



2025-2026 Upper School Profile

MISSION

Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the challenges of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

Established in 1962, The Colorado Springs School is a college-preparatory, day, and international school serving students from PreKindergarten through Upper School. We proudly serve students from across the Pikes Peak region, as well as international students. The school sits on 28 acres with eight buildings, which include a 300-seat performance theatre, art studios, and athletic fields.

CAPTURING THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL

PHILOSOPHY

The Colorado Springs School is a college-preparatory institution founded on the belief that learning is most meaningful when closely connected to experience. Our mission is to prepare students for both college and life by equipping them with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, self-confidence, compassion, and a lifelong love of learning. CSS prepares students to meet the challenges of a dynamic world.

RELATIONSHIPS

Small class sizes foster one-on-one connections between teachers and students. Students are known by every teacher and receive extensive, personalized feedback. A dedicated faculty advisor supports each student by monitoring academic progress, building a supportive relationship, and communicating with parents as needed. CSS helps students cultivate social and emotional skills that help them develop into healthy adults.

FAST FACTS

Enrollment
PreK-Grade 12
305

Enrollment
Grades 9-12
60

Class of 2026
16

Faculty in Upper School
22

With Advanced Degrees
73 percent

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

At CSS, students learn by doing. Our programs immerse them in hands-on activities in the classroom and beyond. We explore through curriculum-based seminars and adventures, both locally and across the globe. Intentional challenges stimulate students' academic and social growth.

CLASS OF 2025 FAST FACTS

- **Average ACT Score: 26.6**
 - National Average: 21
 - Colorado Average: 24.7
- **Average SAT Score: 1250**
- **\$5.2 million** in merit scholarships and awards

**Preparing
Students for a
Dynamic World**

AFFILIATIONS

Accredited by the **Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS)**
Proud Member of the **National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)**
& the **National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)**

Dr. Ryan Kelly
Head of School

Brooke Kelly-Rawls
Director of Enrollment Management

Dr. Ira Pernick
Director of Upper School

Erik Playe
Director of College Counseling

Kelley Jefferson
Registrar

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

AP COURSES: CSS offers 18 AP Courses.

CALENDAR: Our academic schedule maximizes the number of courses we offer. A block system allows for a variety of class lengths (45 and 90 minutes). The longer periods enable in-depth discussions, field experiences, and lab work.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT: One hundred percent of all CSS graduates go on to initiate a post-secondary educational experience.

SIGNATURE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

EXPERIENCE-CENTERED SEMINARS (ECS)

Each March, students embark on a three-week intensive study known as Experience-Centered Seminars. The curriculum is anchored by essential questions that require a multi-disciplinary approach. Though each one explores a unique theme, geographic location, and a variety of immersive experiences, all are unified by rigorous and academic inquiry. Topics have included the study of geothermal energy in Iceland, local homeless challenges in Colorado Springs, and biodiversity in Madagascar, to name a few.

SENIOR CAPSTONE

Seniors embark on an individualized, student-generated Capstone for three weeks at the end of their senior year. They identify their area of interest, envision their own project, conduct interviews with professionals outside of CSS, and secure a community mentor. The project culminates in a presentation to outside mentors, faculty, peers, and parents. Capstones help students explore potential career goals and interests.

CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Our AP courses, bolded below, represent the most rigorous offerings in each discipline. Students enrolled in these courses are prepared to take the corresponding AP exams. A minimum of 24 credits is required for graduation.

ENGLISH <i>4 Credits Required</i> American Literature & Composition European Literature & Composition Senior Seminar World Literature AP English Language & Composition AP English Literature & Composition	HISTORY <i>3 Credits Required</i> Civics Global Studies & World Geography World History US History AP Comparative Government & Politics AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics AP US History	WORLD LANGUAGE <i>3 Credits Required</i> French I, II, III, IV Spanish I, II, III, IV AP Spanish AP French	COLLEGE OVERVIEW <i>0.25 credit</i>
SCIENCE <i>3 Credits Required</i> Anatomy & Physiology Biology Chemistry Environmental Science Intro to Engineering Physics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics AP Psychology	MATHEMATICS <i>4 Credits Required</i> Algebra II Algebra II with Trigonometry Data Science Web Design Discrete Math Functions, Statistics, Trigonometry (FST) Geometry AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Computer Science Principles AP Precalculus AP Statistics	ARTS <i>2 Credits Required</i> Art Foundations Band Bronze Casting Ceramics Darkroom Photography Digital Photography Glass Jewelry Maker's Theater Music Theory Painting (water or oil-based) Performance Portfolio Portfolio & Studio Art Printmaking Video Production Vocal Ensemble Woodworking Yearbook Advanced Art	EXPERIENCE-CENTERED SEMINAR (one each year) <i>4 Credits Required</i>
			HEALTH AND WELLNESS <i>0.5 credit</i>
			PUBLIC SPEAKING <i>0.25 credit</i>

