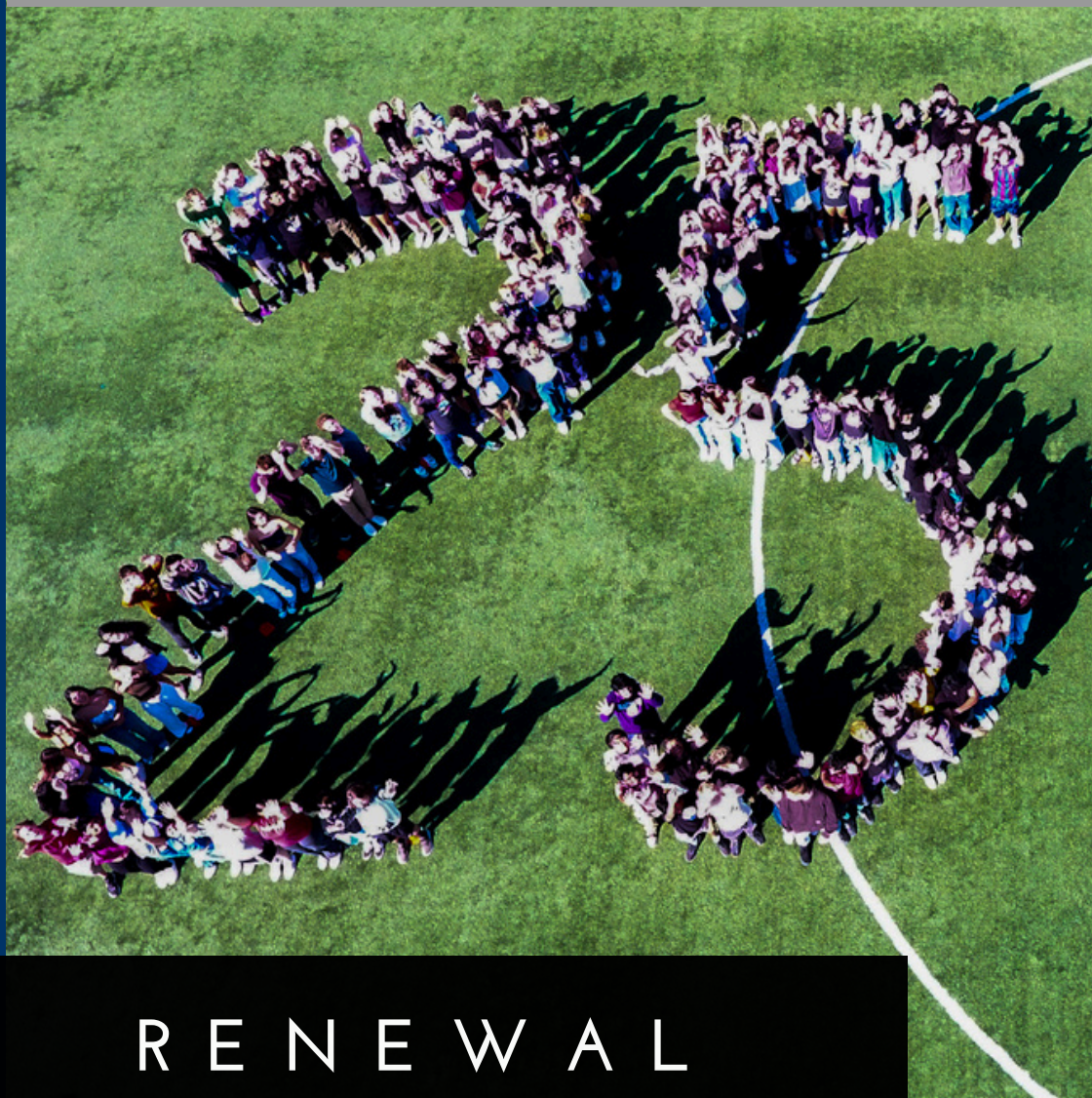


PIQUED

/ˈpēkt/ (verb)
to excite interest
or curiosity, to
arouse an
emotion or
provoke to action

THE PEAK TO PEAK ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 | DECEMBER 2024



RENEWAL

Honoring the legacy of a quarter-century of exceptional education but also a time to reflect on the successes of our students and alumni who embody the values of resilience, innovation, and community.

