



**CEEB Code: 052695**

**DIRECTOR OF  
COLLEGE COUNSELING**

**Matt Lane**  
(415) 455-7127  
matt\_lane@branson.org

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF  
COLLEGE COUNSELING**

**Chris Rodriguez**  
(415) 455-7212  
chris\_rodriguez@branson.org

**COLLEGE COUNSELING  
OFFICE**

(415) 455-7145  
college\_counseling@branson.org

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

**Chris Mazzola**  
(415) 455-7154  
chris\_mazzola@branson.org

## 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's bucolic 17-acre campus offers state-of-the-art facilities, including 12 campus buildings, a Platinum-certified LEED student center, the 12,000 volume Brenda Brown library, a makerspace, and a student-run hydroponic garden.

Through the vitality, breadth, and rigor of its programs, Branson encourages students to think critically, communicate clearly, develop individual talents and interests, and pursue a lifelong passion for learning. Branson believes that diversity of people and thought enriches us all and promotes responsible leadership in the global community.

The school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Branson's college counseling office adheres to the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

## THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Branson's academic program is divided into trimesters with official grades reported at the end of either a trimester or yearlong 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: 21%

Percentage of students of color across all grade levels: 35%

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: 13

## CLASS OF 2018 TESTING INFORMATION

### *Middle 50% Test Ranges*

#### **ACT**

English: 30 – 35

Math: 28 – 33

Reading: 33 – 35

Science: 29 – 33

Composite: 29 – 34

#### **SAT Reasoning Test**

EBRW: 670 – 730

Math: 685 – 785

#### **SAT Subject Test**

*(Subjects with 5 or more test-takers)*

Biology-Environmental: 580 – 720

Biology-Molecular: 630 – 710

Chemistry: 570 – 650

English Literature: 610 – 690

Math Level II: 630 – 760

Physics: 590 – 690

Spanish: 560 – 720

US History: 570 – 700

World History: 560 – 720

#### **College Matriculation**

Four-year colleges: 100%

Two-year colleges: 0%

Post-graduate year: 0%

#### **Class of 2018**

##### **General Information**

Total Number of Students: 83

GPA Range: 2.77 – 3.96

## GRADING SYSTEM

The Branson transcript reports a cumulative GPA that is *unweighted* and calculated on a 4.0 scale. All Branson classes, with the exception of 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. 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 also required to complete a human development curriculum and senior capstone project.

## DISCIPLINARY REPORTING

Branson has an affirmative responsibility to answer questions from colleges and universities regarding student discipline honestly and openly. Consequently, Branson will notify colleges when serious disciplinary measures have been taken against a student, specifically those resulting in probation, suspension, or expulsion, and/or if the Head of School believes that a circumstance warrants disclosure. 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 Summer Fellowships:** Juniors have a unique opportunity to apply for one of five 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 in good academic standing conclude their Branson experience with an approved independent project during the last month of school. Projects are conceived and designed entirely by the student.

**The Global Online Academy:** Branson is a founding member of Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of leading independent schools from around the world that fosters new, modern ways for students to learn and teachers to teach. GOA teachers and students share their voice on a global stage, enhancing learning and enabling the pursuit of individual passions.

