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2016-2017 School Profile
CEEB Code: 060627

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 In conjunction with Macy College Consulting

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.

Philosophy

The Peak School was designed and created in 2011 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 community in which students are known well and develop an individual voice and sense of responsibility to the community as a whole.

PEAK’S DIVISIONS

Division I	6th Grade
Division II	7th & 8th Grades
Division III	9th - 11th Grades
Division IV	12th Grade

The Peak School Graduate

The Peak School nurtures informed and engaged citizens with a passion for academic exploration and a devotion to the global community. Progression through Peak’s Divisional system, bifurcated between the Middle (Divisions I and II) and Upper Schools (Divisions III and IV), requires increasingly rigorous independent immersion projects culminating in Division IV’s year-long senior project. Peak develops independent thinkers by encouraging students to pursue guided research reflecting their own passions and intellectual and creative abilities. A Peak graduate displays self-awareness, self-motivation, and confidence in thinking critically and independently.

UPPER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

English	4 Years
Social Sciences	4 Years
Mathematics	4 Years
Natural Sciences	3 Years
Foreign Language	3 Years
Arts	1 Year
Academic Electives	2 Years

The School and Students

The Peak School, created in 2011 in Summit County, Colorado, currently consists of 68 students in grades 6 through 12, eight full-time faculty and administrators, three part-time staff, and five adjunct instructors, creating a student to teacher ratio of 8:1.

Students are grouped into multi-age Divisions based on their academic abilities. The Peak School operates on a block schedule, with all Middle School students taking Humanities, STEM, Leveled Math, World Language, and one Elective each quarter. In the Upper School, Humanities is bifurcated into English and Social Sciences to accommodate HEAR Standards. All Upper School classes are honors-level seminar environments, and Peak does not award individual academic honors of any kind. Upper School students 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.

The school is small by design, having added an additional Upper School grade each year as we've grown towards our first Graduation on May 28, 2017. Peak students represent a cross section of the larger Summit County population, serving a slightly higher than average population of gifted students. We attract a diverse socio-economic population, with 33% of our students receiving tuition assistance.

Memberships and Affiliations

The Peak School is accredited by AdvancED, and is a member of the Coalition of Essential Schools, Progressive Education Network, Independent Curriculum Group, and National Association of Independent Schools.

The School and its members uphold the following **Ten Common Principles**:

- Learning to Use One's Mind Well
- Less is More: Depth Over Coverage
- Goals Apply to All Students
- Personalization
- Student-as-Worker, Teacher-as-Coach
- Demonstration of Mastery
- A Tone of Decency and Trust
- Commitment to the Entire School
- Resources Dedicated to Teaching and Learning
- Democracy and Equity

Academic Program and Outdoor Education

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. Peak offers the courses typically taken in middle and high school in the Humanities (English and Social Sciences), STEM (integrated sciences), Mathematics, and World Languages (Spanish and Chinese). Additionally, students take advanced, college-level courses in the Upper School (Divisions III & IV), as well as electives in the sciences, the arts, outdoor education, and health and wellness. Field experiences, internships, and interdisciplinary courses are also a part of the Peak experience for all students. Small class sizes enable high achieving students to work towards more challenging, differentiated coursework.

Additionally, Outdoor Education is a fully integrated part of the curriculum at The Peak School. Students become engaged local citizens and stewards of the environment, discover their own personal connection to nature, reinforce and enrich their academic studies in all subjects, and build essential leadership and community skills.

Evaluation and Gateway

The low student-teacher ratio (8:1) and high levels of personalization enable frequent informal evaluation to be a natural part of the Peak experience. Formal evaluation occurs via the assessment of student work as related to the school's mastery objectives. Report cards reflect students' progress towards mastering skills and processes rather than memorization of information, and include narrative evaluations from each teacher, which are compiled as part of the students' transcripts. Letter grades are not used at The Peak School, and postsecondary admissions staff are encouraged to learn about our students in detail through their narrative assessments and portfolios.

Students *Gateway* at the end of each Division. The Gateway process requires students to demonstrate mastery of all learning objectives for that Division. Students complete a portfolio of work, personal reflection, and an Immersion Project, in which students must present and defend their study to the community. Division IV's Gateway is a year-long intensive independent Senior Project that demonstrates mastery of critical thinking, research, writing, and presentation skills, and in-depth knowledge of an area of the student's choice.

Community Service

All students at The Peak School engage in annual community service projects as a part of their advisory group experiences. These projects provide opportunities for outreach to organizations throughout Summit County, the state of Colorado, and the global community with partner organizations including: Summit County Preschool, Denver Children's Hospital, Donor Dudes, Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, Summit County Animal Shelter, and Lake Dillon Theater.