In This Issue:

- Ways you can engage with our Community
- Mr. Schaefer & Ms. Bertarelli's Reflections
- Record Breaking Athletics
- Images from Across Campus

A MESSAGE ABOUT

Renewal

HELLO PEAK TO PEAK ALUMNI!



As we embark on this exciting school year, I am delighted to share our theme of renewal. This theme resonates with our school community as we commemorate 25 years of achievement at Peak to Peak and envision a bright and promising future.

Charter Renewal: Reflecting and Evolving

A significant way renewal is taking shape this year is through our charter renewal process with the Boulder Valley School District. This rigorous and comprehensive process, culminating in a new contract for the years ahead, compels us to reflect on our systems, programs, and practices. It allows us to celebrate areas of strength while thoughtfully identifying opportunities for growth and refinement. Far from being a mere administrative requirement, charter renewal represents a valuable opportunity to align our work with our mission and vision, ensuring that Peak to Peak continues to deliver the exceptional education for which we are renowned.

Campus Transformation: A New Performing Arts Center

Renewal is not confined to our contract alone. If you have the chance to visit campus, you will witness the exciting renovations currently underway, including the construction of a performing arts center. When completed, this state-of-the-art facility will accommodate an entire school level of students, offering a vibrant space for performances, assemblies, and community events. This project underscores our dedication to enriching the student experience and integrating the arts as a vital component of education at Peak to Peak.

Join Us in Celebration

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating this moment of reflection and renewal—an opportunity to honor 25 years of success while looking forward to the chapters yet to be written. Whether you visit campus, attend an event, or simply connect with us from afar, your ongoing engagement strengthens our community and enhances the legacy of Peak to Peak.

Here's to *renewal*—of our charter, our campus, and our shared commitment to educational excellence. Thank you for being an integral part of the Peak to Peak journey.

Warm regards,

Jennifer A. Klein

Executive Director of Education

Peak to Peak Charter School

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY



Above Left: Clara Wright (Class of 2028) and Hadley Wright (Class of 2031) went to the USA Volleyball Nationals with their teams this summer. Hadley's team was the only Colorado 11U team to qualify and earned 13th place in the nation.

Above Center: Sophie Walker and Prisha Jain (both Class of 2028) represented Peak to Peak's Builders Club (our Middle School Service Leadership Club) at this year's Kiwanis International Convention. Peak to Peak's club was asked to represent the entire Rocky Mountain District at this International event based on its exemplary service leadership program. As representatives, they were asked to speak of their commitment to service leadership in front of a large audience of Kiwanians from around the world.

Above Right: Sophia Banjo (Class of 2028) and Ethan Soesilo (Class of 2030) qualified to represent Team Colorado at the 2024 Western Zones swimming championships in Boise, Idaho.

Right: Peak to Peak middle school girls came out in force to attend the Innovate and Inspire Robotics Camp hosted by FIRST Colorado and Google. They spent the weekend of September 21st at the Google campus in Boulder, learning how the engineering design process works by designing, building, and programming LEGO robotics. They worked directly with industry professionals who were not only their workshop mentors, but shared what a career in STEM is like.



Above: Noa Carmelli (Class of 2030) organizes monthly volunteering for teens in her community at Community Food Share in Louisville. Noa and the group she organizes have helped rescue thousands of pounds of food from landfills to feed families!



Above: Olin Harrison Anguiano (Class of 2025) presented at the United Nations this summer alongside Ollin Farms and in partnership with CU Denver. The topic was centered on the importance of Indigenous practices and regenerative farming in the modern era.

You can read more about Olin's presentation in this article from CU Denver: [Families, Climate Change, and Social Justice](#)



Above: Nine Peak to Peak students competed on the Monarch Mountain Biking Team this year. This was the first time Peak had enough students riding to score as its own team! Kyson Webb and Wes Hruska (Both Class of 2028) qualified and went on to race in the Colorado High School Mountain Biking State Championships!

