



Upper School Profile

GRADES: 9-12

ENROLLMENT: 100

Approximately 12% of our Upper School student population is international.

TEACHERS: 15 Full-Time Teachers

6 Part-Time Teachers

CLASS SIZE: Average 11 Students
Maximum 22 Students

CLASS TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

PHILOSOPHY

The Colorado Springs School is a college-preparatory school based on the belief that the closer the link between learning and experience, the more meaningful the resulting knowledge will be. Our goal is to prepare students for college and for life by equipping them with thinking and problem-solving skills, self-confidence, compassion and a love of learning.

CURRICULUM

Our academic schedule maximizes the number of courses we offer. A block system of 45- and 90-minute periods permits students to earn full-year credits in half a year. The longer periods enable in-depth discussion, field experiences and lab work. In addition to standard college preparatory courses, we also offer Advanced Placement.

EXPERIENCE CENTERED SEMINARS (ECS)

Each March, students enroll in a three-week intensive study known as ECS. The curriculum is anchored by broad, big-picture questions that require a multidisciplinary approach to answer. Multiple ECSs are offered each year. Though each one explores a unique theme, geographic location, and variety of immersive experiences, all ECSs are unified by a consistent level of rigorous and relevant academic inquiry.

Recent ECS offerings:

Local (CO): Iron Pour; Space Exploration; The World at Work: How Engineers & Entrepreneurs Solve Problems

National: History & Ecology of the World's First National Park (Yellowstone); Freedom on the River (St. Louis, MO to Memphis, TN); Tall Ships (California Coast)

International: Service in the Clouds (India); Public Health (Tanzania); Shaping a Society Through Government (Sweden & Denmark)

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

In helping students find the college of their choice, CSS offers a personalized college guidance program, which includes a *College Overview* class and test taking preparation. One hundred percent of all CSS graduates go on to initiate a post-secondary educational experience.

ADVISOR SYSTEM

Each student has a faculty advisor who monitors progress, establishes a supportive relationship and communicates, as needed, with parents. Regular meetings with advisors and mixed grade level advisory groups help students thrive academically, physically and socially.

GRADE REPORTS

Grades are officially reported by semester.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A yearly minimum of 18 hours of community service is required of each student for graduation. A minimum of 12 hours must be self-designed, organized and independently completed by the student. Upper School students completed more than 4,000 hours in 2016-2017.

SENIOR CAPSTONE

Seniors embark on an individualized, student-generated project at the end of the senior year that culminates in a report and presentation to outside mentors, faculty, peers and parents. The planning process and experience helps students explore professional goals.

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. Competitive varsity sports include soccer, volleyball, basketball, cross-country, tennis and mountain biking.

A diverse range of clubs, committees and activities includes Forum (student government), National Honor Society and Judicial Committee (student disciplinary board), Student Ambassadors, an internationally competitive Model United Nations Team as well as different interest groups. On average, 90% of students participate in athletics, 50% in band or choir and 50% in the fall play or spring musical. We encourage depth of commitment.

LEADERSHIP

Mr. Aaron Schubach
Head of School

Mr. Sam Gaudet
Associate Head of School

Ms. Joy Mcguire-Parsons
Director of Admission

Ms. Nicole Goyette
Middle and Upper School Director

Mr. Rusty Haynes
Director of College Counseling

Ms. Nadja Hunter
Registrar

MISSION

Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the challenges of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

AFFILIATIONS

Accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS)

Proud Member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)

CONTACT US

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MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 credits of English
4 credits of Mathematics
3 credits of Science
3 credits of History
3 credits of World Language
2 credits of Arts
4 credits of Experience Centered Seminar (one each year)
4 credits of Athletics/Activities
3 credits of Electives
0.25 credit of College Overview
0.25 credit of Public Speaking
0.50 credit of Health
72 hours of Community Service
Digital Portfolio
Senior Capstone

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND ADVANCED COURSES

AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP Comparative Government & Politics, AP Computer Science, AP English Literature, AP English Language & Composition, AP Environmental Science, AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Psychology, AP Physics, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP Statistics, AP United States History & Geography and Advanced Art. Courses are subject to teacher recommendations and scheduling availability.

PROFILE, CLASS OF 2018

CSS does not rank students. The Class of 2018 was comprised of 21 students, who earned the following scores and distinctions:

- Average SAT Score: 1273
- Average ACT: 28
- Average GPA: 3.530
- 1 National-Merit Scholarship Finalist
- 2 National Merit Commended Students
- \$2,864,840 in merit-only aid received
- 1 Boettcher Finalist
- 94.3% reported AP Scores of 3 or better

A complete listing of current class offerings can be found on our website under Upper 9-12 >Academics>Curriculum.