

BOULDER UNIVERSAL

Our mission is to support a diverse community of learners engaged in an academically challenging, personalized learning environment that inspires them to pursue their goals with confidence.



About Us:

We are BVSD's multi-district online school offering virtual classes for grades K-12. Every student receives quality differentiated content with support from a mentor, a counselor, and academic assistance from the best instructors in the online teaching community. We have an in-person, drop-in computer lab where students can meet and complete coursework in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The majority of our coursework is created by and taught by BVSD teachers and aligns with BVSD standards and rigor. Other coursework is developed by Florida Virtual School and taught by BVSD teachers.

WELCOME TO BOULDER UNIVERSAL

BU is a Google-connected school that utilizes Google products and devices through Schoology's Learning Management System to provide asynchronous, online academic content. We provide support for students whose individual needs make attendance at a traditional school challenging.

Full-Time Students:

Elementary:

Students take four classes: Literacy (Reading and Writing), Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students have the opportunity to have small group and individual meetings, supports, and conferences with their teachers.

Middle School:

Students take Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and one elective class each semester. Students have opportunities to participate and create student-led clubs. They also have the possibility to participate in their home attendance school's extracurricular activities

High School:

Most students take six classes plus Advisory each semester. BU students have the option to participate in their home attendance school's extracurricular activities. BU's students can also participate in CHSAA sanctioned athletics & activities. Please check with your home attendance school Athletic Director for more information.

AS PART OF OUR ENROLLMENT PROCESS...

We seek to clarify expectations at Boulder Universal and explain how our system works. Please note that although BU offers flexibility, we have similar expectations as other BVSD schools around attendance, academic progress, behavior, and activities. Please ask any questions during your informational meeting.

Student Expectations:

- We recommend that students work on their BU courses at least one hour per course per school day, and schedule additional time for reading, research, and upper-level courses.
- Follow a consistent schedule
- Reach out to mentor, teachers, and tutor virtually and in-person for support.
- Respond to communication within 24 school hours.
- Read and respond to grade book comments daily.
- Attend the BU Learning Center/Lab when requested by BU staff.
- Attend all virtual academic sessions or webinars offered by BU teachers.
- Take advantage of available resources.

Staff Dedications:

- Provide online-accessible instruction via the Schoology learning management system.
 - Provide academic support via the Boulder Universal Learning Center/Lab.
 - Provide an Advisory course for full-time students that addresses social-emotional learning, executive functioning skills, and career planning.
 - Maintain attendance via Schoology course access and assignment submissions.
 - Monitor student growth, learning, and course progress and pacing.
 - Communicate with students and parents around student progress along with other BVSD school staff as necessary to support students.
 - Implement student 504s and IEPs per district, state, and federal guidelines.
 - Hold students to high academic and behavioral expectations following BVSD district policies and access district resources to support BU student learning.
 - Offer extracurricular activities in the Boulder Universal Learning Center/Lab.
 - Facilitate required state and national testing.
 - Facilitate and monitor student formative and summative scores around reading and math.
 - Provide an in-person graduation ceremony to celebrate our May graduating class.
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Proctored Exams:

- There are proctored exams in some classes at BU.
- Students are expected to come to the BU lab for all proctored exams.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

On top of school, I had a very demanding dance practice and rehearsal schedule that left little time for homework, and my grades suffered because of it. I started off as a hybrid student with BU, but have since transferred over to full time because I love it so much. The mentors and teachers are so incredibly kind and care so much about each and every student. It is such a positive and accepting environment, and every BU student is celebrated for their differences. I love coming to the lab, and I always look forward to seeing my teachers and the other awesome BU students!

~ Bella, High School

“

BU embraces people for who they are, which makes them an extremely unique school. The teachers, mentors, and staff are so supportive of your victories and help you get through the hard times. At BU, it feels like a family.

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~ Lauren, BU Graduate



“I have freedom of time and space, I am not limited to where I do my school as long as I have Wi-Fi and a device to use. And with a great staff, I can get the individual help I need.”