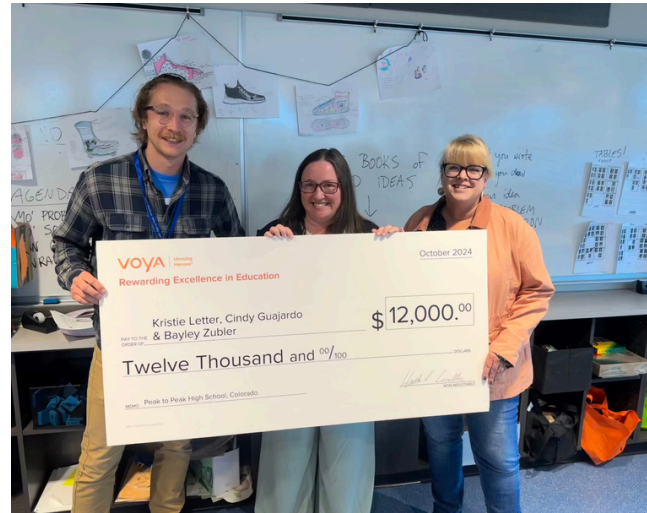
Pictured above: Grant Johnson (Class of 2028), Kyson Webb (Class of 2028), Quentin Bona (Class of 2025), Wes Hruska (Class of 2028), Will Fischer (Class of 2027), Phillip Fischer (Class of 2025), and Calvin Johnson (Class of 2025). Not Pictured: Soren Dumond & Cohen Hamilton (Both Class of 2027).



Above: 10 Peak to Peak String Players represented Peak to Peak at BVSD's District Honors Orchestra. Special recognition is due to Vix Douglass (Class of 2025) who sat Principal Bass and Kavi Gokula Giridaran (Class of 2026) who sat Co-Principal Second Violin.

Left to right in photo: Kavi Gokula Giridaran (Class of 2026), Axel Rudolph (Class of 2026), Meredith Seiler (Class of 2025), Pranavi Mantha (Class of 2026), Vix Douglass (Class of 2025), Elliott Graves (Class of 2025), Katherine Zerwekh Reardon (Class of 2027), Tyler Li (Class of 2026), and Julianne Chirakattu (Class of 2027).

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY



Above: Nine athletes competed in the NXR Regional Cross Country Meet in Phoenix, Arizona, and each one achieved their personal best times. Jack Cerullo (Class of 2025) had an outstanding performance, finishing second in the region and setting a new school record for the 5K with an impressive time of 15 minutes, 34 seconds.

Above: Colorado Art Education Association (CAEA), Colorado's professional association for art educators, recently selected our very own Heather Bertarelli, High School Art Teacher, as the Colorado High School Art Teacher of the Year. We could not be more proud of Ms. Bertarelli and all that she's done to share her love and knowledge of the arts with our students over the past 15+ years.

Pictured above from top left: Bennett Ross (Class of 2025), Jack Cerullo, Emory Vazquez (Class of 2025), Isaac Cao (Class of 2027), Skye Williams (Class of 2026), Olin Harrison Anguiano (Class of 2025), Chris DiMaio (Class of 2028), Pierce Ross (Class of 2027), and Alden Bradley (Class of 2027).



Above: After a year of hard work & perseverance, Austin Ringgold (Class of 2026) established Peak to Peak's first-ever Red Cross Club. This club has quickly grown to 60+ members and has gained tremendous momentum. Their first event, a blood drive on October 22nd, attracted 47 donors, exceeding the Red Cross' expectations and significantly contributing to local blood supply efforts.

Above left: Bayley Zubler (Physics), Kristie Letter (Innovation), and Cindy Guajardo (former Art teacher) were the second-place winners of the 2024 Voya Unsung Heroes nationwide awards competition and were surprised with a grant check for \$12,000. The trio worked together last year on the "Tech-Enabled Teaching Forest" project to inspire students to become changemakers to solve environmental issues in Colorado.



Above right: The Model UN team sent 13 delegates to the Valor Christian Conference this fall. Kavi Gokula Giridaran (Class of 2026) won Best Delegate. Kashyap Bista and Jonah Antman (Both Class of 2027) won Stand-Out Delegates, and Windan Palmer (Class of 2028) won Best Position Paper.



