

Welcome to

Latitude High School

Oakland, California

Oakland is their home. The Bay Area is their extended classroom.

How They Came to Be

Latitude High School's XQ Super School Journey`

Latitude High School is the culmination of three years of hard work by a talented team of educators, young people, and families. What held them together was their dream of bringing an innovative new high school to Oakland. The team met originally through the XQ Super School competition—and then stayed together even when they were not initially awarded a grant. To develop a school design, they conducted extensive research, visited exemplary schools, and engaged deeply with the community through surveys, focus groups, and other activities. In the process, they gained extraordinary insight into the hopes and aspirations of local students, as well as their academic needs. What they heard most was that students want to learn through real-world, collaborative projects that make an impact. Today, Latitude's persistence is paying off in lively, rigorous learning experiences that connect students with people, organizations, and resources across the community.

At Latitude, high school consists of learning academics through a series of experiences that create confident, connected young adults with a strong, supportive citywide network.



Discover Latitude High School

An academically rigorous, hands-on approach to education sets high standards for students at Latitude High and equips them with practical skills to succeed in college and career. In addition to traditional classes, students spend a significant portion of their time in the community: volunteering for local nonprofits, interning at local businesses, meeting with mentors, interviewing local experts and professionals for class projects, and learning about the vibrant, complex city around them. Students gain exposure to the wide range of career options in the Bay Area and beyond—all while developing deep connections to the community in which they live.

Latitude High School opened in August 2019 with 50 students in 9th grade and will eventually serve up to 360 students in grades 9–12.



Latitude High School Design Features

1. Relevant and place-based learning

Latitude High School applies a deep place- and project-based learning approach to create relevant learning experiences for students. In time, Latitude's leadership hopes to eventually implement a "hub" model by establishing smaller, innovative facilities as headquarters for place-based learning throughout the city. Through the hubs, students get the support they need to access an array of local resources and participate in activities in each neighborhood and community. Teachers collaborate with programs such as [College Track](#), as well as other nonprofits, to prepare students for the academic rigors and equip them with the life skills required for college. The school also offers students all the courses required for California's public university systems, as well as tutoring and other support to help students succeed.

"Kids are exposed to different workplace environments regularly to experience them as anthropologists. This all impacts what they want to do and who they want to be—expanding their orbit beyond what they might initially see for themselves."

— **David Carter**, Math Program Coordinator



2. Students on a personalized path

At Latitude, teachers understand where a student is and where they hope to go. This starts with a home visit at the beginning of the school to start developing relationships and to co-create an education plan for each student with their family. In fact, personal growth and relationships with trusted adults are a key part of the Latitude philosophy. Students thrive when they have close relationships with mentors who believe in students' potential, hold them to high expectations, and guide them through the steps necessary to achieve success. Mentors can include teachers or members of the community who have knowledge and skills to share and can provide applied learning opportunities in alignment with students' academic and life goals.



Lillian Hsu
Founding Principal

"We want students to take what they're learning in the classroom and see the real-world possibilities. We want them to expand their sense of what they're capable of accomplishing."



3. Strong links with the local community

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Hi, I'm Cassandra.

"What's very different about this school is that they take the time to help you with your work. They won't let you give up. Even if you try to give up, they just won't let you."



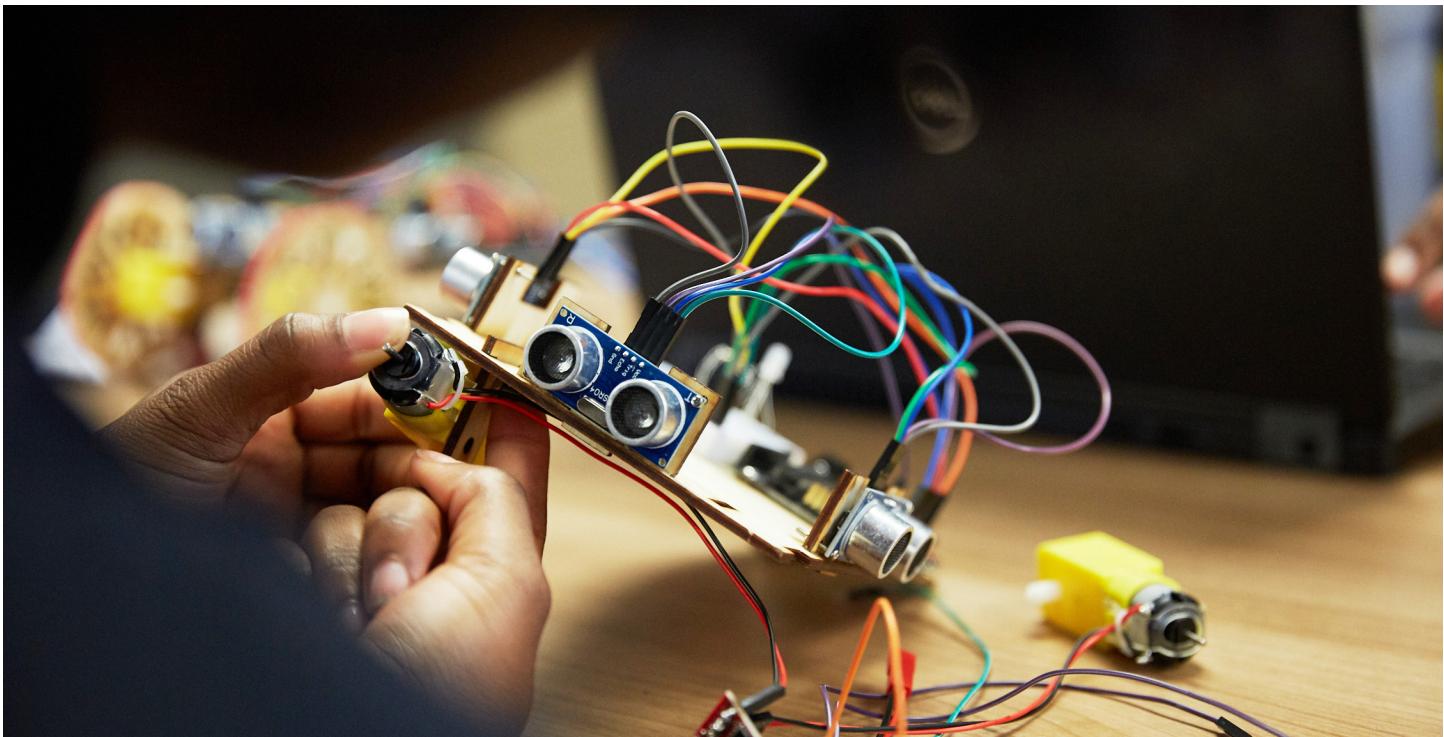
4. Learning that boosts creative confidence

