



DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

Founded in 1920, Branson is a rigorous co-educational independent day school located in the residential town of Ross in Marin County, 11 miles north of San Francisco.

- We develop students who make a positive impact in the world by leading lives of integrity, purpose, learning, and joy.
- We believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential components of an excellent learning environment and a vibrant, caring community.
- We aspire to create a community in which every member feels a deep sense of belonging and inclusion.

Branson students and faculty have worked together to identify core values we see as central to the Branson experience: **courage, kindness, honor, purpose.**

The school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Branson's College Counseling office adheres to NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admissions.

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THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

All courses are taught at an accelerated level. We offer the AP designation only when the AP curriculum follows and builds upon the solid curricular foundations we support as a school. Each department also offers rigorous courses without the AP label. These courses draw on the expertise of our teachers, and are on par with or exceed the rigors of the AP program. These courses are bolded on page 3.

Branson operates on a semester system. Official grades are reported at the end of the term or year-long course.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Branson will offer an eight block rotating schedule. Students are strongly advised to pursue 6 academic and arts classes, one required human development class, and maintain a free block.

Branson does not present any academic awards until the completion of senior year.

Covid-19 Adjustments:

For the 2019-20 academic year, beginning on March 18, 2020, Branson moved to full online instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Hours of instruction were not impacted by the move to a virtual session, nor were the academic expectations for student performance. Students' final grades could not drop below their year-to-date 3rd quarter grade when we moved online, provided they remained engaged in their courses.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, Branson began virtually, but was able to provide in-person, as well as online and hybrid, instruction for students beginning in October 2020. For most of the year, all students attended classes on campus four days a week with one day of remote learning. Due to the need to establish cohorts of a certain size, many members of the Class of 2022 were unable to take the courses they initially requested. All modifications will be mentioned specifically in letters of recommendation and/or on a student's application.

ENROLLMENT

Representing the broader diversity of the Bay Area, our 320 students form a culturally and socioeconomically heterogeneous community.

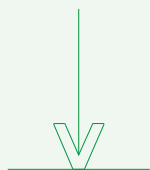
- Middle schools represented: 64
- Branson students on financial aid: 20%
- Students of color across all grade levels: 42%

Admission to Branson is highly selective.

FACULTY

At the heart of Branson is the trusting, dynamic relationship between dedicated teachers and students. Most of our 50 faculty members hold advanced degrees.

- Student to faculty ratio: 6:1
- Average class size: 12



CLASS OF 2021 TESTING AND MATRICULATION INFORMATION

Middle 50% Test Ranges

Please note: Scores listed reflect final ranges of the most recent graduating class, not the current senior class.

Standardized testing continues to be extremely limited in Northern California. For our Class of 2021, and again for our current seniors in the Class of 2022, most students have not been able to sit for more than one official test, if any at all.

ACT

English: 33 – 35

Math: 29 – 33

Reading: 31 – 36

Science: 28 – 33

Composite: 31 – 33

SAT Reasoning Test

EBRW: 650 – 750

Math: 670 – 770

Total: 1330 – 1520

College Matriculation

Four-year colleges: 96%

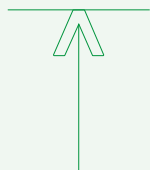
Two-year colleges: 0%

Applying in 2021-2022: 4%

CLASS OF 2021 GENERAL INFORMATION

Total Number
of Students: 80

GPA Range: 2.68 – 4.0



GRADING SYSTEM

The Branson transcript reports a cumulative GPA that is *unweighted* and calculated on a 4.0 scale. All Branson classes, including Summer Geometry, are included in the GPA. No additional credit is awarded to a grade of an A+ and GPAs only include coursework completed at Branson or through the BlendEd Consortium. Coursework completed at another institution will appear on a separate transcript. As a matter of policy, *Branson does not rank students.*

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of laboratory science, 3 years of the same foreign language or 2 years each of 2 different foreign languages, 3 years of history, 2 years of arts, and enough electives to total 54 credits. Most students take courses well beyond these requirements.

Students are encouraged to take five core academic subjects and one arts course every year. Students are also required to complete a human development curriculum as well as 25 hours of community engagement per year.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING

With the recent changes to the Common Application's stance on disciplinary reporting, Branson is in the process of reevaluating our institutional policy on this matter. For the 2021-2022 academic year, Branson will continue our current policy of reporting disciplinary incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion and will encourage all students to answer colleges' specific questions ethically and honestly.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

HONOR CODE: The Branson Honor Code governs the actions of every member of our community, be they student, teacher, or parent. All community members agree to create and maintain trust, respect, and care throughout school life by accepting responsibility for themselves and others.

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS: Juniors have a unique opportunity to apply for one of a handful of endowed fellowships; each provides an opportunity for a student to pursue independent scholarly work during the summer before senior year. Recipients are chosen by a faculty committee and announced before the end of the school year.