~ Braden, High School

“I came to BU because I wanted to be able to ride horses during the light of day for the winter semester and be able to go to two week-long horse shows without missing out on so much school.”

~ Abby, Middle School

“I needed a way that I could still be in a school setting, without the drama of school.”

~ Mathea, High School

“With the time that is freed up without conventional high school I can work a job, work on my music, and do my schoolwork. The past year and a half has been the happiest I have been since middle school.”

~ Zach, High School

The flexible schedule; the teacher offers the right amount of google meets for help

~Elementary student

“I came to BU because I have an anxiety disorder that makes it hard for me to leave the house. BU has a really calm environment and it allows me to work from home.”

~ Gigi, High School

“BU is more than welcoming to all people and creates a safe and learning-oriented environment for all types of students. I can have one on one work time by call, video or even in person.”

~ Sam, High School

“I really like that I can work at my own pace. When I am done with one week, I can just work on the next week. I also have much more free time to do things I enjoy.”

~ Clara, High School

“I was dealing with migraines and had to miss a lot of school due to doctor’s appointments, but with BU I don’t miss out on class. I also enjoy how they have a lab you can go when you need help, so you don’t feel alone.”

~ Haley, High School

“I came to BU so I could have more time to ski race. My favorite part is the schedule flexibility that I have.”

~ Aidan, High School

“The BU lab is a great place to get work done where I can focus and receive guidance from mentors and teachers.”

~ Paula, High School

“What brought me to BU was the thought of being able to work from wherever you wanted online, but have the support of your mentors as well as your teachers.”

~ Kiara, High School

I’m a hybrid student, so being in school only a half-day and online for my other classes I found a balance between a manageable level of anxiety and something to keep me focused on school every day.”

~Lucy, High School

“Although BU is an online school, there is still a sense of community, which I really appreciate.”

~ Neve, Middle School

PARENT TESTIMONIALS:

"BU is BVSD's best kept secret – it's like a free private school!"

~ 8th grade parent

"I just wanted to take a minute to tell you how much I appreciate your teaching style. My daughter and I always love to see your little comments about her submitted assignments, and I like that you grade them with reason and flexibility as opposed to demand for rigid conformity. And those google meets..girl, you have no idea the kind of google meets I was witnessing before getting to BU! My daughter used to be in tears, literally! You are a true superhero on those things – always sooooo patient, never ever frazzled or overwhelmed, and taking time to engage with each child so they all feel important and heard. My daughter always remarks about how kind you are, and that's everything to me as her mom. You are doing such a great job at making remote learning personal. So...THANK YOU!!"

~ 2nd grade parent

"BU has been a godsend for my 15 year-old daughter who was experiencing anxiety in high school and was struggling to find her people."

~ 10th grade parent

"BU has been a life-changing experience for my high schooler! She was failing out of traditional high school due to ADHD and panic disorder, and just wasn't having a good high school experience. The excellent staff at BU took her under their wings, helped her feel comfortable, and they continue to offer one-on-one support with her school work whenever she needs it. She is now an A student!"

~ 11th grade parent

"My daughter was struggling with anxiety from school pressures and we felt that we needed to do something to ease her pain. We felt that more time in the outdoors and with her horse would do the trick. Boulder Universal was paramount in allowing us this luxury. The teachers and counselors at BU are in constant communication and I feel more supported by them then we ever did at her other school."

~ 12th grade parent

"I love the attention she receives, and the understanding that every student learns differently. I also appreciate the understanding by the staff of life situations and how those things can sometimes affect learning and concentration."

~ Elementary parent

"Our daughter is thriving again at BU! If you have a kid who loves to learn (BU students need to be self-disciplined and motivated!) but is not thriving in the regular school system, BU is a great option!"

~ 10th grade parent

"My daughters developed robust executive functioning skills, attained their highest level of learning thus far, and are growing as self-directed learners who are able to pace themselves and establish goals. This would NOT have happened anywhere else, BU has exceeded all my expectations and I will keep my girls at BU well into Middle School."

