2026-2027 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.

FAST FACTS

Enrollment
PreK-Grade 12
220

Enrollment
Grades 9-12
50

Class of 2027
20

Faculty in Upper School
21

With Advanced Degrees
57 percent

Preparing Students for a Dynamic World

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.

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 2026 FAST FACTS

- **Average ACT Score: 23.6**
  - National Average: 19.4
- **Average SAT Score: 1228**
  - National Average: 1028
- **$4.4 million** in merit scholarships and awards for a class of 16

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)**

Tom Gregory, Head of School
Erin Cerezo, Associate Head of School for Academics
Brooke Kelly-Rawls, Director of Enrollment Management
Erik Playe, Director of College Counseling
Kelley Jefferson, Registrar

21 Broadmoor Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 | admission@css.org | (719) 475-9747 | www.css.org

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

AP COURSES: CSS offers 17 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 (Starting for the Class of 2030)

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 29 credits is required for graduation.

ENGLISH
4 Credits Required
American Literature & Composition
European Literature & Composition
Senior English
World Literature
AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & ENGINEERING
3 Science Credits Required
AI Foundations
Anatomy & Physiology
Biology
Chemistry
Electrical Engineering
Engineering Design
Environmental Science
Game Development
Innovation & Design
Mechanical Engineering
Robotics: Engineering & Programming
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Physics I
AP Psychology

HISTORY
3 Credits Required
Civics
Global Studies & World Geography
World History
US History
AP Comparative Government & Politics
AP US History

MATHEMATICS
4 Credits Required
Algebra I
Algebra II
Discrete Math
Finance
Geometry
Ordinary Differential Equations
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Economics
AP Precalculus
AP Statistics

WORLD LANGUAGE
3 Credits Required
French I, II, III, IV
Spanish I, II, III, IV
AP Spanish
AP French

ARTS
*2.5 Credits/ 5 semesters**
9th Grade Art/ Art Foundations
Acting/Screenplay
Band
Bronze Casting
Ceramics/ Advanced Ceramics
Darkroom Photography
Digital Photography
Fiber Arts
Glass/ Advcanced Glass
Improvision
Jewelry
Maker's Theater
Metal Sculpture
Music Theory
Painting (water or oil-based)
Performance Portfolio
Portfolio & Studio Art
Printmaking
Scene Study and Directing
Street Performance
Stone Carving
Studio Drawing
Technical Theatre
Vocal Ensemble
Woodworking
Yearbook
Advanced Art

COLLEGE OVERVIEW
0.25 credit

Academic Electives
4.5 credits/9 semesters
Required Academic Electives: Public Speaking, College Overview, and Wellness

EXPERIENCE-CENTERED SEMINAR
(one each year)
4 Credits Required

Senior Capstone Experience
1 Credit Required

Activities- Athletics, Theatre, approved CSS activities, and pre-approved non-CSS activities
4 years/3 seasons of activities per year minimum (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Community Service
Minimum of 18 hours of service per academic year, for minimum total of 72 hours.

GRADING SCALE

UNWEIGHTED GPA	**A+** 4.333	**A** 4.000	**A-** 3.667	**B+** 3.333	**B** 3.000	**B-** 2.667	**C+** 2.333	**C** 2.000	**C-** 1.667	**D+** 1.333	**D** 1.000	**D-** 0.667	**F** 0.000	**P** Passing
WEIGHTED GPA	**A+** 5.333	**A** 5.000	**A-** 4.667	**B+** 4.333	**B** 4.000	**B-** 3.667	**C+** 3.333	**C** 3.000	**C-** 2.667	**D+** 1.333	**D** 1.000	**D-** 0.667	**F** 0.000	**P** Passing

CREDITS BY DEPARTMENT	**English**	**Math**	**Science**	**History**	**World Language**	**Arts**	**Academic Elective**	**Experience-Centered Seminar**	**Senior Capstone**
	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.50	4.5	4.00	1.0

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES For the Class of 2026

Selected schools from the class of 2025 are bolded.

Abilene Christian University
Adams State University
Antelope Valley University
Arizona State University
Augustana College
Bradley University
California Institute of the Arts
Central Institute of the Arts
Central Washington University
Centre College
Clark University
Colorado Christian University
Colorado College
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Drake University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Florida Agricultral and Mechanical University
Florida Southern College
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
Grinnell College
Hampshire College
High Point University
Howard University
Kalamazoo College
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Marist University
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Penn State University
Penn State University Harrisburg
Pepperdine University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Sarah Lawrence College
St. John's College
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of California Riverside
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Boulder (College of Engineering)
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of North Carolina Charlotte
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oregon
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
Vassar College
Washington State University
Western Colorado University
Wheaton College (MA)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
Wofford College