



Breck

Terms and Traditions



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A Guide to the World of Breck, From A to Z

Abbreviations. LS (Lower School), MS (Middle School), US (Upper School), AS (All School) ASC (All-School Chapel).

Activity Bus (Grades 4-12). Streamlined PM bus route leaving at 5:45 p.m. sharp. Students participating in after-school activities typically ride this route.

Advisory (MS & US). Student groups and the faculty member assigned to them as a formal advocate.

Anderson Gym. Home court for basketball and volleyball and the place for Homecoming coronation, the LS Halloween parade and other events. Named in honor of the family of the late Reuben L. Anderson, lifetime trustee.

Ars Nova (US). Student art and literature magazine.

Assembly (US). US event when students and faculty share news and announcements.

Baccalaureate. Religious ceremony for seniors held in the Chapel on the Sunday night prior to Commencement. Interfaith service based on the Episcopal tradition of Evening Prayer. Guests are welcome.

Back-to-School Night. Opportunity for parents to meet their students' teachers and learn about curriculum. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

BASE. Breck After School Experience. After-school classes for students in grades 1-6 that are filled by parent registration.

BATO BATO! (US). The Breck School marimba band, which plays concerts throughout the school and throughout the Twin Cities.

Blessing of the Animals. Service of songs and blessings for pets and their owners on the

Saturday morning of Homecoming weekend. All are welcome to bring dogs, cats, snakes, goats, caterpillars, horses, stuffed animals, etc.

Blue and Gold Bash. Breck's annual fundraising event whose proceeds are used for important needs, such as enhancements to academic technology. Formerly known as *Applause*.

Board of Trustees. Group responsible for establishing Breck's goals, hiring the head of school, and assuring that the school continues to thrive. Members include parents, alumni, and community leaders.

Board Rooms. Large meeting rooms used by the Board of Trustees, Parents Association, etc. The West Board Room is on the upper level of the LS Library. The East Board Room is on the third level of the Upper School. The Head of School Office schedules their use.

Breck, Rev. James Lloyd. Episcopal missionary after whom the school is named (but who died ten years before its founding).

Bugle (The) (US). Student newspaper.

Bulletin Boards. Weekly informational email sent to all parents and faculty-staff by the Communications office.

Business Office. Responsible for the finances of the school including monthly bills. Located across the hall from the Administrative Office.

C.A.R.E. (Character Always, Respect Every day) (LS). Program designed to teach and reinforce character traits. Monthly themes are introduced in Community Meeting and integrated into classroom lessons and activities.

Campus Store. Place to purchase school supplies, apparel, and books, located near the LS dining room. All purchases are billed on the monthly statement. MS and US students and

parents sign for purchases; LS students may purchase supplies with a note from parents.

Chapel. Regular services in the Chapel include singing, prayers, talks about the spiritual and ethical sides of our lives, and student performances. Parents are always welcome to these interfaith services and can usually find room at the back after children are seated.

Chapel Buddies. Seniors and first graders paired for All-School chapels and activities throughout the year.

Closing Exercises (LS/MS/US). End-of-year program in the Chapel. Parents are encouraged to attend. LS ceremony has musical performances by each grade and presentation of the fourth-grade class. MS ceremony includes songs, awards, and eighth-grade speeches. US Ceremony includes presentation of year-end awards.

College Counseling Office. Directs college testing and events, the student application process and transcript requests.

College Testing (US). Multiple testing days at various sites. Includes ACT for juniors and seniors, PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) for sophomores and juniors, SAT for juniors and seniors and SAT Subject Tests, a battery of selected achievement tests for juniors and seniors. See calendar.

Communion. The ancient sacrament of the Lord's Supper celebrated twice during the year in divisional or All-School Chapels. All are welcome.

Community-Building Events. Parents Association-sponsored gatherings intended to give Breck parents and families the opportunity to get to know one another better and build community.

Conferences. Meetings between parents and teachers or advisors to discuss student progress and register for classes for the next year (US). Some conferences include students.

Convocation. The special and first All-School Chapel of the year.

Cum Laude Dinner (US). Event honoring students (and their parents) in grades 11 & 12 who have achieved a GPA of 3.666 or higher and have been selected by the faculty as possessing exceptional qualities such as leadership.

Dean - Grade Level (US). Handles all concerns related to academic life, scheduling, permanent student records, graduation requirements, student social, extracurricular and disciplinary activities. Deans are assigned by grade until that class graduates.

Directory. Listing of all trustees, faculty and staff, and student family information. Includes names, addresses, phone numbers and emails. Found on the Veracross portal.

Division Directors. Administrators in charge of Lower, Middle and Upper Schools.

