

*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. Surrounded by mountains, our school is located in historic Sun Valley, Idaho and enrolls students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our standard-setting academic program together with creative arts and athletic programming and a renowned Outdoor Program instill 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 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.

### COVID + OUR COMMUNITY

For several weeks in March and April of 2020, our very small community of Sun Valley ranked at the very top of the list in the entire nation for our infection rate per capita. A number of people in our community were infected and when we retreated into quarantine, it was drastic and dramatic. Although we are now faring better than the rest of our state, the spring was a time of high stress and uncertainty when our community shutdown. Our students were definitely impacted by the shutdown.

**TRANSCRIPTS:** Like most schools nationwide and around the world, our spring term was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The last day of in-person classes was Friday, March 13, 2020. We finished the year online and graded all courses Pass/Fail for the spring term. Students who had embarked on Honors projects and who continued with these projects received a notation on their transcripts (PH), but the honors designation did not affect their GPA.

**STANDARDIZED TESTS:** Sun Valley Community School has always tried to strike a balance between honoring the importance of standardized tests for some students, all while resisting putting test prep at the center of our curriculum. Our students take the PSAT starting in 8th grade and our math and English teachers periodically

connect the work they do in the classroom with the material on the test. However, in an effort to reduce stress and to prioritize independent, critical thinking, we do not encourage most of our students to start taking “real” SATs or ACTs until the spring of their junior year. As a result, when the pandemic struck, very few members of the class of 2021 had ever sat for a test. As we send this to press, the August 2020 SAT is scheduled to happen and we plan to host it here on campus, but some families have already expressed discomfort with the idea of their students sitting for so long in a room with so many, given the continued prevalence of COVID in our state and country. In a normal year, all of our students take at least one and usually two standardized tests before they apply to college, but it is very likely that many will not have that opportunity this year.

**EXTRA-CURRICULARS:** (sports, theater, clubs, jobs, internships, etc). As school moved online last spring, all sports, clubs, and other extra-curricular activities ground to a halt. As the summer set in, many businesses reopened, so a surprising number of students were able to find ways to be active and productive in their free time. The opportunities available to them, however, were significantly reduced.



# ENGAGED LEARNERS INDEPENDENT THINKERS



## AVID ADVENTURERS PREPARED TRAVELERS



### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

#### Graduation requirements include the following:

- 12 terms of English in grades 9, 10, 11, 12
- 9 terms of Social Studies
- 9 terms of Mathematics in proper sequence
- 9 terms of Science in grades 9,10,11
- 9 terms of World Language (nine in one language or six in one and six in another)
- 3 terms of Creative Arts
- 1 term of Research Methodology and Thesis
- 1 term of Writing Across the Curriculum
- 1 term of Computer Science
- 9 additional terms of Social Studies, Mathematics, World Language, or Science, up to three terms from a single department
- 7 additional terms of elective courses

### CO-CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

- Eight seasons of after-school activities (four or more activities directly linked to Sun Valley Community School program offerings).
- 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 Director, must be completed.
- Two hours of community service per year

#### Upper School Faculty

The Upper School faculty consists of 26 full and part-time teachers, 75% 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.

#### Academic Terms

Sun Valley Community School divides its curriculum and programs into four seasonal "terms" (fall, winter, spring, and summer) in the Upper School. The summer term gives our competitive winter sport athletes and others the ability to design their coursework so that they may compete and travel during the winter term without compromising the quality and rigor of their academic experience.

#### Course Load (and Winter Term)

Students in grades 9 -12 are required to take six courses per term. During the second and third term, seniors may reduce their course load to five courses. Important note: It is common for our competitive winter athletes to carry three to four courses during the winter term, having already fulfilled the course load requirements by taking one to two core courses during the summer.

#### Grade Point Average

Grade point averages are calculated for grades 9 -12 using a standard 4.0 scale. Students who earn honors credit in a course will receive a .33 point increase to their letter grade per term in grade point average calculations. Individual grades are not weighted on student transcripts, but are reflected when the GPA is calculated. Only Sun Valley Community School grades are used in our GPA. Previous grades/transcripts from other schools are attached as separate pages.

