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## DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

Founded in 1920, Branson is a rigorous co-educational independent day school located in the residential town of Ross in Marin County, 11 miles north of San Francisco.

- We develop students who make a positive impact in the world by leading lives of integrity, purpose, learning, and joy.
- We believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential components of an excellent learning environment and a vibrant, caring community.
- We aspire to create a community in which every member feels a deep sense of belonging and inclusion.

Branson students and faculty have worked together to identify core values we see as central to the Branson experience: **courage, kindness, honor, purpose.**

The school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Branson's College Counseling office adheres to the NACAC Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (CEPP).

## THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

All courses are taught at an accelerated level. We offer the AP designation only when the AP curriculum follows and builds upon the solid curricular foundations we support as a school. Each department also offers rigorous courses without the AP label. These courses draw on the expertise of our teachers, and are on par with or exceed the rigors of the AP program. These courses are bolded on page 3.

Branson transitioned from a trimester system to a semester system in the fall of 2019. Official grades are reported at the end of the term or year-long course.

Branson does not present any academic awards until the completion of senior year.

### 2020-2021 COVID-19 Update:

On March 18, 2020, Branson moved to full online instruction for the duration of the academic year. Hours of instruction were not impacted by the move to a virtual setting, nor were the students' academic expectations. Students' final grades could not drop below their year-to-date 3rd quarter grade when we moved online, provided they remained engaged in their courses.

Branson plans to resume in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year as soon as it is deemed safe to do so, but began the year virtually.

Due to the need to establish cohorts of a certain size, many members of the Class of 2021 are unable to take the courses they initially requested. All modifications will be mentioned specifically in letters of recommendation and/or on a student's application. Certain modifications to our curricular offerings were required and are noted on page 3 of this profile.

## ENROLLMENT

Representing the broader diversity of the Bay Area, our 320 students form a culturally and socioeconomically heterogeneous community.

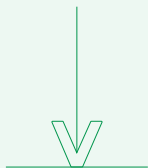
- Middle schools represented: 60
- Branson students on financial aid: 19%
- Students of color across all grade levels: 41%

Admission to Branson is highly selective.

## FACULTY

At the heart of Branson is the trusting, dynamic relationship between dedicated teachers and students. Most of our 50 faculty members hold advanced degrees.

Student to faculty ratio: 6:1  
Average class size: 12



## CLASS OF 2020 TESTING AND MATRICULATION INFORMATION

### Middle 50% Test Ranges

Please note: Scores listed reflect final ranges of the most recent graduating class, not the current senior class.

As of September 2020, fewer than a third of the senior class has been able to sit for an official SAT or ACT.

### ACT

English: 32 – 35

Math: 27 – 35

Reading: 31 – 36

Science: 27 – 35

Composite: 30 – 35

### SAT Reasoning Test

EBRW: 670 – 740

Math: 700 – 770

Total: 1360 – 1500

### College Matriculation

Four-year colleges: 96%

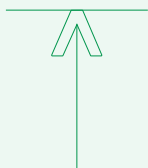
Two-year colleges: 0%

Applying in 2020-2021: 4%

## CLASS OF 2021 GENERAL INFORMATION

Total Number  
of Students: 83

GPA Range: 2.85 – 4.0



## GRADING SYSTEM

The Branson transcript reports a cumulative GPA that is *unweighted* and calculated on a 4.0 scale. All Branson classes, including Summer Geometry, are included in the GPA. No additional credit is awarded to a grade of an A+ and GPAs only include coursework completed at Branson or through the BlendEd Consortium. Coursework completed at another institution will appear on a separate transcript. As a matter of policy, *Branson does not rank students.*

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of laboratory science, 3 years of the same foreign language or 2 years each of 2 different foreign languages, 3 years of history, 2 years of arts, and enough electives to total 54 credits. Most students take courses well beyond these requirements. Students are encouraged to take five core academic subjects and one arts course every year. Students are also required to complete a human development curriculum as well as 25 hours of community engagement per year.

## DISCIPLINARY REPORTING

Branson has an affirmative responsibility to answer questions from colleges and universities regarding student discipline honestly and openly. The Community Honor Board, comprised of faculty and students, adjudicates cases of student behavior involving transgressions of Branson's "Major Rules and Expectations." Branson students are expected to report to colleges if found in violation of a "Major Rule" from 9th grade on. Branson will also notify colleges directly of these instances. When such measures occur after the initial application has been sent, Branson provides updated information reflecting the change in the student's status.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**HONOR CODE:** The Branson Honor Code governs the actions of every member of our community, be they student, teacher, or parent. All community members agree to create and maintain trust, respect, and care throughout school life by accepting responsibility for themselves and others.

**JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS:** Juniors have a unique opportunity to apply for one of a handful of endowed fellowships; each provides an opportunity for a student to pursue independent scholarly work during the summer before senior year. Recipients are chosen by a faculty committee and announced before the end of the school year.

### BRANSON SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT:

Projects are completed by all freshman students, as well as juniors pursuing advanced science electives in the following classes: Biotechnology, Medicine, and Science Research; Marine Biology; Microbiology and Infectious Disease; Astronomy and Astrophysics.

**BLEND-ED CONSORTIUM:** In fall 2019, Branson joined five peer schools in the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium. The program seeks to bring students a new level of engaging curriculum that takes advantage of the geography, talent, and culture of the Bay Area. Courses offered through BlendEd are equivalent in rigor to Branson courses and will factor into the Branson GPA.

