



Colorado Rocky Mountain School

School Profile 2026-2027

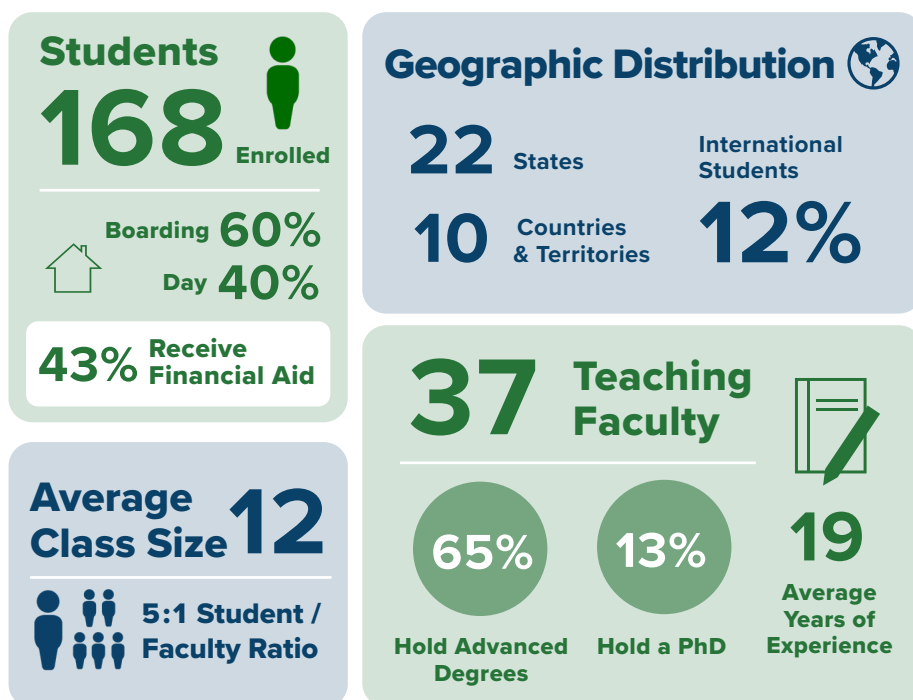
OVERVIEW

Colorado Rocky Mountain School is an independent, coeducational, boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12, situated on a 300+ acre ranch in Carbondale, Colorado, in the Roaring Fork Valley at the base of Mount Sopris.

CRMS combines rigorous academics with experiential learning, outdoor education, the arts, service, and meaningful engagement with the surrounding community and environment. Learning intentionally extends beyond the classroom: students are expected to apply knowledge, take intellectual and physical risks, reflect on their experiences, and contribute to something larger than themselves. Through **Wilderness, Interim, Service, the Active Program, and Senior Project**, students develop independence, resilience, curiosity, and responsibility for their own learning and the world around them.

Founded in 1953 by educators John and Anne Holden, CRMS was built around a **progressive idea of education: that rigorous academics should exist alongside meaningful work, artistic expression, outdoor challenge, and responsibility to community.** More than seventy years later, that ethos remains central to the CRMS experience. The Holdens were not only asking what a teenager needs to prepare for college, but what experiences and responsibilities help a teenager become a capable human being. CRMS's academic preparation grows out of that larger philosophy.

AT A GLANCE



CEEB/ACT CODE: 060215

COLLEGE OFFICE CONTACTS

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MISSION

Colorado Rocky Mountain School cultivates a learning environment in which students discover their potential to excel as individuals, contribute to their communities, and thoughtfully participate in the world we share.

CLASS OF 2026 STATS

- 39 students
- Matriculated to 30 different colleges in 14 states and 5 countries

2026 AP EXAM RESULTS

AP Exams are required as part of enrollment in an AP course. 109 exams were administered in 2026. Students took AP exams in 12 subject areas.

- **90%** of exams scored 3 or higher
- **51%** of exams scored 4 or 5

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum integrates three key areas: **Academic**, **Active**, and **Community**.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

INTERIM IMMERSION

Each year, students step away from the regular academic schedule for two weeks of immersive, interdisciplinary study blending academics, arts, active pursuits, and/or service. Interim offerings take place on campus and regionally, nationally, and internationally.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Outdoor education has been integral to CRMS since its founding. All new students begin their CRMS experience with a ten-day Wilderness Orientation, while the entire school participates in five- to seven-day Outdoor Expeditions each fall and spring. These shared experiences use challenge, exploration, and time in the natural world as essential components of a CRMS education.

MOUNTAIN SPORTS & ATHLETICS

Students take full advantage of our Rocky Mountain setting. With trails and rivers accessible directly from campus, 13,000-foot Mt. Sopris rising above the school, and the four mountains of Aspen Snowmass just 25 miles away, students have extraordinary access to the outdoors as part of daily school life.