Abvove: Stella Corzine (Class of 2025) was the 2024 Youth Speaker at the Youth Climate Action Event hosted by the Sustainable Living Association in Fort Collins last weekend. She discussed her experience with climate activism and the importance of promoting climate literacy in education.



Above: Several Peak to Peak students presented at the Climate Resilience Summit held at Monarch High School. They spoke about our schoolwide science experiment using mycelium to improve soil, the 60+ trees we've planted in the last year in front of the baseball field, and how we've partnered with the community to empower teenagers for climate resilience.

You can read more about Ms. Bertarelli's award, and her contributions to the Peak to Peak art program, on the [CAEA Award Winners page](#).

Below: Ms. Bertarelli's family celebrated her CAEA Award at a high school assembly. Ms. Bertarelli said, "This is an incredible honor. I am truly honored and humbled by the recognition. I share this award with all of my current and former students. I wouldn't be here without an exceptionally driven crew of creatives."



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2025

1/8 Board of Directors Meeting
1/22 Board of Directors Meeting

February 2025

2/5 Board of Directors Meeting
2/6-2/8 Middle School Theatre Production

March 2025

3/8 Peak Gala & Auction
3/12 Board of Directors Meeting

April 2025

4/2 Board of Directors Meeting
4/16 Board of Directors Meeting
4/21 Choir Concert
4/24-4/26 High School Theatre Production
4/28 Orchestra Concert
4/29 Band Concert

May 2025

5/16 Graduation
5/30 Class of 2015 10 year Reunion

View the full [events calendar](#) and [athletics calendar](#).

We invite you to be a part of Piqued by submitting your own updates or nominating fellow alumni whose stories deserve to be told!

Share your Story:

Your experiences and accomplishments are inspiring and serve as motivation for current students and alumni.

Nominate a Classmate:

Is there a classmate whose achievements have particularly impressed you? We encourage you to nominate them for our Alumni Spotlight! By doing so, you help us recognize and celebrate the diverse and impactful contributions of our alumni.

To be featured, fill out the [Alumni form](#).



Speech & Debate



The 2024-25 Peak to Peak Speech and Debate team wrapped up their Novice Season sending a total of 41 Novice competitors to 3 tournaments and 1 online scrimmage. The Varsity Season began on November 2 and goes into the spring semester.



Peak to Peak now recognizes Speech and Debate as the National Forensics League (NFL) Honor Society!

Speech and Debate has a particularly rich and long competition season: we compete in CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) tournaments, including 4A State; the NSDA (National Speech & Debate Association) District Qualifiers and Nationals; NIETOC (National Individual Events Tournament of Champions) and TOC tournaments; and national tournaments such as the Cal Invitational at UC Berkeley. Within NSDA, Peak to Peak is a member of the Rocky Mountain North District.

It can be a lot to mentally organize, but the main points of the season are CHSAA's Novice (Sept.-Oct.) and Varsity (Nov.-Feb.) seasons and NSDA's qualifying season, which runs concurrent with CHSAA but ends in March with our District National Qualifying Tournament, where students compete to represent our district at the NSDA National Tournament in June, 2025. Many tournaments will be both CHSAA and NSDA or NIETOC competitions.

Students earn NSDA points for competing. A minimum of 25 NSDA points are required to be eligible to compete at the District Qualifying Tournament in March. Additionally, NSDA points count toward a student's induction into NSDA's Honor Society.

Most tournaments run all day on Saturdays; during the Varsity season, this will include three preliminary rounds, with semifinals and finals rounds after. Making it out of the preliminary rounds is called "breaking." Student receive ballots for each round, with feedback from their judge(s) and a "Reason for Decision" (RFD) to explain how the judge arrived at their decision.

Alumni Volunteers Needed

The team relies on volunteers for judging at tournaments and we would love to have alumni help! If you are interested, please email SJ Young at seonjoon.young@bvsd.org. Judges are specifically needed February 21-22 for the State Tournament in Pueblo.

