



Upper School Curriculum



The Banff High School offers a college preparatory curriculum taught within a learning environment that fosters a secure and challenging education. Teachers and staff strive to educate the entire student through a strong liberal arts curriculum. The core curriculum at The Banff School better prepares students for their future education and life choices.

Qualified, professional educators practice mastery teaching, encouraging students to fully learn and apply course material. Helpful counselors provide guidance to students as they navigate the sometimes-complicated path of college testing and admissions. Class size ensures that students will have individualized attention.

Dual credit courses allow qualified students to receive high school and college credit concurrently in many upper level courses

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This is a listing of courses available. The curriculum may differ slightly each year.

Language Arts

English I

Students learn to speak and write clearly, following the standard conventions of our language. The course is designed to teach students to understand and execute different aims and modes of writing and to recognize the different genres of literature.

English II

Students build on skills learned in English I. The goal of the class is to exhibit an improvement in reading, writing, and grammar skills, and to use higher level critical thinking skills in the analysis of literature of different genres.

American Literature

Students will study American literature from its beginnings through the various literary periods to present day literature, gaining abilities in grammar and writing.

British Literature (Dual College Credit)

Students will exhibit college readiness through mastery of reading, writing, and grammar skills. Compositions will be detailed and will show high levels of critical thinking. Students will study British literature from its birth in the Anglo-Saxon period to present day.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Students add to the mathematical knowledge learned in Pre-Algebra, exploring real numbers, solving equations, graphing functions, solving inequalities, and factoring. The Algebra I content is also connected to topics in Geometry, Probability, Statistics, and Trigonometry. Group, class and individual activities help students to connect mathematical concepts to the real world.

Geometry

This course provides opportunities to investigate concepts of geometry, to approach and complete proofs successfully, and leads to the discovery of postulates and theorems. By the end of the course, reasoning geometrically will become just as natural as working with numbers.

Algebra II (Dual College Credit)

Curriculum includes study of inequalities, determinants, theory of equations, binomial theorem, progressions and mathematical inductions. Additionally, Algebra II covers coordinate geometry, matrices, and logarithmic and exponential functions.

Mathematics (continued)

Precalculus

Students learn linear and quadratic functions with application, exponential logarithmic functions, linear systems, matrices and determinants, permutation combinations, probability, and conic sections.

Calculus

The curriculum builds upon the ideas of Precalculus and Trigonometry, exploring derivatives, differentials of algebraic functions, indefinite integrals and definite integrals.

Science

Biology

Biology I is designed to help students see the relevance of Biology in their everyday lives. It should help them develop a respect for the environment and make responsible decisions about their world. The course provides basic knowledge of Biology as it relates to students and their experiences.

Chemistry

Chemistry I is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of inorganic chemistry. Upon successful completion of this class, students will demonstrate excellent laboratory skills and a thorough understanding of the structure and composition of materials.

Physics

Students apply the concepts of physics to explain phenomena that are observed in the everyday world. This course provides a conceptual framework for later quantitative course work, offers clear explanations and insightful analogies, and is a vehicle for further studies in physics.

Oceanography

Emphasis is placed on presenting the full range of ocean science. The course includes the latest advances in observing capabilities (satellites, remote sensing, underwater robotic vehicles) and current environmental concerns, new materials on the Greenhouse Effect, the Gaia hypothesis, and global climate changes.

Foreign Language

Spanish I

Spanish I enables students to obtain a measurable degree of competency and proficiency in each of the four language skills: speaking, reading, writing and listening.

Spanish II

In Spanish II students continue to develop language proficiency, preparing them to communicate effectively and express themselves with confidence. Presentation and practice of functional expressions, vocabulary, and grammar are interwoven with cultural information.

Foreign Language (continued)

Spanish III (Dual College Credit)

Spanish III endeavors to help students develop skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will describe and narrate in the present, past and future tenses, express wishes, opinions and reactions and express hypothetical situations.

Fine Arts

Art / Scenic Design

The art elective introduces students to the basic elements of art through drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students are provided with opportunities to design, develop and create original artworks linked to theatrical applications of design. Students will create mock designs for particular theatrical productions.

Theatre Production

The Production course focuses on two major school productions: one in the winter, and one for the spring dinner theater. During the rehearsal process, students will learn through scene studies, character analysis, historical studies, and modern presentations. Students will also gain a working knowledge of stage and screen terminology, practices, and customs.

Film Study

Emphasis on the analysis of the visual and aural aspects of selected motion pictures, dramatic aspects of narrative films, and historical growth and sociological effect of film as an art

Music

Work on selected pieces for the Spring Dinner Theatre will concentrate on proper breathing techniques, dealing with performance anxiety, pitch control, and stage presence.

Computer / Technology

Courses offer students the opportunity to learn computer-related terminology and use, the history and the development of the computer and the uses of the computer as an important tool in modern society. Course offerings may also include Desktop Publishing partnered with Web Page Design.

Personal Wellness & Sports

Each year, the Banff School strives to provide varied sports and wellness activities. Housed in our brand new, fully equipped gymnasium, students are offered participation in such sporting activities as: basketball, volleyball, baseball, track, cheerleading and tennis. Many of these same sports are also offered in a competitive option such as our basketball teams, the "Banff Bears," and the "Lady Bears." Our students also enjoy support in competition swimming and gymnastic activities.