Drama/Musicals. LS: programs throughout the year, including the Fourth Grade Performance. MS musical each spring. US Fall drama(s) and winter musical. MS and US productions involve auditions and after-school rehearsals.

Encore. Parent organization providing support to performing arts programs

Faculty Chairs. Honorary recognition of excellence in teaching, endowed by generous donors and held by teachers for a three-year term.

Family Community Service Committee. Parents Association committee that plans and carries out service activities designed for whole-family participation.

Fieldhouse. Multi-purpose gym, running track, training room, locker rooms.

Flik Independent School Dining. Dining services provider for all Breck food and catering needs.

Glass Balcony. Meeting space upstairs from the US Dining Room.

Graduation. US: Commencement ceremony in the Chapel for all seniors who have completed graduation requirements.

Grandparents' Day. An annual tradition. On the day before Thanksgiving, grandparents and other special people are invited to attend school with students. School is dismissed at noon.

Gym B. The small gym located just off Anderson Gym.

Gym C. Located on the hallway just inside the LS entrance.

Handbook. Detailed document containing rules, disciplinary procedures and information for each division. Required reading for all MS and US students and LS parents.

Haupt Cup. Breck's highest honor for a graduating senior. Named for the Rev. Charles Edgar Haupt, who was headmaster from 1917-1938.

Head of School. Leader who oversees all divisions and the overall operation of the school. Office located within the Administrative Office area.

Health Center. Where students go when sick, injured or scheduled to take medication (with written parental permission only). Where parents pick up students who are too sick to be at school. Located just inside the MS School Entrance (Door D).

Highway 100 Lot (US). Permit parking in the lot located by the American Legion near Highway 100. Also known as the "Junior Lot."

Homecoming. All-school community and alumni event with sports, food and activities sponsored by the Breck Alumni Association. Students from all grades and parents are welcome. See also Blessing of the Animals.

Homecoming Dance (US). Dressy dance for students in grades 9-12 held on the Saturday of Homecoming weekend. Dates aren't necessary.

Honors Papers (US). Published collection of exemplary student work.

House System (US). The Upper School is divided into four houses with equal representation from each grade: Haupt, Salas, Whipple and Wilder. Each student is a member of a house for four years. Houses regularly compete for community spirit.

IMAC. Independent Metro Athletic Conference, the conference for most Breck sports.

James Lloyd Breck Society. Recognition for those who plan to leave a legacy to Breck by including the school in their estate plan.

Lifer. Student who has been at Breck since kindergarten or preschool.

Loft. Meeting space on the third level of the Upper School

Main Dining Room. Dining facility for US students, faculty and staff. Located inside the US entrance.

Master Teacher. Breck's highest honor for a faculty member who has shown exceptional leadership and professionalism.

May Program (US). Concentrated time of specialized learning after final exams for the last two weeks of school. Grade 9 & 10 students take mini-courses on campus, some required and some elective. Grade 11 & 12 students choose an off-campus service project, business internship or major project.

Melrose Family Center for Servant Leadership. The physical and programmatic embodiment of Breck's dedication to cultivating future leaders. Located on the first level of the Upper School..

Middle School. Grades five-eight.

Mission. Breck's mission is to create confident learners who lead lives of intellectual curiosity, self-knowledge, and social responsibility.

Mustang. Our mascot and yearbook.

Mustang Lot. Parking lot south of the school on Ottawa Avenue. Some spaces are reserved for faculty, staff and students; many are available for parents and visitors.

Mustang Vacation Program (MVP). Extended care for Lower School students offered on select non-school days.

Mustanger. Varsity athletic award for the athlete who exhibits the best work ethic and embodies what Breck sports should stand for. Selected by team vote.

New Student/New Parent Orientation. An afternoon to help new students and parents get acquainted with the school. Includes an assembly in the Chapel, meeting teachers, locating classrooms, lockers, etc.

Online Store. Place where students check out athletic uniforms, buy sweatshirts and gym uniforms. Link found on breckschool.org.

Values. Breck's values are compassion, excellence, inclusivity, and respect.

Veracross. Breck's student information system and home to student and family records, grades, and schedules, among many other items.

Parent Grade-Level Meetings. Informal gatherings for parents at each grade level to provide curricular or developmental topics of interest.

Parent/Student Athletic Meetings (US, some MS). Meetings held before each sports season (fall, winter, spring) for parents, athletes and coaches. Coaches and teams are introduced and parents get the scoop on practices, plans, etc.

Parents Association. All Breck parents are automatically members of this group that promotes communication, volunteerism and parent education. All parents are welcome at twice yearly general meetings and division-specific meetings. See the calendar or Veracross.

Parking. Numbered parking slots are assigned to faculty, staff and students. Parents are urged not to park in those spaces during the school day. Visitor spaces are marked.

