

# BAY SCHOOL

## First Graduating Senior Class



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This June, 55 young people will toss their caps in the air, becoming the very first class of Presidio high school graduates.

Bay School of San Francisco opened its doors in a wooden historic Presidio building {known affectionately as the *little house in the woods*} in 2004. The founding freshman were the pioneering students, and they quickly got involved in the park’s volunteer programs—such as tending seedlings at the Native Plant Nursery, in addition to a challenging 21st century curriculum.

At the start of its second year in 2005, the Bay School moved into its permanent campus on the Main Post following a fourteen-month rehabilitation of the 62,000 square foot historic building. Students listened with rapt attention to author Jean Wakatsuki tell of her childhood spent as an internee at Manzanar Camp while they sat in the very building in which the internment order had been signed by General John

DeWitt in 1942. The sophomores greeted a new class of freshman. Now, three years later, the ranks have filled with a full contingent of students.

The Bay School graduates used the Presidio as an outdoor classroom: they studied the removal of a landfill in the Tennessee Hollow watershed, learning about the benefits of the restoration efforts—even producing a website detailing the project and an educational video game for children. Beaches and piers were used for testing water and studying marine organisms. A literature class walked to National Cemetery to experience the costs and complexities of war through the life stories of soldiers buried there.

Graduates will attend a variety of universities, and two have earned commissions to U.S. service academies. Most importantly, they have formed a relationship, affection, and feeling of stewardship for the Presidio that will last a lifetime.