Founded in 1988 and graduating a senior class since 2000, The Bear Creek School has grown to include 881 students in preschool through grade 12. In the fall of 2015, we opened our new 50,000 square-foot Upper School building and Performing Arts Center. The new building has a distinctive collegiate style designed to shape the way students collaborate, build community, and fully invest in the high school experience.

Mission and Values

The mission of The Bear Creek School is to provide a high quality, Christian liberal arts education in a nurturing environment that will enable each student to become the individual God intends.

Curriculum

The Bear Creek School’s curriculum is a rigorous, college preparatory program.

- **Classics**: educating students in logic, philosophy, ethics, rhetoric, and apologetics
- **STEM**: offering ability-based math beginning in elementary school, computer science, engineering, and AP sciences and math
- **Arts**: developing personal expression, creative thinking, imaginative communication, and intellectual curiosity
- **Literature**: focusing on the Great Books
- **Language**: teaching Latin, Spanish, and French beginning in elementary school
- **Athletics**: building character, commitment, teamwork, and good sportsmanship
- **Faith**: integrating a deep knowledge of Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles in their lives

Accreditations

- Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS)
- Cognia

Admission Guidelines

A successful academic record with demonstrated diligence, evidence of the potential to make a positive contribution to the school community, and a desire to live by Christian standards are important admission considerations. Results from the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) or Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT), teacher recommendations, and a personal interview are required.

International Students

The Bear Creek School accepts international students to all grade levels; however, we are no longer issuing the Form I-20 to new non-immigrant F-1 visa students.
The Bear Creek School does not rank students but provides the following distribution from the class of 2024. Grades reflect courses taken through junior year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>#Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.99 – 3.75</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.74 – 3.5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.49 – 3.25</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.24 – 3.00</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.99 – 2.75</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.74 – 2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.49 – 2.25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.24 – 2.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.99 and below</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission to AP classes is not restricted. However, students must petition to take more than two AP courses per year. In 2023–2024, 13 AP classes are offered.

A student who completes an AP course and scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam will receive a one letter step bump (e.g., B to B+ or A- to A) on both semester 1 and semester 2 transcript grades for the particular AP class taken.

For graduation, students must have 4.0 credits in one of the following subjects: math, science, or languages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English/Rhetoric</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Studies</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State History</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts Electives</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Capstone Project</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 27.0 credits minimum

Statistics represent the mean SAT scores achieved by the class of 2023.

Students who received a passing numerical grade in semester 2 of the 2019 – 2020 school year and semester 1 and 2 of the 2020 – 2021 school year were given the option to replace the grade with a pass status. This option was made available because of the challenges students faced due to the school operating remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Course Load
The standard course load is seven classes per semester. The average class size is 15.

Classes Offered

English and Rhetoric
Honors Ancient Literature
Honors Medieval and Renaissance Literature
Honors Enlightenment and American Literature
Honors Senior English Rhetoric
AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition

History
Honors Ancient and World History
Honors United States History
Art History, Culture, and Appreciation
United States Government and Politics
AP European History
AP United States History

Mathematics
Intermediate Algebra
Geometry
Algebra 2
Precalculus
Honors Precalculus
Calculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
Multivariable Calculus

Science
Conceptual Physics
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
Marine Biology
Biomedicine
Engineering
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics 1
AP Environmental Science

Christian Studies
Logic
Christianity and Contemporary Culture
Philosophical Theology
Systematic Theology
Historical Theology

Languages
French I, II, III, IV
Latin II, III, IV, V
Spanish I, II, III, IV

Fine Arts
Graphic Design 1, 2
Photography 1, 2
Advanced Digital Arts
Studio Art 1, 2, 3
Sculpture and Mixed Media
Advanced Studio Art 1, 2
Music Theory
Musical Theater
Pit Orchestra
Film and Animation
New Play Development
Technical Theater
Theater Production
Concert Choir
Mixed Ensemble
Concert Band
Jazz Band
AP Music Theory

Physical Education
Health
Strength Training
Multi-Sport Experience

Electives
Psychology
Introduction to Athletic Medicine
Yearbook Editor
AP Computer Science A

Athletics
Bear Creek has 22 varsity athletics teams which primarily compete in the Emerald Sound Conference.