#### Class Rank

A Sun Valley Community School class is comprised of approximately 45 qualified students. Since small differences in GPA can result in a significant difference in class standing, the school does not assign class rankings. In place of school rankings, we provide distributions of GPA and test scores to colleges and universities.

#### Honors

In the Upper School, students who wish to delve more deeply into the course material may, with approval of the instructor, earn honors credit. A student must earn a B+ or better in each respective course taken for honors to earn an honors designation on his/her transcript. In past years, honors courses have been offered in every department.

#### Advanced Placement

Sun Valley Community School does not offer Advanced Placement courses. Individual students who elect to take AP exams are given faculty support and guidance, and may take the exams on the school's campus.

#### Senior Projects - Spring Term

Eligible seniors may elect to undertake a Senior Project in lieu of classes during the spring term. The Senior Project 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 assessed on a pass/fail basis and earn a trimester credit for successful completion.

#### Outdoor Program

Sun Valley Community School's Outdoor Program is one of the most comprehensive outdoor programs in the country and is an integral part of our curriculum. The Outdoor Program provides transformative and inspiring outdoor experiences in the fall, winter, and spring for all grade levels, pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### Athletics and Activities

Sports include soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, and track. A significant number of students also compete for the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation's alpine, cross country, freeski, big mountain, and snowboarding teams. Individual students participate and compete in figure skating, ice hockey, lacrosse, mountain biking, equestrian events, and more.

#### Residential Program

The Residential Program offers national and international boarding students in grades 9 -12 outstanding academics and character development reinforced by outdoor and sports experiences.

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

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. Students completing the requirements of the CAA will have developed a portfolio/repertoire of their work and receive a Certificate of Completion upon graduation.

### OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA) provides Upper School students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills while fostering a love for wild places. Students earn outdoor certifications and develop the outdoor skills needed to lead outdoor trips. OLA 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 Sun Valley Community School's excellent college preparatory program. The school has a long history of placing skiers and snowboarders at their best-fit colleges or universities around the world.



# college entrance

100 percent of Sun Valley Community School students who apply are accepted for admission to college. Between 2017-20, Sun Valley Community School graduates were accepted at the following colleges and universities:

2020  
2021



## college acceptances

Acadia University  
American University  
Amherst College  
Arizona State University  
Auburn University  
Bard College  
Bates College  
Boise State University  
Boston College\*  
Boston University\*  
Bowdoin College  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
Bucknell University  
Cal-Poly Pomona  
Cal-Poly SLO\*  
Carleton College  
Carroll College (Mont.)  
Case Western Reserve  
Champlain College  
Chapman University\*  
Clarkson University  
Clemson University  
Colby College  
Colby-Sawyer College  
Colgate University\*  
College of Mt. St. Vincent  
Colorado College\*  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Concordia University  
Connecticut College  
Cornell University  
Cornish College of the Arts  
Dalhousie University  
Dartmouth College\*

Drew University\*  
Drexel University  
Elon University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
Emily Carr Univ. of Art + Design  
Emmanuel College  
Emory University\*  
Endicott College  
Fairfield University  
Fordham University  
Fort Lewis College  
Franklin U. Switzerland  
Furman University  
George Washington Univ.  
Georgetown University  
Gnomon School of Visual Effects\*  
Gonzaga University  
Hamilton College  
Harvard College  
High Point University  
Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
Humboldt State University  
Ithaca College  
Johnson & Wales University-Denver  
Kenyon College  
Lawrence University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Linfield University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Macalester College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Miami University-Oxford  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Tech. University  
Middlebury College\*  
Montana State University\*  
Moorpark College