Faculty Spotlight

Kurt and Bert through the Ages

Since 2013, high school science teacher Kurt Schaefer and creative and visual arts teacher Heather Bertarelli have been traveling the world together with their students, from New York to Italy and beyond!

Your journey at Peak to Peak has spanned many years. Can you share how long you've been part of this community and the courses you've taught during your time here?

Kurt: I'm now in my 21st year at Peak to Peak, which is so hard to believe! I've taught every flavor of chemistry, including the Kitchen Chemistry elective I started several years ago for upperclassmen who are interested in the intersection of science and food.

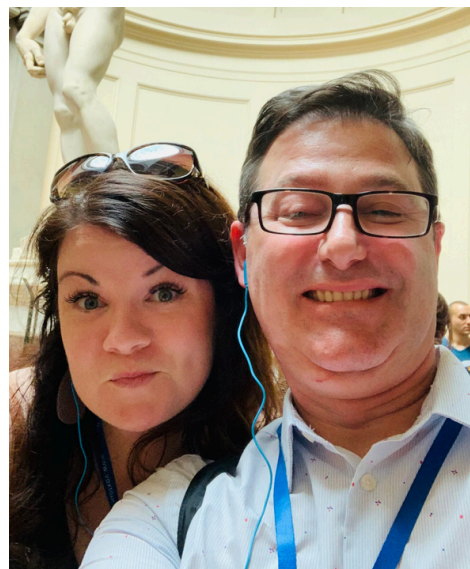


Heather: I'm in year 18 and have taught a plethora of amazing visual arts courses- from digital art and photography to AP Art History and AP Studio Art. I've been the Yearbook advisor, coached middle school volleyball, and helped run Student Council. I truly love being involved in our incredible community and I am thankful for the opportunities to teach diverse visual and creative arts courses.

Reflecting on your early days at Peak to Peak, how have you seen the school and its students evolve over time? What stands out most about the growth and renewal of the community?

Kurt: I feel that our efforts to provide experiential learning opportunities within the academic year via our Peak Week courses has shown our students that learning can extend far beyond classroom walls.

Heather: I completely agree with Kurt (and usually do!) Peak Week is such an exciting development, because it allows all students to experience incredible learning opportunities on our campus and beyond! Mr. Schaefer and I are both really looking forward to spending Peak Week in New York City on an arts focused trip in March 2025- we will see two Broadway shows and explore art museums and galleries!



You've guided students on many enriching adventures. What's the secret to a successful student trip?

Heather: Mr. Schaefer and I have traveled together with students since 2013! We have traveled to Italy and New York City with students the most. We always do our best to plan a meaningful and super-active itinerary for these trips. We have found that walking and exploring tons during the day leads to calmer evenings.

What are some of the most memorable experiences from your student trips?

Kurt and Heather: There are so many! Marveling at Botticelli's Birth of Venus and DaVinci's Annunciation with students in a near-empty Uffizi Gallery in Florence, riding bikes along the ancient Appian Way outside of Rome with students (while almost getting run down by a herd of sheep crossing our path), taking students to their first Broadway show in New York, the list goes on!

Having dedicated 18 and 21 years to this community, what has inspired you to stay, and what do you think makes Peak to Peak a place of continual renewal and excellence?

Kurt: For me, it's undoubtedly the students. I love how, without fail, Peak to Peak students are willing to hop on my "Genius Train" each August without knowing me or where the journey will take them. Their trust in me and in my colleagues, as well as their genuine curiosity, are the reason I've stayed teaching as long as I have.



What message would you like to leave for our alumni?

Heather: Embrace your creativity always and if you're feeling down, seek opportunities to help and serve others. Oh and art can be your answer! Also, thank you to all of the students who have chosen to travel with Mr. Schaefer and I, we cherish the memories with all of you!



