



# SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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

- + 420 students, Pre-K-12th Grade on one campus
- + 183 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 1,800 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 26 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.



# 2025 2026

## 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 optional 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 0.33 GPA weight. 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 running, 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, freestyle, 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 2024 and 2025, Sun Valley Community School graduates matriculated at the following colleges and universities.

Bates College	Univ. of British Columbia
Boston College	Univ. of California, Santa Barbara
Cal. Polytechnic State Univ., SLO	Univ. of California, Santa Cruz
Chapman University	Univ. of Colorado, Boulder
Clemson University	Univ. of Denver
Colgate University	Univ. of Miami
College of Charleston	Univ. of Michigan
Colorado College	Univ. of Nevada, Reno
Cornell University	Univ. of Richmond
Dartmouth College	Univ. of San Diego
Fordham University	Univ. of Southern California
Georgetown University	Univ. of St Andrews
Gonzaga University	Univ. of Utah
Ithaca College	Univ. of Victoria
Loyola Marymount University	Univ. of Virginia
Loyola University, Maryland	Univ. of Washington
Montana State University	Villanova University
Northwestern University	Wake Forest University
Northeastern University	Washington State University
Princeton University	Whitman College
San Diego State University	Willamette University
Santa Clara University	Yale University
Sarah Lawrence College	
Scripps College	
Southern Methodist University	
St. Lawrence University	
St. Olaf College	
Stanford University	



## HISTORICAL PROFILE • 2022-2025

AVERAGE GPA SENIOR YEAR		SAT MEAN SCORES	
2025	3.86	2025	1205
2024	3.75	2024	1205
2023	3.67	2023	1193
2022	3.84	2022	1266

## CLASS OF 2026 PROFILE • TOTAL CLASS SIZE 47

CUMULATIVE GPA JUNIOR YEAR		SAT MEAN SCORES JUNIOR YEAR, FIRST ROUND (27 STUDENTS):	
4.23-4.01	Quintile 1	ERBW	602
4.0-3.88	Quintile 2	MATH	569
3.87-3.74	Quintile 3	TOTAL	1171
3.7-3.51	Quintile 4		
3.49-2.49	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**  
Ben Pettit • [bpettit@communityschool.org](mailto:bpettit@communityschool.org)

**UPPER SCHOOL HEAD**  
Jessica Wasilewski '98 • [jwasilewski@communityschool.org](mailto:jwasilewski@communityschool.org)

**DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING**  
Royce Mussman • [rmussman@communityschool.org](mailto:rmussman@communityschool.org)

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING**  
Elliot Jacobs • [ejacobs@communityschool.org](mailto:ejacobs@communityschool.org)

**REGISTRAR**  
Sarah McDermott • [smcdermott@communityschool.org](mailto:smcdermott@communityschool.org)



Post Office Box 2118  
One Community School Drive  
Sun Valley, ID 83353  
tel: 208.622.3955 • fax: 208.622.3962  
[communityschool.org](http://communityschool.org)

CEEB/ACT Code:130-307