



From our campus to the wilderness, we inspire students to think critically, engage confidently, embrace challenges, and lead impactful, purposeful lives.



SCHOOL PROFILE

Sun Valley Community School was founded in 1973 to provide students with an outstanding independent education. We enroll students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Our standard-setting academic program together with creative arts and athletic programming and a renowned Outdoor Program, instills confidence, self-reliance, teamwork skills, and leadership qualities. We encourage students to pursue their passions actively, whether on the stage, the field, the slopes, or in the classroom or wilderness. Special Programs include the Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA), Sun Valley Ski Academy (SVSA), and Creative Arts Academy (CAA). A thriving Residential Program, founded in 2011, attracts mission-aligned students from around the nation and the world.

OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

- + 427 students, Pre-K-12th Grade on one campus
- + 186 Upper School students
- + Five Pillars: Academics, Outdoors, Arts, Service, Athletics
- + No AP classes; academic rigor increased by pursuing Honors
- + Weighted 4.0 GPA scale; we do not rank
- + Three Signature Academies: Ski, Outdoor Leadership + Creative Arts

OUR RURAL COMMUNITY

Our school is located in Sun Valley, Idaho, home to a world-renowned ski resort and a popular gateway to many outdoor adventures. Sun Valley, a mountain town of 1,350 residents, is one of the municipalities in Blaine County, which has a total population of about 25,000. Because Sun Valley is a destination resort, the surrounding communities offer many cultural opportunities that one would expect to find in more urban areas. South Central Idaho, where Sun Valley is located, is surrounded by rural farming communities, and the nearest metropolitan area, Boise, is 2.5 hours away.

UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY

The Upper School faculty consists of 27 full and part-time teachers, just over 50% of whom hold advanced degrees. Our student-to-faculty ratio of seven to one permits both a personalized and intimate classroom atmosphere and an academic program that supports a range of learners.



2024 2025

ACADEMIC TERMS + COURSE LOAD

We divide our curriculum into four terms. Students are required to take six courses during the fall, winter and spring terms. During the summer term, students can take up to three courses. The summer term gives our competitive winter athletes and other students the ability to design their coursework so that they may compete and travel without compromising the quality and rigor of their academic experience. Additionally, students may elect to increase rigor by pursuing additional academic work in their core courses. Successful completion of this work earns honors credit. We do not offer AP courses. During the second and third terms of their senior year, students may reduce their course load to five courses.

Athletics: Sports include soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, track, and mountain biking. A significant number of students also compete for the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation's alpine, cross country, freeski, big mountain, and snowboarding teams. Individual students compete in figure skating, ice hockey, lacrosse, football, equestrian events, and more.

Outdoor Program: Our Outdoor Program is one of the most comprehensive outdoor programs in the country and is an integral part of our curriculum. The program provides transformative outdoor experiences each academic term for all students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Senior Projects - Spring Term: Eligible seniors may elect to undertake a Senior Project in lieu of spring term classes. This is an opportunity to create and carry out a capstone intellectual experience that synthesizes the essential skills developed through the school's programs. Projects are pass/fail and earn an entire Spring Term's worth of course credits (2).

ACADEMIES

Sun Valley Community School's academy programs offer students the chance to pursue their passions in-depth while still participating in the school's college prep program.

Creative Arts Academy (CAA): Students focus on one of three disciplines: Drama, Visual Arts, or Music. The curriculum combines pre-professional training in the arts with the school's comprehensive academic program. CAA students will develop a portfolio of their work.

Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA): Students develop leadership skills and a love and respect for wild places. Students earn outdoor certifications and develop the outdoor skills needed to lead outdoor trips. Students focus on a number of disciplines including Mountain and Rock, River, Backcountry Winter Travel, or Wilderness Travel.

Sun Valley Ski Academy: Our partnership with the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation offers promising athletes access to world-class coaching, training, and competition, combined with our school's excellent college preparatory program. We have a long history of placing winter athletes at their best-fit colleges around the world.

college matriculation

100 percent of Sun Valley Community School students who apply are accepted for admission to college. Between 2023 and 2024, Sun Valley Community School graduates matriculated at the following colleges and universities.

Bates College
Boston College
Bucknell University
Calif. Polytechnic State Univ., SLO
Chapman University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Dartmouth College
Elon University
George Washington University
Gonzaga University
Ithaca College
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University, Maryland
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Montana State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Princeton University
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College

Southern Methodist University
St. Lawrence University
Stanford University
Tulane University
Univ. of Arizona
Univ. of British Columbia
Univ. of California, San Diego
Univ. of California, Santa Barbara
Univ. of Colorado, Boulder
Univ. of Denver
Univ. of Michigan
Univ. of Nevada, Reno
Univ. of New Hampshire
Univ. of Richmond
Univ. of Southern California
Univ. of St Andrews
Univ. of Utah
Univ. of Virginia
Univ. of Washington
Villanova University
Western Washington University
Whitman College
Willamette University
Yale University



HISTORICAL PROFILE • 2021-2024

AVERAGE GPA SENIOR YEAR		SAT MEAN SCORES		ACT MEAN COMPOSITE SCORES	
2024	3.75	2024	1205	2024	
2023	3.67	2023	1193	2023	
2022	3.84	2022	1266	2022	28
2021	3.61	2021	1213	2021	28

CLASS OF 2025 PROFILE • TOTAL CLASS SIZE 48

CUMULATIVE GPA JUNIOR YEAR		SAT MEAN SCORES JUNIOR YEAR, FIRST ROUND (27 STUDENTS):	
4.23-4.15	Quintile 1	ERBW	630
4.14-4.00	Quintile 2	MATH	604
3.97-3.87	Quintile 3	TOTAL	1234
3.86-3.63	Quintile 4		
3.53-3.08	Quintile 5		

GRADING SYSTEM

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

- ✦ Honors grades have a 0.33 GPA weight
- ✦ We do not offer AP courses
- ✦ We do not rank our students
- ✦ Only SVCS grades are included on our transcript and in our GPA

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English (grades 9-12)	12 terms
Social Studies	9 terms
Mathematics	9 terms
Science (grades 9-11)	9 terms
World Language	9 terms in one language or 6 terms in one and 6 terms in another
Creative Arts	3 terms
Research Methodology and Thesis	1 term
Writing Across the Curriculum	1 term
Computer Science	1 term

9 additional terms of:
Social Science, Mathematics, World Language, or Science;
up to three terms from a single department

7 additional terms of elective courses

If a senior elects to undertake a Senior Project, the successful completion of that project becomes a graduation requirement.

CO-CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Eight seasons of after-school activities: four or more activities directly linked to school program offerings or outside co-curriculars approved by our Upper School Head or Athletic Director.

Presentation of a Senior Speech at assembly.

Satisfactory participation in the school's Outdoor Program: all outdoor trips or make-up trips, as approved by the Outdoor Program Directors, must be completed.

Two hours of community service per year.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

HEAD OF SCHOOL
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