Images from Across Campus



Celebration: Puma Prowl

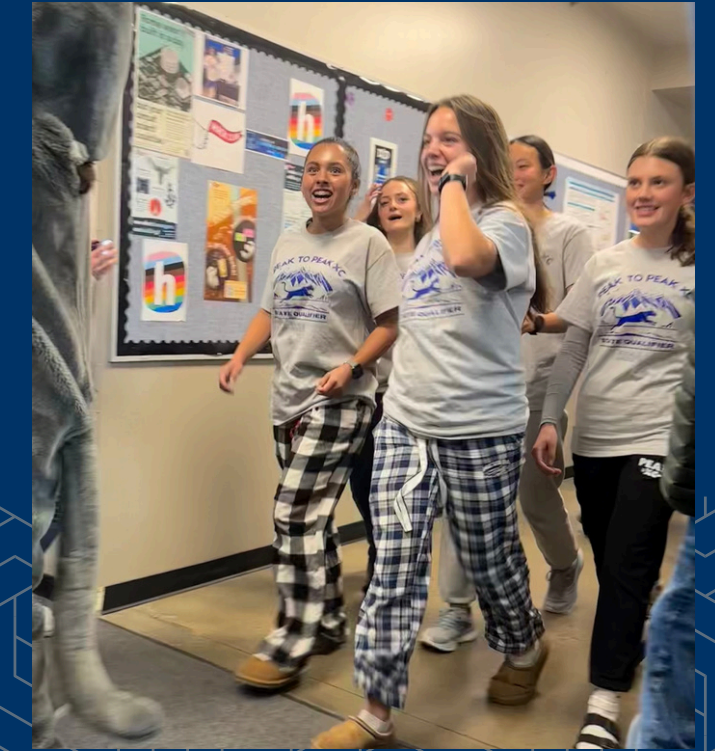


The Puma Prowl is an exciting new Peak to Peak tradition that celebrates our athletic teams heading to state competitions.

For the Puma Prowl, the entire student body, staff, and families line the hallways, creating a tunnel of cheer and applause. Led by our mascot, Pete the Puma, the state-bound student athletes proudly walk through the hall, soaking in the energy and support from their community.

We have celebrated Boys' Golf, Boys' Tennis, Girls' and Boys' Cross Country, Boys' Soccer, and Girls' Volleyball this fall.

We can't wait to honor more students with future Puma Prowls!



Homecoming Tailgate

This year's Homecoming Tailgate drew more than 20 alumni back to campus for an evening of school spirit, nostalgia, and celebration.

Highlights of the event included a celebration of Pete the Puma's birthday, the annual Puma Bowl flag football game, and activities enjoyed by our entire community. The Class of 2025 (Seniors) took the win in the Puma Bowl.



Philanthropy: Sponsor a Seat

As we celebrate 25 years at Peak to Peak, we're thrilled to announce the construction of a new arts center on our campus. To help cover the costs of enhanced lighting and sound, we invite our supporters to "sponsor" a seat in this exciting new community space.



A *minimum* seat plaque sponsorship at \$250 per seat is gratefully requested.

A donation of \$350 will cover Peak to Peak's total cost per seat.

[Learn more about this giving opportunity.](#)

PUMA ATHLETIC UPDATES

Girls Volleyball



Our Varsity Volleyball team dominated as champions for a winning season both in the 3A/2A Metro League and as Regional Champs. Their journey took them to State for the first time in school history, with a double elimination, two-day event with a loss on day one to Sterling and a loss on day two to Resurrection Christian. They dug deep and won a set against last year's champs and broke school single-season team stat records for Assists, Service Aces, and Kills. Alex Eschmeyer, Sydney Lewis, Lhadze Olsen, (All Class of 2025) and Clara Wright (Class of 2028) were all named to Metro League Teams and Alex broke her school career records in Kills and Blocks.



Boys Soccer



The Boys Soccer team's remarkable season came to a heart-stopping finale on November 13th, as they were narrowly defeated by Jefferson Academy in the 3A state semi-finals. Despite the loss, the team finished with an impressive 11-3-4 record, solidifying their status as a powerhouse in high school soccer. The success was felt at every level of the program, from the C team to JV to varsity, where the sound of the ball hitting the back of the opponents goal became commonplace. Special recognition goes to Tyler Holman (Class of 2025) and Micah Thengvall (Class of 2026) for earning First Team All-State. A heartfelt thank you to all the seniors whose dedication over the past four years elevated the program to new heights. As we bid farewell to another unforgettable season, we will miss the sight of the sun setting over the turf field, the crisp autumn air, and the unmatched thrill of Puma soccer.