Nurtured by makers and designers, entrepreneurs and artists, Latitude students will acquire the creative confidence they need to navigate the knowledge economy with ease and inspiration. Classes are conducted in cross-curricular studios and workshops that blend inquiry, research, critical thinking, communication, and creativity. In the humanities studio, for example, students act as journalists, historians, and ethnographers as they dig into the stories and culture of Oakland. In the math-science studio, students step into the shoes of researchers and data analysts to design studies, unpack statistics, and visualize data. Latitude graduates will demonstrate mastery of a robust set of competencies that include traditional academic disciplines as well as design thinking and social emotional learning.



Hi, I'm Kya.

"At our school, I get to be myself. We have a lot of freedom here. We can explore without getting judged. Here, you can be anyone you want to be. I want to be myself. I want to be a leader, not a follower. I want to be my own person."



Theory Into Action

Student work: The great self-driving car race

Latitude ninth-graders stepped into the shoes of software engineers, electrical engineers, and human-centered designers to create functioning self-driving cars that met the needs of a specific user group, senior citizens who can no longer drive. Students learned how to program a car using Arduino technology to read from ultrasonic sensors and react to obstacles. Students used AutoCAD Fusion360 to design the wheels of their car. They built upon their skills as electrical engineers by learning how to wire up multiple sensors and motors to allow their car to drive. Throughout the course of this project, students engaged with literature about the complex impacts of the self-driving car industry on society. They examined the vision that industry leaders have for what self-driving cars can contribute and the reservations that their opponents hold. Students presented their needfinding data, their looks-like and works-like prototypes, and their car's ability to navigate a race track.

California Engineering Standards Met:

- ✓ B2.0: Demonstrate the sketching process used in concept development.
- ✓ B2.1: Understand the process of producing proportional two- and three-dimensional sketches and designs.
- ✓ B6.0: Employ the design process to solve analysis and design problems.
- ✓ B6.1: Understand the steps in the design process.
- ✓ B6.2: Determine what information and principles are relevant to a problem and its analysis.
- ✓ B6.3: Choose between alternate solutions in solving a problem and be able to justify the choices made in determining a solution.
- ✓ B6.6 Construct a prototype from plans and test it.
- ✓ B6.7: Evaluate and redesign a prototype on the basis of collected test data.



John Bosselman

Director of Instruction

"The world isn't siloed, so why should school be? The benefit of learning across disciplines here at Latitude means students will be ready to apply what they're learning as adults, no matter the situation."

Exploring the city from the start

Even before the school opened, Latitude educators encouraged students to explore the city and learn from its diverse array of neighborhoods, businesses, and people. Find out what learning looks like at Latitude today from teachers, students, and families [in this video](#).

Latitude Competencies Met:

Designer

Critical Dissector

Co-creator

Sensemaker

Student Data

Latitude High School serves 140 students in grades 9-11 this school year.

54%	Latinx
31%	Black
7%	White
1%	Other
1%	Asian
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native
1%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

72%	Free/Reduced price Lunch
22%	Special Education
33%	English Language Learners

Blogs and Media

- [Where the city meets the classroom: Latitude High opens in – and around – Oakland XQ Blog](#)
- [Do not underestimate an immigrant: A student’s perspective XQ Blog](#)
- [How mentoring kids changed my life: A student’s experience XQ Blog](#)
- [Helping Your Teen Get the Most out of High School](#)
- [School builders share what it means to rethink high school in practice XQ Blog](#)
- [The Key to Understanding School Design? Collaboration! XQ Blog](#)

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