BRANSON SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT:

Projects are completed by all freshman students, as well as juniors pursuing advanced science electives in the following classes: Biotechnology, Medicine, and Science Research; Marine Biology; Microbiology and Infectious Disease; Astronomy and Astrophysics.

BLEND-ED CONSORTIUM: In fall 2019, Branson joined five peer schools in the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium. The program seeks to bring students a new level of engaging curriculum that takes advantage of the geography, talent, and culture of the Bay Area. Courses offered through BlendEd are equivalent in rigor to Branson courses and will factor into the Branson GPA.

2021-2022 CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ENGLISH 4 years 12 units required	English I	English II	AP Language & Composition	English IV Honors Courses (Sample): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Narratives: Then & Now • Taking the Toxic Out of Toxic Masculinity • Being at Home: Community and Belonging in America • Shakespeare and the Twenty-First Century
HISTORY 3 years 9 units required	Roots of Civilization	US History Honors	Honors History Seminars (Sample): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution and Its Controversies • Principles of Economics • World Religions • Race in America 	
MATHEMATICS 3 years 9 units required	Algebra I* Geometry* Geometry Honors*	Geometry Algebra II Algebra II Honors	Algebra II Intro to Precalculus & Statistics Precalculus Precalculus Honors	Intro to Precalculus & Statistics Precalculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Linear Algebra Various Computer Science Electives
SCIENCE 3 years 9 units required	Physics I* Physics I Honors*	Chemistry Chemistry Honors	Biology Honors	AP Chemistry Advanced Environmental Studies AP Physics 2 Astronomy and Astrophysics Biotechnology, Medicine & Science Research Engineer Your World Marine Biology Microbiology and Infectious Disease
LANGUAGE 9 units of one language or 6 units of two languages required	Italian I, II, III, AP Italian Language & Culture Latin I, II, III, IV Honors Mandarin I, II, III, IV Honors, V Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers I, Advanced, AP Spanish Language & Culture, IV Spanish I, II, III Honors, AP Spanish Language & Culture, V (History, Culture and Literature)			
ARTS 6 units required	DANCE Co-Ed Dance I, II, III, IV, V Dance for Men I, II, III, IV Dance Performance Ensemble —		THEATER Acting: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Acting Performance Honors —	MUSIC Music & Performance Intermediate Ensemble Digital Music & Composition Chambers Singers Honors Performance Seminars in: Classical, Jazz, Rock
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 4 units of non-academic credit required	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 2 units of non-academic credit required			


Bolded courses indicate an increased level of rigor and pace of instruction. Prerequisites, placement exams, department approval, and/or scheduling conflicts may influence a student's ability to take these courses. All Branson courses are taught at an accelerated level.

*Determined by placement tests prior to 9th grade. Once a student has been placed in a sequence, particularly in areas of math and science, it is very difficult and rare for a student to move or accelerate tracks in subsequent years.



COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2019-2021

American University	Johns Hopkins University (3)	UC, Irvine (2)
Amherst College (3)	Lehigh University	UC, Los Angeles (9)
Bard College	Loyola Marymount University	UC, San Diego (4)
Barnard College	Loyola University Chicago	UC, Santa Barbara
Boston College (5)	Middlebury College (4)	University of Chicago (7)
Bowdoin College	New York University (6)	University of Colorado Boulder (3)
Brown University (8)	Northeastern University (4)	University of Massachusetts
Bryn Mawr College	Northwestern University (3)	University of Miami
Carleton College (2)	Oberlin College	University of Michigan (6)
Carnegie Mellon University (2)	Occidental College	University of Notre Dame
Chapman University (2)	Pepperdine University	University of Pennsylvania (8)
Claremont McKenna College (2)	Pitzer College	University of Richmond
Colby College (2)	Pomona College (2)	University of Rochester
Colgate University (2)	Princeton University (2)	University of San Diego
Colorado College (3)	Rice University	University of Southern California (8)
Columbia University	San Diego State University (2)	University of Sydney
Cornell University (2)	Santa Clara University	University of Tampa
Dartmouth College (4)	Sciences Po/Columbia University	University of Virginia (2)
Davidson College (2)	Scripps College (3)	University of Washington (4)
Drew University	Sewanee: University of the South	University of Wisconsin (3)
Duke University (4)	Skidmore College	Vanderbilt University (2)
Eckerd College	Southern Methodist University (7)	Vassar College (2)
Ecole Poly. Federale de Lausanne	Stanford University (13)	Washington & Lee University (3)
Emory University (2)	Syracuse University (2)	Washington University in St. Louis (6)
Franklin & Marshall College	The University of Tampa	Wellesley College
Franklin University Switzerland	The University of Texas at Austin	Wesleyan University (2)
Georgetown University (4)	Tufts University (9)	Williams College
Georgia Institute of Technology	Tulane University (2)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Harvard University (5)	University of British Columbia (3)	Yale University (6)
Harvey Mudd College	UC, Berkeley (3)	