

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL PROFILE

### MISSION

The Peak School seeks to ignite a passion for learning; to develop students of diverse talents and backgrounds who think critically and act with integrity; and to graduate compassionate, confident, capable students who will embrace their roles as local and global citizens.

### MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

The Peak School is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and accredited by Cognia.

### PHILOSOPHY

The Peak School was designed as a progressive school to meet the following goals:

- To provide a high-level, personalized academic experience that meets the needs of each student.
- To have an academic- and civic-minded community in which students are known well and develop an individual voice and sense of responsibility to the community as a whole.

### PEAK AT A GLANCE

- Founded in 2011
- Only independent school in Summit County serving Keystone, Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne, as well as surrounding counties
- 81 students in grades 6-12
- 16 full and part time faculty and administrators
- Student-to-teacher ratio 5:1
- 39% of students receiving tuition assistance

### THE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS

PEAK'S DIVISIONS	
<b>Division I</b>	6th Grade
<b>Division II</b>	7th & 8th Grades
<b>Division III</b>	9th, 10th, & 11th Grades
<b>Division IV</b>	12th Grade

The Peak School offers a progressive college preparatory program, with the goal of preparing all graduates to advance to the post-secondary institution of their choice. Students are grouped into multi-age Divisions. The Peak School operates on a block schedule, with all Middle School students taking Humanities, STEM, Leveled Math, World Language, Art, and one Elective each quarter. In the Upper School, students take Literature, History, Natural Science, Leveled Math and World Language. In addition to elective offerings, Upper School Students also have the opportunity to supplement their Peak School course options through guided Independent Study, college curricula, and accredited online coursework. Intentionally, AP, IB, or Honors courses are not offered at Peak, though Peak administers AP tests to select students who choose to take the exam.

Capstone is an independent project students will complete during their Division IV year. Throughout 12th grade, students take the Senior Project Planning course, where they will have the opportunity to create an independent project that demonstrates the skills they cultivated over the course of their studies. Students are encouraged to use their project as an opportunity to do first-hand research, shadow professionals, and seek out hands-on experience related to their project. During the third quarter, students will spend time off campus in pursuit of their project goals. The Capstone project culminates with a college-level research paper and presentation to the school community. The Peak School nurtures informed and engaged citizens with a passion for academic exploration and a devotion to the global community. A Peak graduate displays self-awareness, self-motivation, and confidence in thinking critically and independently.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
<b>English/ Literature</b>	4 Years
<b>Social Sciences</b>	4 Years
<b>Natural Science</b>	4 Years
<b>Mathematics (through Algebra 2)</b>	3 Years
<b>World Language</b>	3 Years
<b>Arts</b>	1 Year
<b>Electives</b>	2 Years
<b>Senior Project Class</b>	1 Year

## NARRATIVE AND NUMERIC EVALUATION

The Peak School assess students using a robust rubric of Division Mastery Objectives (DMOs) that focus on building skills across ten different categories: Artistic Expression, Writing, Research, Social Science, Reading, Discussion, Scientific Investigation, Oral Presentation, Mathematical Inquiry, and World Language. Students work to progress through the Peak Mastery Scale of *Just Beginning*, *Approaching*, *Meeting* and *Exceeding*, which relate directly to a numeric scale of 0-4.0. Dual enrollment classes through Colorado Mountain College are weighted up to 4.5. A student must show demonstrated mastery of a 1.7 or higher in a course to receive passing credit for a class. Year-end mastery is calculated as an average between semester one and semester two. Teachers write narrative evaluations to accompany mid-semester progress reports. Transcripts show coursework as well as numeric grades.

### **Mastery- Numeric Translation**

<b>Peak Mastery Scale</b>	<b>Just Beginning</b>	<b>Approaching</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Exceeding</b>
<b>4.0-point Scale</b>	0.0 - 1.2	1.3 - 2.2	2.3 - 3.6	3.7 - 4.0

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND EXPEDITION WEEK

Outdoor Education is a fully integrated part of the curriculum at The Peak School. Students become engaged local citizens and stewards of the environment, reinforce and enrich their academic studies in all subjects, and build essential leadership and community skills. Expedition Week is a program run by Peak faculty and staff where students have an opportunity to participate in non-traditional learning designed to enrich their school experience. Regular academic classes are put on hold for the week while students pick from a variety of different options that may include travel around Colorado and out of state.

### **Upper School Curriculum**

	<b>Division III 9th Grade</b>	<b>Division III 10th &amp; 11th Grades</b>	<b>Division IV 12th Grade</b>
<b>English</b>	World Literature and Beginning Composition	American Literature/ European Literature Intermediate Composition	Expository and Creative Writing <i>(Dual Enrollment Colorado Mountain College ENG 1021)</i>
<b>Social Science</b>	Ancient Civilizations	History of the Modern World to 1900/ 20th Century World History	Sustainability <i>(Dual Enrollment Colorado Mountain College SUS 1001)</i>
<b>Natural Science</b>	Geomorphology and Astrobiology	Biology/ Chemistry	Physics
<b>Mathematics</b>	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Advanced Calculus		
<b>World Language</b>	Spanish/ Chinese/ World Language Independent Study		
<b>Arts</b>	Studio Art, Mixed Media, Social Justice Artwork, Theater, Digital Photography, Glassblowing, Religious Art, Nature Studies/ Plein Air Painting, Art Yoga, Elements and Principles of Design, Making Art for Mental Health		
<b>Electives</b>	Including by not limited to: Ethics and Choices, Technology, Storytelling, Hero's Journey through Film, Astronomy and Research Skills, Yoga, Fitness, Human Sexuality, Positive Psychology, Business, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, Culinary Skills, Skiing, Fly Fishing, Logic Puzzles, Snow Science, Explain the Brain, Freshwater Ecology, Lego Robotics, Wilderness Medicine, Kickboxing, Local History, Marine Biology, Psychology Through Film, Community Service, Philosophy, and Skateboarding. Dual Enrollment elective courses through Colorado Mountain College available to upper school students.		
<b>Capstone</b>	Students work to identify potential Division IV Capstone Senior Project topics, make connections in their field of choice, and partner with project advisors.		Senior Project Planning Course, Quarter Three Project Work Study
<b>Outdoor Education</b>	All students participate in several overnight and day trips that encompass the following activities: Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Hiking, Paddle boarding, Skiing/Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, White Water Rafting, Trail Maintenance		
<b>Expedition Week</b>	2023-2024 Options: Out-of-state College Trip, Marine Biology in California, School of Rock, Exploring Life Through Theater, Washington D.C. Tour, Art Week, Lifelong Fitness, Photo and Video Editing		