

Information for Upper School

Breck graduates are prepared for a life of intellectual curiosity, self-knowledge and social responsibility. Yes, our students work hard. But if you want to see the full picture of Breck, I hope you'll visit. To see that while our students are constantly pushing themselves to achieve, they are also having fun.

Ours is a school alive with community and laughter. One where each child is seen for the whole person that they are.

Whether it's looking at a topic from multiple perspectives in an interdisciplinary course, honing artistic talents in ceramics, or constructing an algorithm to measure literacy improvement at a local elementary school, our students challenge themselves to bring positive change to our world.

I hope that as you explore these pages, you'll get a sense of the kind of work that our students do every day at Breck.

DR. TROY BAKER
UPPER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Welcome to Upper School. Through hard work, creativity, and collaboration, Breck Upper School empowers each student to grow into curious, engaged, and informed citizens. Breck students are driven by a quest for personal and academic excellence to prepare for college, future careers, and a lifelong commitment to the common good. Our students are inspired by gifted faculty and a caring community who cheers them on as they prepare to take their ideas, strengths, and passion into the world.

BE Signature Programs **EXCEPTIONAL.**

ADVANCED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For those students whose academic passions push them beyond the traditional curriculum, we offer Advanced Research Opportunities in History, Math, and Science. In these selective, post-AP courses, students dive head first into a topic of their choosing, supported by a Breck faculty member as well as a mentor in the community.

Research topic and project examples:

- Re-Examining the JFK Assassination 50 Years Later (History)
- Holding Your Heart in Your Hand: 3D-Printing a Mechanically Accurate Aortic Valve Model (Science)
- Understanding Reconciliation for Indigenous Communities in Canada (History)
- More Than Skin Deep: Deciphering the Role of Bartonella Henselae Infection in Melanoma Metastasis (Science)
- American Refugee Committee: The Role of Mobile Technology in Sudanese Healthcare (Math)
- Where There Is Unity, There Is Victory: Exploring the Greater Benefits of Unified Clubs for Athletes With Disabilities (Math)

Signature Programs (continued)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As Breck strives to instill in each student a deep sense of social responsibility, we push learners to find opportunities to be a part of the larger world. Each Wednesday, the Upper School student body leaves campus to engage in meaningful, ongoing work with one of our over 40 Twin Cities community partners. Whether it's through working with preschoolers at a local Head Start chapter or packing meals for hungry teens, our students build relationships with our partners and learn as much as they serve. We focus on showing students how everyone benefits through strong community relationships.

Community Partnership examples:

- Best Buddies
- Garden for Good
- People Responding in Social Ministry (PRISM)
- Young Writers Workshop
- Wicoie Nandagikendan Dakhóta and Ojibwe Early Childhood Immersion Program.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

Arts engage the whole person and build skills of creativity, self-expression, social interaction, collaboration, and self-discipline. Our abilities to listen, imagine and reason bloom. Upper School courses give students a chance to explore and experiment with multiple forms and media to unlock their own talents and passions.

Performing Arts: From playing classical violin to creating a theater set from the ground up, there are options for everyone to learn, create, and thrive.

Visual Arts: Function and form. Craft and risk. We focus on awareness of media, design, and critical thinking. We also establish a formal foundation across cultural and disciplinary boundaries that offers nuanced context and creative possibility.

SENIOR SPEECH REQUIREMENT

Each week, our Upper School community gathers together to hear speeches from members of our senior class. While these speeches teach focus, confidence, and presentation skills, most importantly, they represent one of the culminating moments of a student's Breck journey. Friends, family, and visitors join us for this long-standing and moving Breck tradition.

Program highlights:

- Every senior student gives a four- to six-minute speech.
- Speeches are a chance for our students to discuss a passion, explore a new idea, or share a meaningful experience or lesson, all while thinking critically about how best to present ideas.
- Speeches are published in a bound book at the end of the year.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

At Breck, we value learning for the sake of learning and emphasize process over mere performance to create thoughtful, mature, young adults ready to make smart decisions about the next steps in their educational careers. Beginning in sophomore year, our three college counselors work with students to foster relationships, to begin to understand their stories, and to begin learning each student's voice, interests, and passions. Our process begins and ends with the student; we apply our expertise to student reflections and add our knowledge with the family's goals, and collectively, we work together to capture the student's unique experience in their own voice.