• Approximately 75% of Upper School students play at least one sport
• 56 conference championships
• 99 team state appearances
• 10 team state championships
• 28 individual state championships

JanTerm
JanTerm is a two week mini-semester during which all Upper School students enroll in four topical seminars. Approximately 75 classes are offered annually. Some courses offered have been:

• Me Like Fire! The Art and Science of Grilling
• Experiencing Opera: Cosi Fan Tutte by Mozart
• Chocolate: The Golden Ticket
• Custom Boardgaming Design
• Information Technology in the Modern World
• Reading Blind: Beginning Braille
• The Craftsmanship of Hand Lettering
• Video Game Design
• Urban Sketching

Community Service
Community service is an integral part of our school values. All Upper School students complete a minimum of 75 hours of community service by the end of their senior year.

Disciplinary Consequences
Bear Creek will provide information on student disciplinary action involving suspension and expulsion to those colleges that request disclosure.

Senior Capstone Project
All seniors are required to develop and present a senior project prior to graduation. Projects are approved by a faculty advisor and evaluated by a panel of faculty and administrators. Recent senior projects include:

• Reshaping Sign Language for Worship Music
• The Thrill of Storm Chasing
• Composing Music to Reflect a Personal Story
• Learning to Blacksmith and Forging a Family Heirloom
• The Spiritual Journey of Running a Marathon

Invested in students. Intentional in outcome.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Bear Creek School went fully remote in March 2020. During remote learning, class expectations, learning objectives, and rigor was maintained using the OWL cameras, Surface laptops, Teams, and OneNote. For the 2020 – 2021 school year, Bear Creek implemented a Step Start plan which allowed students to gradually return to campus beginning one day per week and increasing to five throughout the fall based on COVID-19 protocols and data trends. Students also had the option to remain hybrid or fully remote for the 2020 – 2021 school year. For the 2021 – 2022 school year, with a few exceptions, all students returned to campus full-time.

Our graduating class was impacted by a few other changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic protocols. We reduced our typical 100 hours of community service requirement to 75 hours. Athletics was paused for spring 2020 and much of fall 2021, although some of our teams were able to practice following health and safety guidelines. Performing arts continued, however, with modified practices and performances. House, clubs, and Chapel all continued but in a virtual and then hybrid setting. Bear Creek worked hard to maintain academic rigor and community support while also acknowledging the impact of the pandemic upon students and the community.

COLLEGE CHOICES

Our graduates have been accepted to the following colleges: (Not a complete list)

- American University
- Amherst College
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Babson College
- Barnard College
- Bates College
- Baylor University
- Belmont University
- Biola University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Butler University
- Bryn Mawr College
- California Baptist University
- California Lutheran University
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Calvin College
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Chapman University
- Claremont McKenna College
- Clark University
- Clemson University
- Colgate University
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of William and Mary
- Colorado College
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- Connecticut College
- Corban University
- Cornell University
- Covenant College
- Creighton University
- Dartmouth College
- Davidson College
- DePauw University
- DigiPen Institute of Technology
- Dordt College
- Drexel University
- Duke University
- Durham University
- Eastern Washington University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- Furman University
- George Fox University
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gettysburg College
- Gonzaga University
- Grand Canyon University
- Grinnell College
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University
- Harvey Mudd College
- Haverford College
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kenyon College
- King’s College London
- Knox College
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- Liberty University
- Linfield College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Middlebury College
- Mills College
- Montana State University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Occidental College
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Parsons School of Design
- Pepperdine University
- Pitzer College
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Pratt Institute
- Princeton University
- Providence College
- Purdue University
- Quest University Canada
- Reed College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rhodes College
- Rice University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Santa Clara University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Scripps College
- Skidmore College
- Stanford University
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University
- The Juilliard School
- The Master’s University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Montana
- The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Trinity College
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- United States Military Academy Westpoint
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Arizona
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Cambridge
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Hawaii
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oxford
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of St Andrews
- University of the Pacific
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Waterloo
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Villanova University
- Wake Forest University
- Washington State University
- Wesleyan University
- Wheaton College
- Whitman College
- Willamette University
- Williams College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Yale University