All students participate in the athletic program, whether developing skills in a new activity or competing at an elite level. CRMS teams regularly compete in regional and state competition, with recent championships and top finishes in climbing, mountain biking, and cross-country running. Across the program, students develop physical fitness, confidence, perseverance, teamwork, and a lifelong connection to the outdoors.

FARM TO TABLE

Through CRMS's organic garden and kitchen, students participate in the full cycle of growing, harvesting, preparing, and sharing food with their community. Produce grown by students becomes part of school meals, while traditions such as the annual Harvest Dinner and Pumpkin Truck extend the experience beyond the garden and reinforce the connection among meaningful work, sustainability, and community.

ACADEMIC

We offer a rigorous, student-centered liberal arts curriculum in which learning frequently extends beyond the traditional classroom. Small classes allow for discussion, collaboration, individual attention, and substantive engagement with faculty. Across disciplines, students are expected not simply to master content, but to question, apply, and connect what they learn.

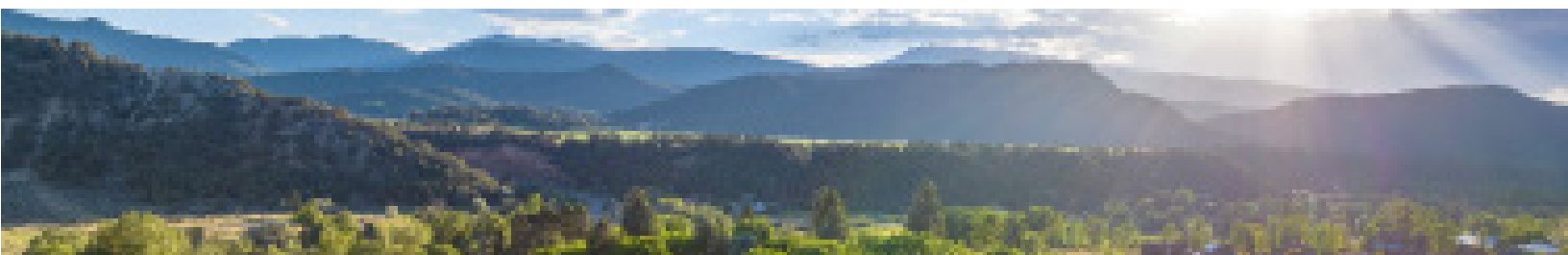
Interdisciplinary and experiential learning are embedded throughout the curriculum. Humanities courses emphasize discussion and critical, collaborative thinking; science courses make use of CRMS's 300+ acre campus for authentic fieldwork and problem-solving; and the arts combine serious study with hands-on practice. Advanced and AP coursework is available across disciplines, allowing students to pursue greater depth as they progress through the curriculum.

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC NOTES

- First Trimester Grades: Available late November/early December
- Second Trimester Grades: Available mid-March
- Early Applications: For EA/ED applicants, CRMS provides available senior-year progress grades and teacher comments when official first-trimester grades are not yet available.
- GPAs are computed only for courses taken at CRMS and incorporate both academic and fine art classes.
- Academic Honors is for an average grade 93 and above.
- Average GPA: 3.58
- CRMS does not rank students.

CURRICULUM & ADVANCED COURSEWORK

Given CRMS's small enrollment, advanced coursework is intentionally concentrated; students are encouraged to pursue the most rigorous program available and appropriate to their interests and preparation. We offer coursework across English, history, mathematics, science, world language, computer science, and the visual and performing arts. Advanced study includes Honors, AP, and independent coursework, with students encouraged to pursue the most rigorous program appropriate to their interests and preparation.



AP COURSES OFFERED

AP English Language & Composition • AP U.S. History
AP Calculus AB • AP Calculus BC • AP Physics C: Mechanics
AP Environmental Science • AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP Computer Science A

HONORS COURSES OFFERED

Honors English 10: Literary Movements & Legacy • Honors
History 10: World History Through Inquiry • Honors History
12: Comparative Government & Politics

SELECTED DISTINCTIVE OFFERINGS

Advanced Molecular Biology Advanced Spanish • Spanish
Seminar • Independent Study Mathematics • Robotics •
Silversmithing • Advanced Digital Arts

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 20 credits are required for graduation:

English – 4 credits

Mathematics – 3 credits

History – 3 credits

Science – 3 credits

World Language – 2 credits

Fine Arts – 1 credit

*Computer Science – Elective. May apply toward science
or mathematics credit.*

SENIOR PROJECT

Each senior concludes their CRMS education with an
independent, three-week project centered on an area of
personal interest, inquiry, or service. Students design and
carry out their projects independently and present their work
to the school community at the annual Senior Symposium.

