



The Achievements of the Senior Class of 2026

It is my privilege to share with you the achievements of the Catalina Foothills High School Class of 2026. This is a remarkable group of 449 young people. They began high school in the fall of 2022, when our schools were still working to recover from the disruptions of the pandemic. They are leaving us four years later as a class that, in several meaningful ways, has set new high-water marks in the history of Catalina Foothills High School, and they do so within a school that *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked among the top 1 percent of high schools in the United States.

Behind each statistic on this report is a CFSD student who showed up, who tried, who may have failed, and who tried again. Behind each of these students is a teacher who saw the potential in them. Behind those teachers is a community of families who supported, encouraged, and trusted us with their children, many for their entire school career. The Class of 2026 is the product of that partnership. They are leaving CFHS not just with a degree but well-prepared. They are prepared to think well, speak well, play well, lead well, and to excel in everything they do.

What follows is a comprehensive accounting of what this class has accomplished.

Class profile

- 449 graduates
- Admitted to 180 colleges and universities across the U.S. and internationally (Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, Newfoundland)
- Will attend Ivy League and Ivy-equivalent institutions, every flagship public university in Arizona and California, conservatories of music and art, and military academies
- 95% plan to attend a two-year or four-year college in the fall (up from 92.5% in Class of 2025)
- \$16.8 million in merit scholarship awards offered, an average of more than \$37,000 per senior (Class of 2025: \$16M+ across 500+ students)

National Merit Scholarship Program

- 5 National Merit Finalists
- 10 National Merit Commended Students (up from 8 in Class of 2025)

College Board recognition

- 55 seniors earned the College Board School Recognition Award
- 5 seniors earned the College Board First-Generation Recognition Award

Premier named scholarships

- 1 Dorrance Scholar (the first in CFHS history)
- 1 Stamps Scholar (one of only 5 in the state of Arizona)
- 1 Flinn Scholarship Finalist
- 5 University of Arizona President's Saguaro Scholars (inaugural class, each earning up to \$60,000 over four years)

Academic depth and AP performance

- 80 seniors with a weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher through their 6th semester
- 136 AP Scholar recognitions as of May 2025 (roughly 1 in 3 seniors): 53 AP Scholars with Distinction, 26 AP Scholars with Honor, 57 AP Scholars
- 3 seniors have earned the AP Capstone Diploma, with 2 more on track this year
- 1 senior on track to earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate

CTE, dual enrollment, and university credit

- 47 seniors dual-enrolled at the University of Arizona through CTE Advanced Biotech and Physics: Applications of Biotech
- 12 seniors in Engineering earned University of Arizona credit

Seal of the Arts & Seal of Biliteracy

- 80 seniors earned the Arizona Seal of Biliteracy across 10 different languages (up from 68 in Class of 2025)
- 11 seniors earned the Arizona Seal of Arts Proficiency

Music — Band

- Senior class led the Foothills Falcon Band to a 1st place finish and the Nunamaker Award for Overall Excellence at the University of Arizona Band Day
- 3 seniors selected for the Arizona All-State Honor Band
- 35 seniors selected for the Arizona Southeast Region Honor Band
- 3 seniors placed in the AMEA High School All-State Guitar Festival

Music — Orchestra

- 2 seniors performed with the AMEA Regional Honor Orchestra
- Orchestra seniors became the first CFSD class to complete nine full years of orchestra education, with many starting together as 4th graders in the program's inaugural year

Music — Choir

- 16 senior choir members traveled to California for the Anaheim Forum Festival
- 1 senior premiered an original choral composition he wrote for the singers at CFHS
- 5 seniors sang in the AMEA Regional Honor Choir
- 1 senior selected for the Arizona All-State Jazz Clinic Choir
- 1 senior selected for the Arizona All-State Choir

Visual Arts

- 1 senior exhibited artwork in the University of Arizona Museum of Art

Theatre Arts

- 2 seniors earned Superior ratings for individual achievements in Theatre Tech at the Southern Arizona Festival of Theatre Regionals
- 2 seniors were nominated for Monte Awards (scholarship competition for talented high school musical theater performers in the Tucson area), 1 advanced to the finals

Athletics

- 19 seniors signed National Letters of Intent (up from 18 in Class of 2025)
- Boys Tennis team won the school's 19th Division II state championship in program history (back-to-back title), led by seniors
- Girls Tennis team finished as Division II state runners-up, led by seniors

Military service

- 3 seniors participated in a Military Signing Ceremony; 1 earned a Navy SEAL contract offer

Research & academic competition

- A senior won Best Delegate at Model United Nations LXIII in Washington, D.C.
- 8 CTE Biotech seniors won awards at the Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Fair (SARSEF)

- 2 seniors selected as KEYS Research Interns at the University of Arizona BIO5 Institute

Community contribution

- 2 seniors designed an original curriculum to teach 3D printing to CFSD third graders