Curriculum Overview

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ENGLISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Literature AP Language and Composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Literature AP Language and Composition Black American Literature Creative Writing
PERFORMING ARTS	Dance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance Repertory 	Theater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting Technique Theatrical Design: Scenery Theater Production 	Music: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breck Singers Concert Choir Symphonic Winds/Jazz Ensemble String Ensemble 	Music (cont'd.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber Players Music and Film Music Psychology AP Music Theory
VISUAL ARTS	Photography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Design Digital Photo 1-3 Studio Digital Photography I/II and AP Studio Art I 2-D Design I The Portfolio (Photography) 	2-D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Design Drawing & Paint 1-3 Studio Drawing & Painting AP Drawing AP 2-D 	3-D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Design Ceramics 1-3 Studio Ceramics 1-3 AP Ceramics 	
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Health and Performance Physiology	1 semester of Physical Education, OR 3 sports for 2 years OR 2 semesters of dance		
HISTORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern World History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History AP U.S. History 	Year-Long Electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Art History AP European History Advanced History Research (grade 12 only) Semester Electives: Over 20 varying course themes such as Economics, African American Studies, and Modern Chinese History.	
MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry Honors Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra II Honors Trigonometry/Precalculus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Func./Stat./Trig. Precalculus Calculus Math Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Stats Advanced Topics in Mathematics
			Course options follow given sequence	
RELIGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Religions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Religions II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics Bioethics Religious Imagery in Film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Religion Throughout History
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics Advanced Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry AP Chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology AP Biology 	Year-Long Electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics C Advanced Physics Advanced Science Research Semester Electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science Engineering Microbiology Molecular Biology Robotics
Electives available throughout Upper School				
WORLD LANGUAGES	Spanish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish I - VI AP Spanish Language and Culture Spanish VII: Introduction to Hispanic Studies 	French: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> French I - V French VI AP French Language and Culture French VII: Literature and Culture of the Francophone Modern World 	Chinese: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese I - VI Chinese VII: Introduction to Chinese Literature and Culture I 	

Please see the course guide at breckschool.org for more details.

Signature Programs (continued)

MAY PROGRAM

We know that our students thrive when given the chance to create their own meaningful learning experiences. Extending the classroom affords our students the opportunity to learn from our vibrant city. Each year, as a part of our academic curriculum, students participate in May Program. This gives students experiences that prepare them for a purposeful life beyond Breck.

Program highlights:

- Ninth and tenth grade students take on-campus mini courses created by our faculty specifically for May Program. Recent offerings include: 3D-Printing, The Films of Alfred Hitchcock, The Beatles, Photojournalism, Write Your Novel, and Cryptography.
- Eleventh and twelfth grade students engage in off-campus projects that speak to their own passions. Students have interned at business, volunteered with non-profits, or developed their own major initiatives. Recent examples include: building a plane, researching the physics of gymnastics, interning at a marketing firm and major healthcare companies, writing and producing a documentary, working with Habitat for Humanity, and others.
- Juniors and Seniors are also eligible to travel abroad with one of our World Language programs. In recent years students have journeyed to Morocco, China, Spain, France, Columbia, and Panama.

ATHLETICS

We believe Breck's educationally based athletic programs are a continuation of the classroom—our coaches are teachers of their individual disciplines. Our student-athletes learn how to work as a team, demonstrate leadership, learn time management skills, and strive to be mature adults and productive members of society. We also believe that competitive sports contribute significantly to our students' well-being. Athletics assist students to develop self-esteem, respect for others, honesty, responsibility, a sense of justice, and strong ethical values to carry into their future.

Program highlights:

- 27 individual athletics programs
- Expansive 52-acre campus with seven tennis courts, turf practice field, on-campus football stadium with track, two baseball fields, softball field, indoor pool, and ice arena

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Breck students provide an important voice in the leadership of the school and have the opportunity to serve one of six of our student councils. These roles can also be found in one of our many clubs, athletic teams, as well as performing and visual arts.

Leadership Council examples:

- Advocacy Council
- Arts Council
- Athletics Council
- Community Action Council
- Diversity and Inclusion Council
- Integrity Council

See what we're up to on social media:

 breckschool |  @breckschool |  breck_school |  @breckathletics |  breckathletics



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