GRADING SCALE

UNWEIGHTED GPA	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	P
	4.333	4.000	3.667	3.333	3.000	2.667	2.333	2.000	1.667	1.333	1.000	0.667	0.000	Passing
WEIGHTED GPA	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	P
	5.333	5.000	4.667	4.333	4.000	3.667	3.333	3.000	2.667	1.333	1.000	0.667	0.000	Passing
CREDITS BY DEPARTMENT	English 4.00		Science 3.00		History 3.00		World Language 3.00		Arts 2.00		Experience-Centered Seminar 4.00			

Institutions currently attended by CSS alumni are bolded.

AMOA College of Performing Arts Allegheny College American International College American University Arizona State University Bard College Baylor University Belmont University Beloit College California College of Performing Arts California State University - Northridge Carleton College Carnegie Mellon University Case Western Reserve University Catawba College Centre College Chapman University Clark University Clarkson University Coe College College of Charleston Colorado Christian University Colorado College Colorado Mesa University Colorado Mountain College Colorado School of Mines Colorado State University Columbia College - Chicago Commonwealth University Connecticut College Cornell College Cornish College of the Arts Creighton University Dartmouth College Denison University DePaul University Dickinson College Drake University Drexel University Duquesne University Earlham College Eckerd College Elon University Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Emory University Florida Institute of Technology Florida Polytechnic University Florida Southern College Florida State University Fort Lewis College Franklin & Marshall College	Gettysburg College Gonzaga University Goucher College Grinnell College Grove City College Guilford College Hampden-Sydney College Hampshire College Hendrix College High Point University Hood College Idaho State University Indiana University of Pennsylvania Kalamazoo College Kansas City Art Institute Kansas State University Kenyon College Knox College Lake Forest College Lawrence University Lewis & Clark College Lipscomb University Loyola University Chicago Macalester College Marquette University Maryville University McKendree University Meredith College Merrimack College Metropolitan State University of Denver Miami University, Oxford Michigan State University Minneapolis College of Art & Design Missouri University of Science and Technology Montana State University Mount Holyoke College Muhlenberg College New Jersey Institute of Technology Nichols College Northeastern University Northern Arizona University Northwestern University Oberlin College Occidental College Oregon Institute of Technology Oregon State University Pace University Pacific University Pennsylvania State University Pikes Peak State College	Portland State University Pratt Institute Purdue University Quinnipiac University Reed College Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rhodes College Ringling College of Art & Design Roberts Wesleyan University Rochester Institute of Technology Roger Williams University Rollins College Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Rutgers University Saint Michael's College Salve Regina University San Diego State University School of the Art Institute of Chicago Sewanee: The University of the South Shippensburg University Skidmore College Slippery Rock University South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Southern Methodist University Southern New Hampshire University St. John's College St. Lawrence University St. Olaf College Stanford University State University of New York at Potsdam Stonehill College Sweet Briar College Texas A&M University Texas Christian University Texas Tech University The American University of Paris The College of William and Mary The College of Wooster The Ohio State University Trinity University Tulane University of Louisiana Union College University of Alabama University of Arizona University of California - Irvine University of Central Florida University of Cincinnati University of Colorado Boulder University of Colorado Colorado Springs University of Colorado Denver University of Connecticut	University of Denver University of Hawaii University of Florida University of Illinois University of Illinois Chicago University of Iowa University of Kansas University of Maryland (College Park) University of Massachusetts - Amherst University of Massachusetts - Boston University of Memphis University of Miami University of Minnesota - Twin Cities University of Mississippi University of Montana University of Nebraska University of Nevada - Las Vegas University of New Mexico University of North Dakota University of Northern Colorado University of Notre Dame University of Oregon University of Pittsburgh University of Portland University of Puget Sound University of Redlands University of Rhode Island University of Rochester University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of South Dakota University of South Florida University of Southern California University of South Florida University of Tampa University of Utah University of Vermont University of Washington University of Wisconsin Ursinus College Utah Valley University Washington University in St. Louis Wesleyan University Western Colorado University Western Washington University Wheaton College (MA) Whitman College Whittier College Willamette University Wofford College Worcester Polytechnic Institute Xavier University
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