New York Film Academy  
New York Univ. (NYU Shanghai)  
NJ Institute of Technology  
NM Institute of Mining & Tech.  
Northeastern University  
Northern Arizona University  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Oregon State University  
Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Portland State University  
Princeton University  
Queens University-Canada  
Quest University-Canada  
Quinnipiac University  
Randolph-Macon College  
Reed College  
Regent's University London  
Regis University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rocky Mountain College  
Rutgers University  
Rutgers (Mason Gross)  
Sacred Heart University  
San Diego State University  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
SCAD  
South Dakota School of Mines  
Seattle University  
Sewanee: The University the South  
Sierra Nevada College  
Skidmore College

Smith College  
Southern Methodist Univ.\*  
St. John's College  
St. Joseph's College  
St. Lawrence University\*  
St. Mary's College-Calif.  
Saint Michael's College  
St. Olaf College\*  
Suffolk University  
Syracuse University  
Texas Christian University  
The College of Idaho\*  
The Evergreen State College  
The New School  
Trinity College\*  
Tufts University  
Univ. of Aberdeen  
Univ. of Arizona  
Univ. of British Columbia  
Univ. of California, Berkeley  
Univ. of California, Davis  
Univ. of California, Irvine  
Univ. of California, Los Angeles\*  
Univ. of California, San Diego  
Univ. of California, Santa Barbara\*  
Univ. of California, Santa Cruz  
Univ. of Colorado\*  
Univ. of Denver  
Univ. of Edinburgh  
Univ. of Idaho  
Univ. of Mass. Amherst  
Univ. of Miami  
Univ. of Michigan-Anne Arbor\*  
Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Univ. of Mississippi  
Univ. of Montana\*  
Univ. of Nevada-Reno

Univ. of New Hampshire  
Univ. of Oklahoma  
Univ. of Oregon\*  
Univ. of Otago\*  
Univ. of Pennsylvania  
Univ. of Portland  
Univ. of Puget Sound  
Univ. of Redlands  
Univ. of Richmond  
Univ. of Rochester  
Univ. of San Diego  
Univ. of San Francisco  
Univ. of Southern California\*  
Univ. of Toronto  
Univ. of Utah\*  
Univ. of Vermont\*  
Univ. of Virginia  
Univ. of Washington  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Wagner College  
Wake Forest University\*  
Washington State  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wesleyan University  
Western Washington Univ.  
Westminster College\*  
Whitman College  
Willamette University  
Williams College  
Wyotech Institute

\* Class of 2020 Matriculation

## HISTORICAL PROFILE • 2017-2020

### AVERAGE GPA SENIOR YEAR

2020	3.68
2019	3.64
2018	3.73
2017	3.56

### SAT MEAN SCORES

2020	1219
2019	1200
2018	1257
2017	1185

### ACT MEAN COMPOSITE SCORES

2020	29.3
2019	29.4
2018	25.4
2017	26.8

## CLASS OF 2021 PROFILE • TOTAL CLASS SIZE 46

### CUMULATIVE GPA JUNIOR YEAR

4.0-4.18	14
3.99-3.51	19
3.39-3.07	9
2.97-2.68	1

### SAT MEAN SCORES JUNIOR YEAR, FIRST ROUND:

NO DATA AVAILABLE DUE TO COVID

CEEB/ACT Code:130-307



SUN VALLEY  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL

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)

## SCHOOL CONTACTS

### HEAD OF SCHOOL

Ben Pettit  
[bpettit@communityschool.org](mailto:bpettit@communityschool.org)

### UPPER SCHOOL HEAD

Kevin Campbell  
[kcampbell@communityschool.org](mailto:kcampbell@communityschool.org)

### COLLEGE COUNSELING

Chauncy Gardner  
[cgardner@communityschool.org](mailto:cgardner@communityschool.org)  
Royce Mussman  
[rmussman@communityschool.org](mailto:rmussman@communityschool.org)

### ADMISSIONS

Alessia Carega  
[acarega@communityschool.org](mailto:acarega@communityschool.org)

### SUN VALLEY SKI ACADEMY

Jonna Mendes  
[jmendes@sunvalleyskiacademy.org](mailto:jmendes@sunvalleyskiacademy.org)

### DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Richard Whitelaw  
[rwhitelaw@communityschool.org](mailto:rwhitelaw@communityschool.org)

### REGISTRAR

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