



CEEB Code: 052695

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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.

Branson develops students who make a positive impact in the world by leading lives of integrity, purpose, learning and joy. Branson believes 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. Branson's College Counseling office adheres to the NACAC Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (CEPP).

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

2019–2020 Update: Beginning in the fall of 2019, Branson will move from a trimester system to a semester system. Official grades are reported at the end of a semester or year-long course. The minimum requirement for graduation from Branson School is a total of 54 units of academic credit.

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.

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 the school life by accepting responsibility for themselves and others.

ENROLLMENT

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

Number of distinct middle schools represented: 62

Percentage of Branson students on financial aid: 19%

Percentage of students of color across all grade levels: 38%

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 2019 TESTING INFORMATION

Middle 50%

Test Ranges

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

ACT

English: 34 – 35

Math: 29 – 33

Reading: 34 – 36

Science: 29 – 33

Composite: 31 – 34

SAT Reasoning Test

EBRW: 690 – 760

Math: 700 – 790

College Matriculation

Four-year colleges: 99%

Two-year colleges: 0%

Post-graduate year: 1%

CLASS OF 2020 GENERAL INFORMATION

Total Number

of Students: 79

GPA Range: 2.76 – 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 BlendEd. 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 and a senior capstone project, 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

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 committee and announced before the end of the school year.

Branson Science Research Project:

An independent research project completed by freshman students and juniors pursuing advanced science electives in the Advanced Environmental Studies; Biotechnology, Medicine, and Science Research; Marine Biology; Microbiology and Infectious Disease; Astronomy and Astrophysics classes.

Senior Capstone Project: Senior students conclude their Branson experience with a faculty-approved independent project during the last month of school. Projects are conceived, designed, and executed entirely by the student.

BlendEd Consortium: The Branson School joined five Bay Area peer schools in the Bay Area BlendEd consortium in fall 2019. 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.

The Branson School 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.

2019–2020 CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

| | GRADE 9 | GRADE 10 | GRADE 11 | GRADE 12 |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| ENGLISH 4 yrs — 12 units | English I | English II | AP Language and Composition | Honors Senior English Electives (examples) Race and Space Art of the Short Story American Transcendentalism Immigrant Stories Poetry and Poetics Postcolonialism and Diaspora |
| HISTORY 3 yrs — 9 units | Roots of Civilization | Modern World History Honors | United States History Honors | Honors Senior Seminar Electives (examples) Social Entrepreneurship Introduction to Ethics: The Good Life History of Islam and the Modern Middle East Microeconomics and Macroeconomics The Constitution and its Controversies Russia, from Peter to Putin |
| MATHEMATICS 3 yrs — 9 units | Algebra I* Geometry* Geometry Honors* | Geometry Algebra II Algebra II Honors | Algebra II Precalculus I Precalculus II Precalculus Honors | Precalculus I Precalculus II AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Linear Algebra Various Computer Science Electives |
| SCIENCE 3 yrs — 9 units | Physics I* Physics I Honors* | Chemistry Chemistry Honors | Biology Honors | AP Chemistry Astronomy and Astrophysics Biotechnology AP Physics 2 Marine Biology Microbiology and Infectious Disease |
| LANGUAGE* 9 units of 1 language or 6 units of 2 languages | Italian I, II, III, AP Italian Language & Culture Latin I, II, III, IV Honors Mandarin I, II, III, IV, V | | Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers I, Advanced, AP Spanish Language & Culture, IV Spanish I, II, III Honors, AP Spanish Language & Culture, V (Hispanic Literature) | |
| ARTS 6 units required | DANCE: Co-Ed Dance I, II, III, IV Athletic Dance for Men I, II, III Dance Performance Ensemble THEATER: Acting: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Acting Performance Honors | | VISUAL ARTS: Survey of Visual Arts Intermediate & Advanced Classes in: Painting and Drawing, Photography, Sculpture Portfolio Review Honors | MUSIC: Chamber Singers Honors Music and Performance Intermediate Ensemble Performance Seminars in: Classical, Jazz, Rock |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION Four units of non-academic credit | | | HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Two units of non-academic credit | |

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.

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| American University | Harvey Mudd College | U. California, San Diego (2) |
| The American University of Paris | Haverford College (2) | U. California, Santa Barbara (2) |
| Amherst College | Indiana University at Bloomington | U. California, Santa Cruz (2) |
| Arizona State University | Johns Hopkins University (3) | University of Chicago (8) |
| Bard College (2) | Middlebury College (7) | University of Colorado at Boulder |
| Barnard College (3) | Mount Holyoke College | University of Massachusetts, Amherst |
| Bates College | The New School | University of Miami (3) |
| Boston College (5) | New York University (5) | University of Michigan (2) |
| Boston University | Northeastern University (4) | University of N. Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| Bowdoin College (5) | Northwestern University (4) | University of Notre Dame |
| Brown University (4) | Oberlin College (2) | University of Oregon (2) |
| Carleton College (3) | Occidental College | University of Pennsylvania (3) |
| Carnegie Mellon University (2) | Oregon State University | University of Redlands |
| Chapman University (3) | Pepperdine University | University of Southern California (11) |
| Claremont McKenna College | Princeton University (4) | University of Sydney |
| Colby College (5) | Rhode Island School of Design | University of the Pacific |
| Colgate University (3) | Rice University | University of Utah |
| Colorado College (2) | Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology | University of Virginia |
| Colorado School of Mines | San Diego State University | University of Washington |
| Columbia University (3) | Santa Clara University (3) | University of Wisconsin, Madison (2) |
| Columbia University/Sciences Po | Scripps College (3) | Vanderbilt University (3) |
| Connecticut College | Seton Hall University | Wake Forest University (4) |
| Cornell University (2) | Sewanee: The University of the South | Washington and Lee University (2) |
| Dartmouth College (4) | Smith College | Washington University in St. Louis (6) |
| Davidson College | Stanford University (10) | Wesleyan University (2) |
| Drew University | Tufts University (11) | Whitman College |
| Duke University (4) | Tulane University (4) | Williams College |
| Eckerd College | University of British Columbia | Worcester Polytechnic Institute |
| Emory University (2) | U. California, Berkeley (7) | Xavier University of Louisiana |
| Georgetown University (2) | U. California, Davis (2) | Yale University (5) |
| Harvard College (7) | U. California, Los Angeles (4) | |