~ Elementary parent

"Our kids have the freedom to explore their athletic pursuits in addition to gaining from an individualized, thoughtful educational experience. Personal, direct access to educators has been wonderful. The time my kids spend in the lab is efficient and focused."

~ 7th and 10th grade parent

"It has given us much more time together! It has also enabled me, as a Mom, to be actively aware and involved in what my kids are learning."

~ Elementary parent

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The alternative education that BU has provided my son has been a life saver for him. The caring counseling staff and teachers provide excellent continual support for my son.

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~ 12th grade parent



"My boys are in 11th and 8th grades, and they finally love learning! I know they are finally learning skills to be successful and prepare them for college, including time management strategies, goal setting and self-regulated learning. The BU counselors, teachers and administration have high expectations and are hands-on for student success through effective and regular communication and close monitoring of student progress. They really care about their students and families. It really is a team effort and a community here."

~ 8th grade and 11th grade parent

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Getting involved in activities is a great way for students to meet new people with whom they share interests, improve social skills, and expand their networks. Volunteering gives students an opportunity to step outside of their daily routines and give back to their community, which in turn helps them feel more connected to others. Besides being beneficial to college resumes and finding career opportunities after graduation, these important experiences teach compassion and empathy.



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Your first day of school can at times be difficult. Remember to trust your instincts and just Be yoUrselF.
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CYBER SENIORS

Monthly. Students help older people in the community learn how to use their technology.

MINDFULNESS

Weekly. Students learn mindfulness techniques to reduce stress and anxiety. Sessions also include self-reflection through journaling and art.

TEAM CHOP

Twice each semester. Students work with There With Care to prepare meals for families in medical crisis.

SAFE ZONE

Weekly. Students experience a safe and supportive group for LGBTQ+ students and allies.

JAM BAND & MOVIE NIGHT

Twice each semester. Students bring their own instruments and/or voices to join in and make music. Sessions are followed by a casual movie night at the lab with hot chocolate and popcorn.

FILM CLUB

Weekly. This is a student-run club where students work on storyboarding, screenplay writing, and filming.

BU BOOK CLUB

Quarterly. We eat tasty food. We drink yummy drinks. We talk about books. What could be better? Come join our group of BU book lovers as we discuss our books.

NaNoWriMo/WRITING CLUB

Meets three times in October. All levels are welcome. All genres are welcome - poetry, story, novel, essay, comic. Come if you like to write or if you'd like to give it a try.

ADVISORY:

Boulder Universal offers an 8-12 Advisory course that is required for all full time BU students. The advisory program was created using the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) model as a foundation and is aligned with Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP) legislation as well as BVSD's success skills.

The ASCA Model:

"Comprehensive school counseling programs are driven by student data and based on standards in academic, career and personal/social development, promote and enhance the learning process for all students."

ICAP:

"ICAP is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary opportunities. With the support of adults, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful and powerful pathways to be career and college ready."

School-Wide JOB SHADOWS:

Every full time student at Boulder Universal completes a job shadow through Advisory each year. This gives students the opportunity to use their networking skills to secure a job shadow as well as learn about new and different careers while observing people in their work environments.

RESEARCH BASED programming:

There are many different resources used to help students identify and relate to various different strengths. Throughout Advisory, students will learn about different research that exists and how it applies to their lives. Some examples include: Carol Dweck, Angela Lee Duckworth, Howard Gardner, John Holland, Kelly McGonigal, Brene Brown, and more...



ENROLLING AT BOULDER UNIVERSAL:

So you've decided that Boulder Universal is the right fit for your student. Your next step will be to Open Enroll by following the districts Open Enrollment Application process.

- Go to: <https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/enrollment/open-enrollment> and click on the "Begin Open Enrollment Application" button.
 - The enrollment office will send a letter regarding the application status. If you are offered a seat at Boulder Universal, there will be a link to the form - "Request for Open Enrollment Interview".
 - You may also register for one of our upcoming Virtual Tours on our website.
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