-Contributed by Fritz Weber (Class of 2025)



Cross Country



Jack Cerullo (Class of 2025), pictured below, won the 3A Regional Championship. The Boys Team took 2nd place overall, and the Girls Team took 3rd.



Boys Tennis



Golf



Golf finished 5th at the 3A State Tournament. Jack Brayman (Class of 2026) placed third overall.

Softball



Girls Basketball



The Girls Basketball team took first place in the 2024 Demon Invitational Basketball Tournament in Glenwood Springs in mid December.

College Signing



Peak to Peak held a signing day for senior Alexandra Eschmeyer, who committed to Stanford University for women's basketball. Alex has been the highest-scoring center throughout Peak to Peak's history. She has flourished to international championships such as the Basketball World Cup.

Coach at Peak to Peak!

What better way to stay connected to the Peak to Peak athletic community than to be part of the team? We are continuously seeking coaches at all levels to help promote the values of responsibility, respect, cooperation, kindness, self-control, honesty, perseverance, integrity, and excellence while reaching each individual's highest potential in athletics.

We love to have alumni come back and give to our student-athletes in this impactful way, so check out the current openings on our website at peaktopeak.org/careers.



Alumni Updates

Class of 2006

Jerry Chen

Current City: Sterling Heights, MI
Graduations: BS Cybersecurity
Current Job: Chief Customer Service Engineer, Bosch
Marriage: Ericka Chen, 2011
Children: Evelyn, 2015; Nathan, 2017

Class of 2009

Kylie (Frantz) Cin

Current City: Beaverton, OR
Graduations: BA, International Relations, Drake University, 2013; JD, Law, Drake Law School/University of Denver, 2017
Current Job: Associate Attorney, Ridehalgh and Associates, LLC

Class of 2013

Maya Heins

Graduations: BA, International Affairs, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017; MA, International Studies Peace and Conflict Research, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2024
Current Job: Outreach Support for PR and Social Media, ATG Europe/European Space Agency

Class of 2014

Michael McKibben

Current City: Tucson, AZ
Graduations: BBS Marine Biology, University of Tampa, 2018; MS Entrepreneurship, University of Tampa, 2019
Current Job: PhD Candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona

Class of 2015

Samuel (Sarah/Marty) Martinez

Current City: Bellingham, WA
Graduations: BS, Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Science, Colorado State University, 2022
Current Job: Guest Services Director and Challenge Course Manager, Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center

Class of 2019

Maia Drugmand

Current City: Hackensack, NJ
Graduations: BS, Business and Economics, Finance, Lehigh University, 2023
Current Job: Actuarial Associate at Prudential Financial

Kai Stahoviak

Current City: Abita Springs, LA
Graduations: BA, Political Science, University of Alabama, 2023
Current Job: Business Analyst - Florida Marine Transporters

Class of 2020

Ayush Garg

Graduations: BS, Computer Science, Duke University, 2024
Current Job: Software Engineer at Anduril

Kara Jensen

Current City: Bozeman, MT
Current Job: Associate Banker, Chase Bank

Aidan Stevens

Current City: Lafayette, CO
Graduations: BA, Environmental Design (Architecture), Montana State University, 2024

Class of 2022

Sena Kavi

Current City: Superior, CO
Graduations: BSBA, Finance And Business Analytics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2026
Current Job: Sophomore Summer Business Analyst, McKinsey and Co.

Stay connected!

Fill out this [form](#), join our LinkedIn Community, or follow us on Facebook.



2000 - 2025

PEAK GALA

MARCH 8, 2025

The Future's So Bright

SAVE THE DATE!
OMNI HOTEL, BROOMFIELD

Please join our Peak to Peak community as we celebrate our past 25 years and look towards the future!