Peter Clark Center for Mind, Brain, and Education. The PCC fuels teaching and learning excellence by bridging research and practice for faculty, students, and parents. Named for a beloved former teacher, administrator, parent of alumni and friend who died in 2012.

Prom (Grades 11 & 12). Semi-formal dance for junior and senior students and their dates. Limousines and extravagant dinners are strongly discouraged.

RMC. Repair and maintenance center for student and faculty laptops, located in the main hallway near the MS media center.

Samuel A. Salas Commons. Front entrance to the school with a fireplace, tables, chairs, chess tables and displays of items from Breck's history. Named for Sam Salas, who served as Breck headmaster from 1987-2007.

Senior buddy. A senior is partnered with a first-grader throughout the year, creating lasting, cross-divisional relationships. First graders sing to their buddies at Baccalaureate.

Senior Lot. Permit parking for seniors across from the tennis courts.

Senior Party. Parent-sponsored all-night, alcohol/drug-free celebration for Breck seniors only, held immediately following graduation. Parents do all the work, keeping details secret. The party is not a Breck-sponsored event.

Senior Pinning. Traditional ceremony held in the spring for seniors and their parents.

Senior Privileges. Allow seniors with parental permission to leave campus during free hours and lunch.

Senior Speeches. Required speeches by each senior on a topic of his/her choice during an US chapel. Parents are encouraged to attend. Visit breckschool.org for a speech calendar.

Senior Weekend. Overnight camp held just before the start of school.

Service Learning. LS & MS: grade-level projects involving community service both inside and outside the school. US: known as the Wednesday program, a program for all US students and faculty that matches students with a service site weekly during the school year. Most commonly referred to as Community Partnerships.

Service Requirement (US). Each US student must complete 20 hours of in-school service. Examples include working at the Special Olympics Tournament or serving as a tour guide during admissions events.

Snow Days (US). Dressy winter dance. Dates aren't necessary.

Staff Appreciation Day. Celebration of faculty and staff included in the May All-School Chapel. Expressions of thanks are coordinated by the Parents Association.

Student Absence Agreement Form. Form required prior to any non-vacation or non-illness absence. Must be completed by students, faculty and parents in order for students to be able to make up work.

Student Advocacy Council (US). Upper School student government, which advocates for students on academic matters and plans, organizes and leads student life and activities.

Student Athletics Council (US). Group that promotes athletics and advises the Athletics department. Typically composed of team captains.

Student Community Action Council (US). Students who advise and support the Upper School service program.

Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (US). Group that explores DEI work at Breck.

Student Integrity Council (US). Student-led group addressing issues and/or infractions related to student behavior.

Student Support Team. Academic and social/emotional support services team for each division that meets weekly.

Summer Programs. Offerings such as Summer Academy for academic support, adventure, sports, culture/ language and arts camps, classes to fulfill the US Physical Education requirement and Red Cross swim lessons.

Today at Breck. Magazine for alumni, parents, grandparents and friends produced two times a year by the Communications office.

Tour de Breck (US). Annual runt bike race to raise student awareness of and participation in the Annual Fund.

Transportation Department. Manages Breck buses and drivers and assigns parking spots and permits. Located directly inside MS entrance.

Trustee Day. Opportunity for the school community to thank the trustees for their service and for the trustees to experience the school through the eyes of the students. Held each spring.

Tutorial Period. MS: Scheduled time for students to study or meet with faculty. US: Non-class time for students when teachers are all available and the media and computer centers are open. Teachers may require review sessions during this time. Students are expected to use this time to ask for help.

Upper School. Grades nine-twelve.

Upper School Office. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and the phone number is 763-381-8210.

Used Book Sale (MS & US). Program to buy back re-usable textbooks in good condition each spring and re-sell them at a discount in the fall, made possible by parent volunteers.

Veracross. Software used by teachers to record attendance and grades. Parent, student, and faculty portals allow personalized information, records management, and more.

Viewpoints. E-newsletter produced by Advancement and sent several times a year to the entire Breck community.

Washington, DC Trip (Grade 6).

Teacher-chaperoned trip to Washington, DC, at the end of the school year. Includes reports done especially in preparation, and celebrates a yearlong study of United States history.

Wigley Award. Annual recognition of excellence in teaching presented to a faculty member during an All-School Chapel in the spring. Named after the late Jean Wigley, grandmother of three Breck alumnae.

Yearbook. Called the *Mustang*, it's produced by US students and covers the entire school. Each year, the students honor a faculty member by dedicating the yearbook to them.

Zero Tolerance. Breck School position on weapons possession. The school will not tolerate the possession of any weapon by any person and will make no exceptions enforcing this policy. See Handbook.