



100% acceptance to 4-year colleges // Selected colleges accepting Colorado Rocky Mountain School graduates from 2008-2011

Antioch College
Bard College
Bates College
Bennington College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
University of British Columbia
University of California at Los Angeles
University of California at Santa Cruz
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
University of Chicago
Clark College
Colby College
Colgate University
University of Colorado at Boulder
Colorado College
Connecticut College
The Cooper Union
Dartmouth College
Denison University
University of Denver
Dickinson College
Duke University

Earlham College
Emerson College
Emory University
Fordham University
The George Washington University
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Hampshire College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Macalester College
University of Michigan
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
Northeastern University
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College
Occidental College
University of Oregon
Parsons
University of Pennsylvania
Pitzer College
Pomona College
University of Puget Sound

Purdue University
Reed College
Rhode Island School of Design
University of Rochester
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute - Chicago
Scripps College
Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Syracuse University
Tulane University
The University of Austin, Texas
Union College
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
University of Washington
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Willamette University

Jeff Leahy, Head of School (jleahy@crms.org)

Betsy Bingham-Johns, Director of College Counseling (bbinghamjohns@crms.org)

Accreditation and Memberships

CRMS is accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools and the Association for Experiential Education. The school is a member of, among other organizations, the National Association of Independent Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools, the Western Boarding Schools Association, the College Entrance Examination Board, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, ACT, the National Association of College Admission Counselors, and the Secondary School Admission Test Board.



Colorado Rocky Mountain School

Elevating Education Since 1953

2011-12 Profile
CEEB ACT code: 060 215

About the School

Nestled at the junction of two of the West's most majestic rivers in the shadow of 13,000-foot Mount Sopris, Colorado Rocky Mountain School is a small school whose students graduate with big ambitions.

CRMS combines college-preparatory academics, outdoor and work experiences, arts, community service, and campus life. This comprehensive approach to education develops not only strong students but also engaged young adults with a global awareness and a local spirit.

With sustained, collaborative effort by institution and students alike, CRMS has been turning out exemplary citizens for more than 55 years. The hard work has been worth the reward.

About the Curriculum

CRMS's curriculum integrates three key areas: Academic, Active, and Community. Experience is an essential element for academic success. "At CRMS we connect the heart, hand, and mind. We learn by doing and are motivated by caring," says Nancy Hanrahan, Academic Dean. All programming utilizes intentional learning and is designed to impart the school's three core values: Respect, Responsibility, and Excellence.

About the Setting

CRMS sits on a 300-plus-acre ranch (maintained primarily as open space) in the Western Colorado town of Carbondale, 28 miles from Aspen and 150 miles from Denver. CRMS's setting plays an integral role in school activities. It provides the backdrop for campus work crews geared toward environmental sustainability, such as recycling and ranch work. And the millions of acres of surrounding wilderness give CRMS an ample playing field for its outdoor-education programs.

CRMS Facts

Faculty: 30 full-time and part-time members; 53 percent hold advanced degrees, 5 percent hold doctorate degrees.

Student-faculty ratio: 5:1

Average class size: 13

Enrollment (2011-2012): 152 students.

Boarding/Day Composition: Sixty four percent of students are boarders, from 20 states and 12 countries. Thirty six percent of students are day students, primarily from within a 30-mile radius of Carbondale.

Financial Aid: forty two percent of CRMS students are awarded financial aid.

The CRMS Mission & Goals:

To cultivate a learning environment in which students discover their potential to excel as individuals, contribute to their communities, and participate thoughtfully in the world we share.

The goals for CRMS graduates:

- to be academically prepared to attend and succeed at a college of their choice;
- to contribute productively to their communities;
- to engage in healthy, active lifestyles;
- to be skilled participants in, and responsible stewards of, the natural environment; and
- to develop sustainable life skills that will enable them to reach their full potential.

GRADING SYSTEM:

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89	Very Good
C	70-79	Satisfactory
D	60-69	Passing
F	0-59	Failing

GPA RANGE:

A = 4.0	A- = 3.67	B+ = 3.33
B = 3.0	B- = 2.67	C+ = 2.33
C = 2.0	C- = 1.67	D+ = 1.33
D = 1.0	D- = 0.67	F = 0.0

GRADE WEIGHTING:

Grades are not weighted for any courses. GPAs are computed only for courses taken at CRMS and incorporate both academic and fine-arts classes.

HONORS:

The standard for Honors recognition is an average grade of 87-92, and for High Honors is an average grade of 93 and above.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES:

As a policy, CRMS does not disclose disciplinary consequences on the transcript. However, students are encouraged to respond accurately, honestly, and comprehensively to all questions regarding discipline on the college application.

CLASS RANK:

CRMS does not rank its students.

TEST SCORES (2010-11):

ACT (34 tested)
Average Composite = 24

SAT Mean (39 tested)
Mean CR = 576
Mean M = 582
Mean WR = 543



Academic Excellence

CRMS's rigorous college-preparatory curriculum follows a traditional semester system. All freshmen and sophomores carry six courses, while juniors and seniors carry a minimum of five courses, with many students electing to take additional courses.

Graduation Requirements: A minimum of 20 credits, selected from six academic disciplines, is required for graduation:

- Four years of English
- Three years of Mathematics, including Algebra II
- Three years in three of the following disciplines; two years in the other: Modern Language, History (including U.S. History), and Lab Science (including Biology and Chemistry), and Fine Arts.

