THE BEAR CREEK SCHOOL

2026 – 2027 SCHOOL PROFILE

Patrick Carruth
President and Headmaster

Katie Gomulkiewicz
Dean of College and Academic Advising
kgomulkiewicz@tbcs.org
Phone 425.898.1720 ext. 533

CEEB/ACT Code: 481592
College Advising Office
8525 208th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98053
www.tbcs.org

Enrollment 2026 – 2027
Preschool – Grade 12: 942
Upper School Enrollment: 247
Senior Class: 54
Student-to-teacher ratio: 10 to 1
Typical class size is 18

Faculty
Upper School Faculty: 32
Middle School and Upper School
Faculty with advanced degrees: 63%

Accreditations and Affiliations
SAIS
Cognia
ACSI
NAIS
WFIS

Founded in 1988 and graduating a senior class since 2000, The Bear Creek School has grown to include 942 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:** reading the Great Books to foster a love of truth, beauty, and goodness
- **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

Honors and Recognition

Best Private High School in the area by 425 Magazine in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025
#1 Best Christian Private High School in Washington 2025 and 2026 ranking by Niche

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 2026. Grades reflect courses taken through junior year.

GPA	#Students
4.00	5
3.99 – 3.75	39
3.74 – 3.5	8
3.49 – 3.25	4
3.24 – 3.00	6
2.99 – 2.75	1
2.74 – 2.5	0
2.49 – 2.25	2
2.24 – 2.00	0
1.99 and below	0

Graduation Requirements

English/Rhetoric	4.0
History	4.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0
Christian Studies	3.0
World Language	2.0
Physical Education	1.5
Health	0.5
Washington State History	0.5
General Electives	2.0
Fine Arts Electives	1.0
Senior Capstone Project	0.5

Total 24.0 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

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 2026 – 2027, 13 AP classes are offered.

AP Students Tested in 2026	170
AP Exams Taken	398
% scoring 3 or higher	93%
% scoring 4 or higher	79%
% scoring 5	43%

AP Scholar Report	
AP Scholars with Distinction	67
AP Scholars with Honors	19
AP Scholars	22

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.

Concurrent Credit

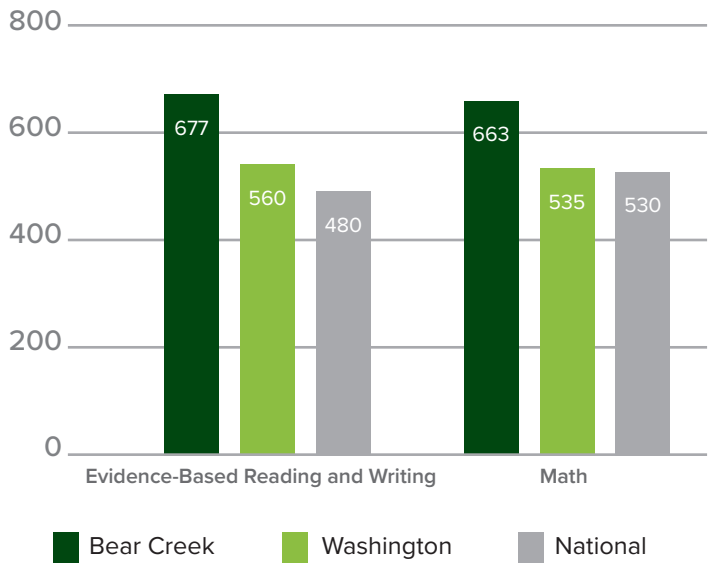
The Bear Creek School has historically partnered with Northwest University to offer 21 concurrent credit courses to high school students. This year, Bear Creek will partner with Northwest Nazarene University. Each course has been reviewed by the respective university and assigned a college equivalency course. Upon successful completion of concurrent credit courses, Bear Creek students will receive high school as well as college credits for the course.

National Merit Recognition

22%	17%	30%
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027

SAT Performance

Statistics represent the mean SAT scores achieved by the class of 2026.



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
Creative Writing
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
Command in the Pacific War
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
Intermediate 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
Group Fitness

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

Athletics

Bear Creek has 22 varsity athletics teams which compete in the Emerald Sound 1A Conference.

- Approximately 75% of Upper School students play at least one sport
- 57 conference championships
- 124 team state appearances
- 11 team state championships
- 35 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 100 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

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Our graduates have been admitted 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
Case Western Reserve 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
Elon 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
Hillsdale College
Imperial College London
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
Savannah College of Art and Design
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 Air Force Academy
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, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Cambridge
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Florida
University of Georgia
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

Invested in students. Intentional in outcome.