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BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL NAMED NO. 1 CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NO. 2 CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA

Los Altos TK-8 school ranks in the top 0.1% of all California public elementary and middle schools in new U.S. News & World Report rankings.

LOS ALTOS, Calif. – Bullis Charter School (BCS) is the No. 1 charter middle school in California, according to the newly released [*U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary and Middle Schools rankings*](#). BCS moved up from No. 2 last year to claim the top spot among 879 charter middle schools statewide and also ranks No. 2 of 846 charter elementary schools.

Among all public schools statewide, BCS ranks No. 7 of 7,302 middle schools and No. 8 of 9,110 elementary schools. Both results put it in the top 0.1% statewide.

“This recognition reflects Bullis’s commitment to academic excellence, hands-on learning and real-world impact,” said Maureen Israel, executive director of Bullis Charter School. “Our teachers stay with us for nearly a decade on average, guiding students from their first days in TK to confidently presenting and defending projects in eighth grade. Our students are critical thinkers who apply their learning in the community as engaged citizens. Families in this community deserve a public school that combines high academic standards with innovation. For more than 20 years, BCS has proudly delivered on that promise.”

U.S. News evaluated 80,774 public schools nationwide that serve elementary or middle school grades and ranked 65,042 of them. That includes 46,713 elementary schools and 24,756 middle schools, with 6,427 schools, BCS among them, ranked on both lists. The rankings are based mainly on student proficiency on state math and reading tests. BCS students posted some of the strongest results in California on the 2026 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP):

- **Reading and writing:** 92.4% of students met or exceeded state standards, compared with 49.3% in California.
- **Math:** 92.3% met or exceeded standards, while 38.4% of California students demonstrated proficiency or advanced levels.
- **Science:** 89.2% met or exceeded standards on the California Science Test, nearly 2.5 times California’s rate of 36% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

National research shows that student engagement and achievement often drop in middle school. BCS built its middle school model to push back on that trend. Twice a year, regular classes pause for intersession, multiweek blocks in which students take on design thinking challenges,

entrepreneurship projects and hands-on work in the school's FabLab. Students pitch business ideas, build prototypes and present their work to the community.

The elementary rankings reflect a program that begins in transitional kindergarten. BCS offers full-day, play-based TK, starts Mandarin instruction in TK and gives every grade a full arts program. The school's students speak 23 home languages, including Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog and Amharic.

By the numbers

- No. 1 charter middle school in California
- No. 2 charter elementary school in California
- No. 7 of 7,302 California middle schools
- No. 8 of 9,110 California elementary schools
- 92% of students met or exceeded state standards in reading and in math and 89% met or exceeded science standards
- 90%+ teacher retention, with an average tenure of 9.6 years
- 20+ years serving Los Altos and surrounding communities

Admission to BCS is free and open to all California families through a public lottery.

ABOUT BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

Bullis is a top-ranked, tuition-free, public charter school serving students in grades TK-8 across two campuses in Los Altos, California. Founded by community members and parents, BCS offers an innovative, collaborative and experiential learning environment that emphasizes individual student growth, global perspective and civic responsibility. Open to any student in California via a lottery system, BCS delivers a rigorous curriculum designed to build identity-driven classrooms where every child is seen, valued and empowered. Widely recognized as one of the highest-performing public schools in the state, BCS is committed to fostering character, resilience, and a lifelong joy for learning. Learn more at www.bullischarterschool.com