Departmental Offerings: All courses are college-preparatory by design and content. Writing is required across the curriculum and includes lab reports, journals, research papers, and formal essays. For the 2011-12 academic year, Advanced Placement courses are offered in Calculus, U.S. History, English Literature, and Environmental Science.

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are offered in literature and social science to assist students with the development of oral and written language skills. The goal of this program is to move students toward integration into the regular curricular offerings.

Courses

ENGLISH

- World Literature (9)
- ESL English Intermediate
- Literature and Composition (Intl)
- Western World Lit.
- American Literature
- AP English Literature
- 2011 Senior Electives: Creative Writing
- Banned Books
- Graphic Novel as Lit.

HISTORY

- World Geography (9)
- ESL History Intermediate
- Found. of W Civ. (Intl)
- Western World History
- American History
- AP US History

HISTORY cont.

- 2011 Senior Electives: Geopolitical Studies*
- Philosophy & Religion: Eastern Tradition
- Philosophy & Religion: Western Tradition
- Politics of Food

SCIENCE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geology
- Physics
- AP Environmental Science

PERFORMING ARTS

- Beginning Music
- Intermediate Music
- Advanced Music
- Drama

ARTS

- Arts Survey
- Blacksmithing
- Ceramics
- Drawing and Painting
- Art Portfolio
- Photography
- Silversmithing

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Environmental Statistics
- Computer Programming
- Precalculus
- Calculus
- AP Calculus BC

* The University of CO awards 3 semester hours for Geopolitical Studies.

Grade Distribution (junior year, class of 2011):	A to A-	B+ to B-	C+ to C-	D+ to D-	F
Arts	72%	26%	2%	0%	0%
English	53%	33%	12%	2%	0%
Foreign Language	39%	50%	11%	0%	0%
History	16%	54%	26%	4%	0%
Mathematics	36%	34%	23%	7%	0%
Science	37%	35%	19%	9%	0%

Active Curriculum

Each student is required to successfully participate in all elements of a structured program that features outdoor education, work, community service, sports, and experiential-learning opportunities. Throughout the year, students participate in athletics two afternoons per week and a work crew two afternoons per week. Students also maintain the cleanliness of the campus through daily "household job" assignments.

Athletic & Outdoor Offerings

(2 days/week; 5 days/week for competitive sports)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Canoeing | Skiing: Nordic |
| Cross-Country Running | Skiing: Telemark |
| Cycling (Mountain and Road) | Skiing: Backcountry |
| Dryland Training | Snowboarding |
| Hiking | Soccer |
| Kayaking | Swimming |
| Rock Climbing | Tennis |
| Skiing: Alpine | Weights & Fitness |

Work Crew Offerings (2 days/week)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Bike Shop | Library |
| Landscaping | Preschool |
| Blacksmithing | Ranch |
| Ceramics | Recycling/Sustainability |
| Community Service | Drama |
| Peer Tutoring | Gardening |
| Kitchen | Trip Planning |
| Glassblowing | Yearbook |

Wilderness Session

Every new student begins the CRMS school year with a ten-day orientation expedition into the high peaks of nearby wilderness areas. In addition to spending three days doing trail work with the United States Forest Service, students learn the fundamentals of teamwork, backpacking, risk management, map-reading, and leadership skills and develop an appreciation for the beauty and environmental complexity of the natural world.

Fall and Spring Trips

In addition to daily work and service responsibilities on campus and in the local community, the CRMS school year is enhanced by two outdoor trips, where students explore the environment of the American Southwest in small groups. Totalling eleven days per year, these trips provide students with opportunities to study geology, natural history, and ecology; kayak untamed rivers; marvel at 900-year-old Native American ruins; rock-climb or mountain-bike in the desert; or backpack in a wilderness area.

Senior Project

Each senior, with faculty oversight, proposes, organizes, and completes an independent, three-week project away from home and school, in which he or she works under a master or employer. Students identify unexplored passions or compelling service opportunities, or they may design a program that intensifies current interests of an avocational or vocational nature.

Interim

During the second week in February, students focus on learning outside the traditional classroom setting by dedicating an entire week to the exploration of a single idea, artistic endeavor, experience, or service project. Projects have included blacksmithing, silversmithing, producing biodiesel fuel, snow science and avalanche awareness, tropical ecology in Costa Rica, service work in Denver or Mexico, and working with handicapped skiers.



Community Life

CRMS provides a supportive residential and social culture, encouraging students to progressively take on responsibility, and guides them in the setting of their moral, ethical, and emotional compass. The students and faculty have an uncommon respect for one another and enjoy a mutual regard by focusing the students' energy in ways that stimulate individual growth and leadership.

All-student activities include a twice-monthly formal dinner, which encourages mature behavior and enables students to refine social skills with diverse segments of the school population.

The school's Recognition System fuses these character elements in a tangible way. Independent of college-transcript grades, the system measures traits above and beyond academic achievement, including perseverance, positive attitude, effective time management, teamwork, and integrity. By challenging the students to become well-rounded individuals, CRMS is developing exemplary citizens, inside and outside the classroom.

Jennifer Ogilby, Dean of Students, advocates that these leadership initiatives help CRMS turn out graduates unafraid to pursue their passions.

"One thing I've really admired about CRMS students: Whatever they do in life, they are capable, confident, and interesting people."