Tickets Go On Sale January 1, 2025

To participate as a sponsor or donate an auction item please contact p2p.friends@bvsd.org

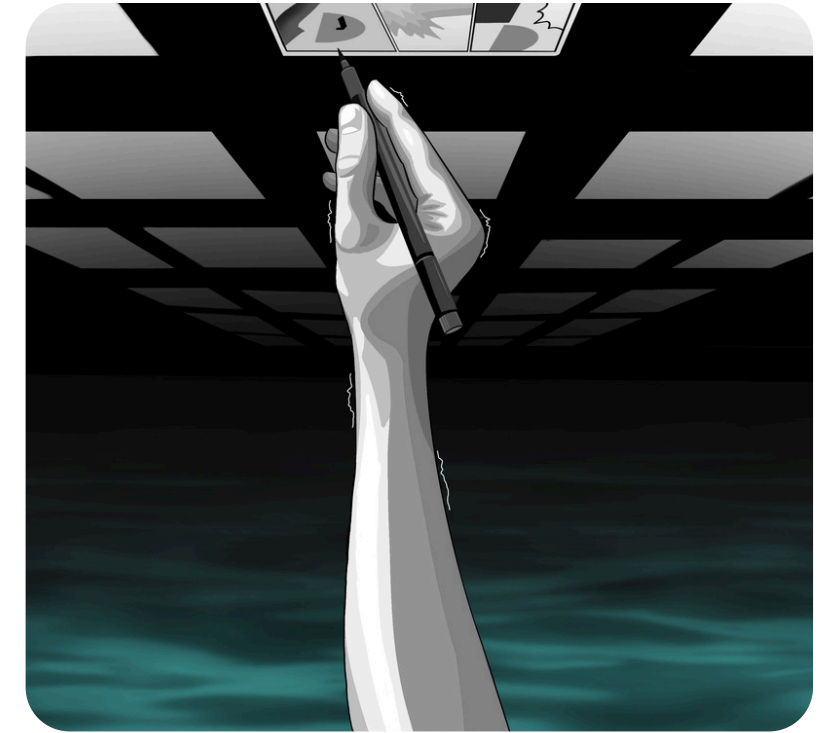
2024-2025 Creative and Visual Arts



Luke Martin, Class of 2026



Sawyer Bolton, Class of 2026



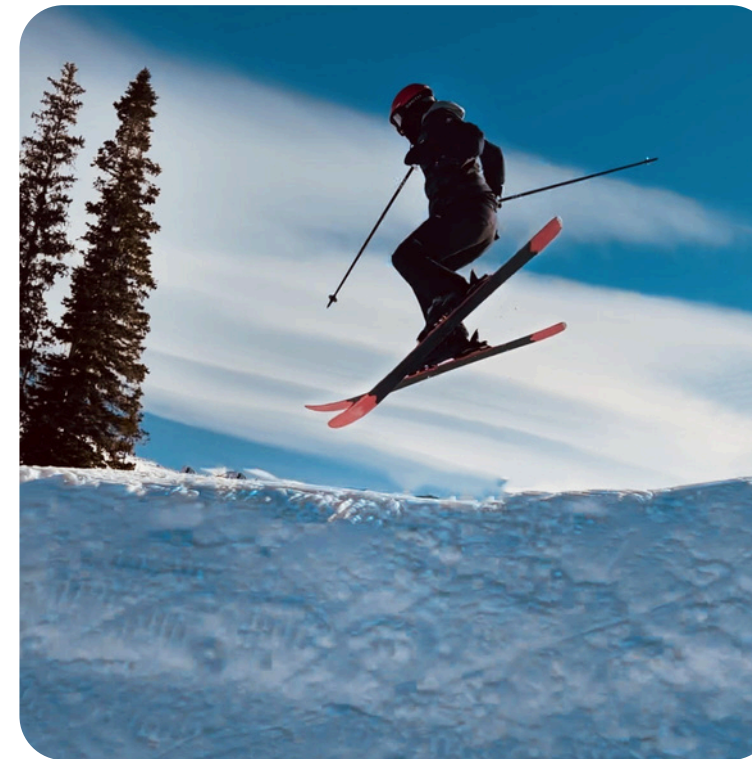
Carson Remund, Class of 2025



Luna Sanders, Class of 2025



Gayi Kunsang, Class of 2026



Ryder Greene, Class of 2027



Hailey Rasmussen, Class of 2026