## 2018–2019 CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

|   | GRADE 9  | GRADE 10   | GRADE 11   | GRADE 12  |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>ENGLISH</b><br>4 yrs — 12 units                                  | English I  | English II   | <b>AP Language and Composition</b>   | <b>Honors Senior English Electives</b> (examples)<br>Race and Space<br>Art of the Short Story<br>Shakespeare's Comedies<br>Reframing the Literary-visual Narrative<br>Navigating Identity within a Liminal Space<br>Unraveling the Self |
| <b>HISTORY</b><br>3 yrs — 9 units                                   | Roots of Civilization  | <b>Modern World History Honors</b>                 | <b>United States History Honors</b>  | <b>Honors Senior Seminar Electives</b> (examples)<br>Social Entrepreneurship<br>Introduction to Ethics: The Good Life<br>History of the Modern Middle East<br>Economics<br>Understanding Islam<br>Russia, from Peter to Putin           |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b><br>3 yrs — 9 units                               | Algebra I*<br>Geometry*<br><b>Geometry Honors*</b>   | Geometry<br>Algebra II<br><b>Algebra II Honors</b> | Algebra II<br>Precalculus I<br>Precalculus II<br><b>Precalculus Honors</b>   | Precalculus I<br>Precalculus II<br><b>AP Calculus AB</b><br><b>AP Calculus BC</b><br><b>AP Statistics</b><br><b>Multivariable Calculus</b><br>Various Computer Science Electives  |
| <b>SCIENCE</b><br>3 yrs — 9 units                                   | Physics I*<br><b>Physics I Honors*</b>   | Chemistry<br><b>Chemistry Honors</b>               | <b>Biology Honors</b>  | Advanced Environmental Studies<br>Astronomy and Astrophysics<br>Biotechnology<br>Marine Biology<br><b>Microbiology and Infectious Disease</b><br><b>AP Chemistry</b><br><b>AP Physics 2</b>   |
| <b>LANGUAGE*</b><br>9 units of 1 language or 6 units of 2 languages | Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers I, Advanced, <b>AP Spanish Language &amp; Culture, IV</b><br>Spanish I, II, <b>III Honors, AP Spanish Language &amp; Culture, V</b> (Hispanic Literature)                               |  | Italian I, II, III, <b>AP Italian Language &amp; Culture</b><br>Latin I, II, III, <b>IV Honors</b><br>Mandarin I, II, III, <b>AP Chinese Language &amp; Culture, V, VI</b> |   |
| <b>ARTS</b><br>6 units required                                     | <b>DANCE:</b><br>Co-Ed Dance I, II, III, <b>IV</b><br>Athletic Dance for Men I, II, III<br><b>Dance Performance Ensemble</b><br><b>THEATER:</b><br>Acting: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced<br><b>Acting Performance Honors</b> |  | <b>VISUAL ARTS:</b><br>Survey of Visual Arts<br>Intermediate & Advanced<br>Classes in: Painting and Drawing, Photography, Sculpture<br><b>Portfolio Review Honors</b>      | <b>MUSIC:</b><br>Chorus<br><b>Chamber Singers Honors</b><br>Music and Performance<br>Intermediate Ensemble<br><b>Performance Seminars in: Classical, Jazz, Rock</b>   |
| <b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b><br>Four units of non-academic credit      |  |  | <b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b><br>Two units of non-academic credit   |   |

**Bolded courses indicate an increased level of rigor and pace of instruction. Prerequisites, placement exams, and/or departmental approval 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.

|                                |                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| American University            | Johns Hopkins University (3)     | U. California, Berkeley (9)       |
| Arizona State University       | Lafayette College                | U. California, Davis (2)          |
| Bard College                   | Lehigh University                | UCLA (7)                          |
| Barnard College (3)            | McGill University                | U. California, Santa Barbara      |
| Bates College                  | Middlebury College (6)           | U. California, Santa Cruz (2)     |
| Berklee College of Music       | Mount Holyoke College            | University of Chicago (5)         |
| Boston College (3)             | Muhlenberg College               | University of Colorado at Boulder |
| Boston University              | New York University (4)          | University of Miami (3)           |
| Bowdoin College (7)            | Northeastern University (3)      | University of Michigan (6)        |
| Brown University (7)           | Northwestern University (3)      | University of Notre Dame          |
| Carleton College               | Oberlin College and Conservatory | University of Oregon (2)          |
| Carnegie Mellon University (2) | Oregon State University          | University of Pennsylvania        |
| Chapman University (2)         | Pacific University               | University of Redlands            |
| Claremont McKenna College (3)  | Pomona College                   | University of Rochester           |
| Colby College (4)              | Princeton University (4)         | University of San Diego           |
| Colgate University (2)         | Rhode Island School of Design    | Univ. of Southern California (10) |
| Colorado College               | Rice University                  | University of the Pacific         |
| Colorado School of Mines       | Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech    | University of Toronto             |
| Columbia University (2)        | Salve Regina University          | University of Utah                |
| Connecticut College            | SF Conservatory of Music         | University of Virginia            |
| Cornell University (4)         | Santa Clara University (2)       | University of Washington (2)      |
| Dartmouth College (6)          | Scripps College (3)              | U. Wisconsin, Madison (2)         |
| Davidson College               | Seton Hall University            | Vanderbilt University (2)         |
| Dillard University             | Skidmore College                 | Wake Forest University (8)        |
| Duke University (4)            | Smith College                    | Washington and Lee University     |
| Emory University (2)           | St. John's College               | Washington U. in St. Louis (8)    |
| Georgetown University (2)      | Stanford University (6)          | Wesleyan University               |
| Hamilton College               | The American University of Paris | Whitman College                   |
| Harvard University (8)         | The New School                   | Williams College (3)              |
| Harvey Mudd College            | The UNC at Chapel Hill           | Xavier University of Louisiana    |
| Haverford College (2)          | Tufts University (9)             | Yale University (3)               |
| Indiana University             | Tulane University (4)            |                                   |
| Ithaca College                 | University of British Columbia   |                                   |