathematics (4 units), Natural Sciences (4 units), Social Sciences (3.5 units including New Mexico, US, and World History, Government & Economics), Modern or Classical Languages (4 units), Physical Education (1 unit), Health (.5 units), Electives (5 units), Theory of Knowledge/CAS/Extended Essay-IB Core (1 unit).

**The International Baccalaureate Programme:** We require all of our juniors and seniors to complete the full Diploma Program, including the Extended Essay, CAS, and Theory of Knowledge. Starting last year, students are expected to take at least one IB exam (about half of last year's class took 3 or more).

Of the 69 students in last year's senior class, 68 "sat for" 214 examinations, 64% (137 exams) received a passing mark (4 or above). Eighteen students aimed to achieve the full diploma and 12 succeeded. Sixteen current seniors sat for the IB World History SL exam last spring, 15 passed.

**Our IB Curriculum consists of these courses:**

English HL (higher level)  
Spanish SL (standard level)/HL, French SL, and French Ab Initio SL  
History of the Americas HL, Philosophy SL/HL, World History SL, Psychology SL/HL  
Physics SL/HL, Biology SL/HL, Environmental Systems & Soc SL, Sports & Exercise Science SL/HL  
Mathematics AA SL/HL and IA SL/HL  
Visual Arts SL/HL, Theater SL/HL  
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

**Grading System:** The school year is divided into semesters and the grade point average is based on a 4.0 (unweighted) scale. Grades awarded are A-C, F (no D's) with a minimum passing grade of 70. We do not compute rank. The GPA range at the end of junior year was 2.21-4.29. The average GPA is 3.49.

**Faculty:** The total number of teaching faculty is 48, 75% hold advanced degrees. The student-faculty ratio is 15:1. Class sizes are mandated by the school's charter to remain below the state average.

**Accreditation:** We are accredited and in good standing with Cognia, formerly AdvancEd, and the New Mexico Public Education Department, and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

**National Honor Society (NHS):** Cottonwood Classical students may apply to NHS after the first semester of tenth grade; they are selected according to their grades and good citizenship. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA and complete service in order to remain in NHS. Nineteen seniors are members in good standing of NHS.

**Sports and Activities:**

Varsity Sports: track & field, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, golf, water polo, swimming and e-sports. We also have a coed soccer team that participates in a recreational/charter school league (though unlikely this fall). Students sometimes participate in sports at their home high school.

Extracurricular Activities: Some of our popular clubs are: Science Olympiad, Choir, Yearbook, Gender & Sexuality Alliance, Student Government, We The People, Model UN, Mock Trial, Speech & Debate, Cosplay, Dungeons & Dragons, Environmental Awareness, and Social Action Club.

**Standardized Testing:** Nearly all of our students took their first SAT in September at school. Their tests scores ranged from 760-1560 – with an average score of 1146. We have one National Merit Semi-Finalist, two Commended, and one Hispanic/Indigenous Scholar.

**College Matriculation:** Cottonwood Classical supports our graduates who go in many varied directions. Over the past five years approximately 92% of the students have gone to four-year colleges and universities. Another 6% have gone to two-year colleges and 1% joined the military. Of the students attending four-year institutions, 54% percent stay in New Mexico for college.

Students in the classes of 2016-2020 have attended these four-year colleges: Abilene Christian, U of Alabama, Arizona State (4), Bard, Boise State, Brandeis, Brigham Young (3), California Poly/SLO, U of California/San Diego, U of California/Santa Cruz, U of Chicago (2), Clark, Coe, Colorado Christian, Colorado C (3), U of Colorado/Denver, Colorado State (3), Columbia U, Cornell C, Creighton, Embry-Riddle, Emory, Evergreen State (2), Fordham, Fort Lewis C (8), Franklin & Marshall, George Mason, Georgetown, George Washington (2), Grand Canyon (3), Grinnell, Guilford, Humboldt State, Ithaca C, Johns Hopkins, Kalamazoo (2), U of Kansas, Lehigh, Lewis & Clark (2), Loyola Marymount, U of Lynchburg, Macalester, U of Massachusetts, Middlebury, U of New Mexico (148), New Mexico State (7), New Mexico Tech (14), New York U, Northern Arizona (3), U of Northern Colorado, Occidental, Otis College of Art & Design, Pacific U, Point Loma Nazarene, U of Portland, U of Puget Sound, Purdue, Regis, RPI (2), RISD, U of Rochester (2), St. John's C, Santa Clara, Scripps, Seattle U, Southern Utah, U of Tampa, Texas Tech (5), U of Toronto (2), US Naval Academy, U of Utah (2), Utah State, Washington State, Wayland Baptist, Western NM, Western Washington, Wheaton (IL), Whittier (2), Willamette, WPI (2).