ACTIVE

COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Climbing • Cross-Country Running • Kayaking • Mountain
Biking • Alpine Freeride • Telemark Skiing • Nordic Skiing
Soccer

ADDITIONAL ATHLETIC & MOUNTAIN SPORT OFFERINGS

Hiking • Horseback Riding • Skateboarding • Alpine Skiing
Freestyle/Park & Pipe Skiing • Backcountry Skiing • SkiMo
(Ski Mountaineering) • Snowboarding • Snowshoeing
Strength & Conditioning • Trail Running • Yoga

RECENT ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

CRMS athletes have earned numerous state and regional
titles, including the 2024 Colorado High School Cycling
League Division 1 State Championship; back-to-back 2024
and 2025 ASCL Varsity Boys' Climbing State Championships;
2025 and 2026 Boys' Climbing Western Slope Regional
Championships; and the 2026 JV Boys' Climbing State
Championship. Girls' teams have also earned recent state

and regional podium finishes in climbing and cross-country.

COMMUNITY

SERVICE

*We live here. We all benefit from this community. Therefore, we
have some responsibility for helping sustain it.*

Service has been integral to a CRMS education since the
school's founding, rooted in John and Anne Holden's belief
that every student should contribute meaningful work to
the community of which they are a part.

Throughout their time at CRMS, students take an active role
in sustaining and strengthening the school and the broader
community through Afternoon Service Crews, Household
Jobs, Scholarship Work Day, and service incorporated into
Interim, Senior Project, and Outdoor Expeditions. Through
this shared responsibility, students learn that being part of
a community means contributing to it.

Afternoon Service Crews give students regular opportunities
to contribute meaningful work to CRMS while developing
practical, creative, and community-based skills. Crews
range from blacksmithing, woodworking, ceramics, and
ranch work to peer tutoring, community engagement, and
Basecamp, where students help support the practical needs
of CRMS's extensive outdoor program.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM & CAMPUS SUPPORT

Basecamp • Bike Mechanics • Ski Tuning • Trip Prep
Climbing Wall Route Setting

CRAFTS, TRADES & LAND

Blacksmithing • Ceramics • Glassblowing • Ranch
Garden/Farm to Table • Tree Care & Horticulture
Woodworking

COMMUNITY, LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Culinary • English-in-Action • Equine Therapy
Ethics Bowl • Literary Magazine • Peer Tutoring
Service Squad • Social Justice Crew • Yearbook

RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Separate from academic grades, CRMS's Recognition
System acknowledges student growth in qualities including
perseverance, social intelligence, self-regulation, optimism,
and curiosity. It reflects the school's belief that a student's
development and contributions to the community extend
beyond academic achievement.

LEADERSHIP

CRMS is a close-knit boarding and day community in which students and faculty share not only academic life, but responsibility for the life of the school. As students progress through CRMS, they are given increasing independence and entrusted with greater responsibility for their peers, their community, and the school as a whole.

Leadership extends beyond student government and clubs to roles in residential life, outdoor programming, community governance, service, publications, and Admission.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

Admission Ambassadors • Agenda/Student Government
• Community & Diversity Committee • Disciplinary Committee • Household Job Leaders • Miércoles Activity Captains • Outdoor Expedition Assistants • Student Dorm Heads • Wilderness Orientation Assistants • Yearbook Editors • Literary Magazine Editors

2021-2026 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

(Bold = matriculation)

100% of CRMS students are accepted to a 4-year institution, and either attend college directly or following a gap-year experience.

American University

Bates College

Baylor University

Bennington College

Berklee College of Music

Boston University

Bowdoin College

Brown University

Cal Poly

Carleton College

Champlain College

Chapman University

Clark University

Clarkson University

Colby College

Colgate University

College of the Atlantic

Colorado College

Colorado Mesa University

Colorado Mountain College

Colorado School of Mines

Colorado State University

Connecticut College

Dartmouth College

Davidson College

Dickinson College

Drexel University

Eckerd College

Elon University

Embry Riddle (Florida)

Fordham University

Fort Lewis College

Franklin University (Switzerland)

George Washington University

Grinnell College

Hamilton College

Indiana University

Ithaca College

Kenyon College

Lehigh University

Lewis & Clark College

Loyola Marymount University

Middlebury College

Montana State University

New York University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Northern Michigan University

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Oregon State University

Pepperdine University

Pitzer College

Pomona College

Point Loma Nazarene University

Pratt Institute

Prescott College

Purdue University

Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rochester Institute of Technology

San Diego State University

Santa Clara University

Savannah College of Art and Design

School of the Art Institute of

Chicago

Scripps College

Skidmore College

Southwestern University

St. John's College

St. Olaf College

Syracuse University

The College of Idaho

The New School

Tufts University

Tulane University

University of Alabama

University of Arizona

University of British Columbia

University of California (all campuses)

University College Dublin

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Denver

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Maine

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Montana

University of Nevada

University of New Hampshire

UNC Chapel Hill

University of Oregon

University of Pennsylvania

University of Puget Sound

University of Richmond

University of Rochester

University of San Diego

University of Southern California

University of St. Andrews

University of Tampa

University of Utah

University of Vermont

University of Victoria

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

Virginia Tech

Western Colorado University

Westminster University

Whitman College

Williams College