



THE  
BEAR CREEK  
SCHOOL



## 2023 – 2024 SCHOOL PROFILE

### Patrick Carruth

President and Headmaster

### Katie Gomulkiewicz

Dean of College and Academic Advising

kgomulkiewicz@tbc.org

Phone 425.898.1720 ext. 533

### CEEB/ACT Code: 481592

College Advising Office

8525 208th Avenue NE

Redmond, WA 98053

www.tbc.org

### Enrollment 2023 – 2024

Preschool – Grade 12: 882

Upper School Enrollment: 231

Senior Class: 50

Student-to-teacher ratio: 8 to 1

Typical class size is 18

### Faculty

Upper School Faculty: 30

Middle School and Upper School

Faculty with advanced degrees: 74%

### Honors and Recognition

Bear Creek is a 2014 National Blue Ribbon

School of Excellence



Recognized as Best Private High School  
by 425 Magazine in 2022 and 2023

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.

## Ranking Policy

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.

| GPA            | #Students |
|----------------|-----------|
| 4.00           | 6         |
| 3.99 – 3.75    | 26        |
| 3.74 – 3.5     | 9         |
| 3.49 – 3.25    | 5         |
| 3.24 – 3.00    | 2         |
| 2.99 – 2.75    | 2         |
| 2.74 – 2.5     | 0         |
| 2.49 – 2.25    | 0         |
| 2.24 – 2.00    | 0         |
| 1.99 and below | 0         |

## Graduation Requirements

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| English/Rhetoric         | 4.5 |
| History                  | 4.0 |
| Mathematics              | 3.0 |
| Science                  | 3.0 |
| Christian Studies        | 3.0 |
| World Language           | 3.0 |
| Physical Education       | 1.5 |
| Health                   | 0.5 |
| Washington State History | 0.5 |
| General Electives        | 1.5 |
| Fine Arts Electives      | 1.0 |
| Senior Capstone Project  | 0.5 |

### Total 27.0 credits minimum

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

## Grading Scale

Course grades are not weighted. Only grades earned at The Bear Creek School are included in the GPA calculation.

| GPA | Percent  | Grade |
|-----|----------|-------|
| 4.0 | 100 – 94 | A     |
| 3.7 | 93 – 90  | A-    |
| 3.3 | 89 – 87  | B+    |
| 3.0 | 86 – 83  | B     |
| 2.7 | 82 – 80  | B-    |
| 2.3 | 79 – 77  | C+    |
| 2.0 | 76 – 73  | C     |
| 1.7 | 72 – 70  | C-    |
| 1.3 | 69 – 67  | D+    |
| 1.0 | 66 – 60  | D     |

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.

## Academic Recognition

Annually, students are recognized for their academic achievements.

**Headmaster's List:** 3.75 – 4.0 GPA

**Dean's List:** 3.5 – 3.74 GPA

## Advanced Placement Program

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.

|                                   |     |                              |    |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|----|
| <b>AP Students Tested in 2023</b> | 150 |                              |    |
| <b>AP Exams Taken</b>             | 317 | <b>AP Scholar Report</b>     |    |
| % scoring 3 or higher             | 87% | AP Scholars with Distinction | 38 |
| % scoring 4 or higher             | 66% | AP Scholars with Honors      | 15 |
| % scoring 5                       | 32% | AP Scholars                  | 27 |

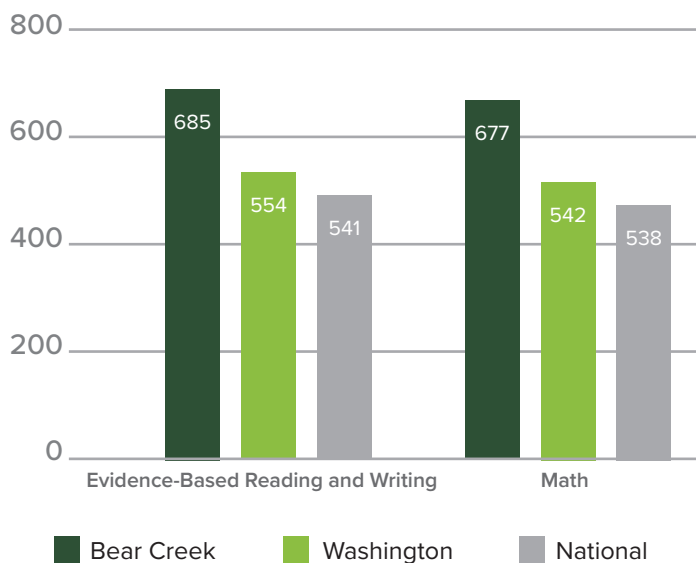
A student who completes an AP course and scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam will receive a one letter step bump (e.g., B to B+ or A- to A) on both semester 1 and semester 2 transcript grades for the particular AP class taken.

## National Merit Recognition

|               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>11%</b>    | <b>12%</b>    | <b>22%</b>    |
| Class of 2022 | Class of 2023 | Class of 2024 |

## SAT Performance

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



## 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 European 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

### House System

In 2017, Bear Creek launched a House System. Students and faculty are divided amongst five Houses. Throughout the year, these five Houses compete against each other for points which have the potential to earn their House various rewards. The goal of the House System is to provide an opportunity for students

and faculty to interact across grade levels to exemplify virtue, build a sense of Christian community, and serve each other and the world through their unique gifts.

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