

Mountain View High School Tree Walk



1. Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
2. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia spp.*)
3. White Alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*)
4. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
5. Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)
6. Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus carnea*)
7. Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
8. Holly Oak (*Quercus Ilex*)

9. Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus veluina*)
10. Kwanzan Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*)
11. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
12. Liquid Amber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
13. London Plane (*Platanus acerifolia*)
14. Purple Leaf Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)
15. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

1. Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

- Able to take moisture from fog, grow in foggy locations.
- Thirsty trees, require a lot of water
- Live to 1,200-1,800 years
- Can reach up to 379 ft. in height and 29 ft. in diameter

2. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia spp.*)

- Smooth bark and lovely flowers
- Compact size is good for small areas or along sidewalks
- Very popular, though unfortunate when planted in an area suitable for a larger tree

3. White Alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*)

- Often found next to stream banks
- Can take nitrogen out of the air and provide it as a soil nutrient for the tree and nearby plants

4. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

- Evergreen tree that does not lose its leaves all at one time—Ever-dropping
- Once established, can tolerate drought
- Native Californians cracked the shells to separate the kernels, would leach them in water and pound into flour

5. Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)

- Largest oaks in California
- Alligator-skin bark, craggy branches, lobed leaves
- Deciduous tree that loses leaves at one time
- Many were removed with land in CA was converted to farmland

6. Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus carnea*)

- Five palmate leaflets in the shape of a hand, form one “compound” leaf.
- Eaten raw, the nuts are poisonous, but leaching in water makes them safe to eat

7. Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)

- Native to Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains
- Live for centuries because have the ability to withstand forest fires
- Their wood contains substances that retard decay and repel insects

8. Holly Oak (*Quercus illex*)

- Evergreen tree with leathery leaves, pale and soft underneath
- Lower leaves are larger and may be spiny
- Aphids leave a sticky residue that grows sooty mold

9. Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus veluina*)

- Native to Modesto, CA
- Many were planted as street trees in CA cities in the 1940s and 1960s, many are falling apart now
- Wood from ash trees is very strong and used a tool handles, oars, and baseball bats

10. Kwanzan Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*)

- An ornamental cherry tree cultivated in Japan.
- The *Prunus* genus contains stone fruits such as cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, and nectarines, which all have pits
- Have distinct lenticels, which function as pores for gas exchange between the internal tissues of the tree and the atmosphere

11. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

- From China and Japan
- New leaves are tinged with pink or red
- Crushing leaves gives a camphor aroma
- A relative of the tree we get cinnamon from

12. Liquid Amber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

- Spectacular fall color
- Drop seed balls that have sharp spikes

13. London Plane (*Platanus acerifolia*)

- Tolerant of urban pollution shedding toxins in their peeling bark
- These trees were pruned in a way that’s called “topping”
- It was likely done to reduce the size of tree though there are better ways to do that
- Topping compromises the structural support and is detrimental to the long-term health of the tree
- It stresses and weakens the tree’s defenses against disease
- The tree tries to survive by sending up multiple shoots, but are weakly attached to the trunk

14. Purple Leaf Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)

- An ornamental tree with purple leaves that does not produce plums, but is attractive and requires low maintenance
- Very short lived

15. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

- Needle-like leaves in clusters on top of branch
- Used for shipbuilding in ancient Greece
- Top of tree tends to droop over