Branson discontinued our partnership with the Global Online Academy in the spring of 2019. Some current students may have GOA courses on their transcript from previous years.

# 2020-2021 CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
<b>ENGLISH</b> 4 years 12 units required	English I	English II	<b>AP Language &amp; Composition</b>	English IV Honors Courses**: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Immigrant Stories (Fall)</b></li><li>▪ <b>African-American Autobiography (Fall)</b></li><li>▪ <b>Shakespeare (Spring)</b></li><li>▪ <b>Encountering Beauty (Spring)</b></li></ul>
<b>HISTORY</b> 3 years 9 units required	Roots of Civilization	<b>Modern World History Honors</b>	<b>United States History Honors</b>	Honors Senior History Seminars**: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Justice</b></li><li>▪ <b>American Politics &amp; Economics</b></li></ul>
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> 3 years 9 units required	Algebra I* Geometry* <b>Geometry Honors*</b>	Geometry Algebra II <b>Algebra II Honors</b>	Algebra II Precalculus I Precalculus II <b>Precalculus Honors</b>	Intro to Precalculus & Statistics Precalculus <b>AP Calculus AB</b> <b>AP Calculus BC</b> <b>AP Statistics</b> <b>Linear Algebra</b> Various Computer Science Electives
<b>SCIENCE</b> 3 years 9 units required	Physics I* <b>Physics I Honors*</b>	Chemistry <b>Chemistry Honors</b>	<b>Biology Honors</b>	<b>AP Chemistry</b> <b>Astronomy and Astrophysics</b> <b>Biotechnology, Medicine &amp; Science Research</b> <b>Marine Biology</b> <b>Microbiology and Infectious Disease</b>
<b>LANGUAGE</b> 9 units of one language or 6 units of two languages required	Italian I, II, III, <b>AP Italian Language &amp; Culture</b> Latin I, II, III, <b>IV Honors</b> Mandarin I, II, III, <b>IV Honors, V</b> <b>Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers I, Advanced, AP Spanish Language &amp; Culture, IV</b> Spanish I, II, III <b>Honors, AP Spanish Language &amp; Culture, V (Hispanic Literature)</b>			
<b>ARTS</b> 6 units required	<b>DANCE</b> Co-Ed Dance I, II, III, IV Athletic Dance for Men I, II, III <b>Dance Performance Ensemble</b> — <b>THEATER</b> Acting: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced <b>Acting Performance Honors</b>		<b>VISUAL ARTS</b> Survey of Visual Arts Intermediate & Advanced (Classes in: Painting & Drawing, Photography, Sculpture) <b>Portfolio Review Honors</b> — <b>MUSIC</b> Music & Performance Intermediate Ensemble <b>Chambers Singers Honors</b> <b>Performance Seminars in: Classical, Jazz, Rock</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> 4 units of non-academic credit required			<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b> 2 units of non-academic credit required	

**Bolded courses** indicate an increased level of rigor and pace of instruction. Prerequisites, placement exams, department approval, and/or scheduling conflicts may influence a student's ability to take these courses. All Branson courses are taught at an accelerated level.

\*Determined by placement tests prior to 9th grade. Once a student has been placed in a sequence, particularly in areas of math and science, it is very difficult and rare for a student to move or accelerate tracks in subsequent years.

\*\*English and history electives have been streamlined in 2020-21 to accommodate cohort-based learning. AP Physics is also not being offered in 2020-2021.



## COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2018-2020

American University (2)	Mount Holyoke College	UC, Santa Barbara
Amherst College (3)	The New School	UC, Santa Cruz
Bard College	New York University (4)	UC, San Diego (3)
Barnard College	Northeastern University (5)	University of Chicago (7)
Bates College	Northwestern University (3)	University of Colorado (2)
Boston College (5)	Oberlin College (2)	University of Massachusetts
Boston University	Occidental College	University of Miami
Bowdoin College	Pepperdine University	University of Michigan (4)
Brown University (5)	Pitzer College	University of Notre Dame (2)
Carleton College (3)	Pomona College	University of Oregon
Carnegie Mellon University (3)	Princeton University (4)	University of Pennsylvania (5)
Chapman University (2)	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Redlands
Claremont McKenna College (3)	Rice University (2)	University of Richmond
Colby College (3)	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Rochester
Colgate University (3)	Salve Regina University	University of San Diego
Colorado College (2)	San Diego State University	University of Southern California (11)
Columbia University	Santa Clara University (3)	University of Sydney
Connecticut College	Sciences Po/Columbia University	University of Tampa
Dartmouth College (6)	Scripps College (2)	University of Texas
Davidson College	Seattle University	University of Virginia
Drew University	Seton Hall University	University of Washington (2)
Duke University (3)	Sewanee: University of the South	University of Wisconsin (3)
Eckerd College	Skidmore College	Vanderbilt University (3)
Ecole Poly. Federale de Lausanne	Southern Methodist University (3)	Vassar College
Emory University (3)	Stanford University (11)	Wake Forest University (2)
Georgetown University (4)	Syracuse University	Washington & Lee University (3)
Harvard University (7)	Tufts University (8)	Washington University in St. Louis (7)
Harvey Mudd College	Tulane University (3)	Wellesley College
Haverford College	University of British Columbia (2)	Wesleyan University (3)
Indiana University	UC, Berkeley (3)	Williams College (2)
Johns Hopkins University (4)	UC, Davis	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Middlebury College (6)	UC, Los Angeles (6)	Yale University (4)