



Branson

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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'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: 35

Percentage of Branson students on financial aid: 22%

Percentage of students of color across all grade levels: 36%

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 2017 TESTING INFORMATION

Middle 50% Test Ranges

SAT Reasoning Test

EBRW: 650 – 740

Math: 630 – 760

ACT

English: 31 – 35

Math: 28 – 34

Reading: 31 – 35

Science Reasoning: 27 – 34

Composite: 29 – 34

SAT Subject Test

(Subjects with 5 or more test-takers)

Biology-Molecular: 660 – 740

Chemistry: 590 – 750

English Literature: 600 – 720

Math Level II: 670 – 800

Physics: 650 – 710

Spanish: 560 – 720

US History: 600 – 730

World History: 610 – 740

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: 2.57–3.97

GRADING SYSTEM

The Branson transcript reports a cumulative GPA that is *unweighted* and calculated on a 4.0 scale. All Branson classes 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.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING

Branson reports all disciplinary actions and violations of academic integrity resulting in suspension or expulsion.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Cum Laude: Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society is dedicated to honoring scholastic achievement in secondary schools. The presence of a Cum Laude chapter at a secondary school is an indication that superior scholastic achievement is honored. At Branson, Cum Laude designation is awarded to graduating seniors only.

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 some juniors pursuing advanced science electives in the Biotechnology, Advanced Environmental Science, Marine Biology, and Microbiology 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.

2017–2018 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	EXAMPLES: TRIMESTER-LONG COURSES Race and Space Art of the Short Story Shakespeare's Comedies Life at the Center or Life on the Edge Man's Fall and Redemption Opportunities and Anxieties of Science
HISTORY 3 yrs — 9 units	Roots of Civilization	Modern World History Honors	United States History Honors	EXAMPLES: SENIOR SEMINAR ELECTIVES Social Entrepreneurship Contemporary Civil Conflicts History of the Modern Middle East Economics Issues in Islam 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	Calculus 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	Advanced Environmental Studies Astronomy and Astrophysics Biotechnology Marine Biology Engineer Your World Microbiology and Infectious Disease AP Chemistry AP Physics 2
LANGUAGE* 9 units of 1 language or 6 units of 2 languages	Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers I, Advanced, III, IV Spanish I, II, III Honors, AP Spanish Language & Culture, V (Hispanic Literature)		Italian I, II, III, AP Italian Language & Culture Latin I, II, III, IV Honors Mandarin I, II, III, AP Chinese Language & Culture, V	
ARTS 6 units required	DANCE: 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 Design Thinking Workshop Portfolio Review Honors	MUSIC: Chorus Chamber Singers Honors Music and Performance Performance Seminars in: Classical, Jazz, Rock
PHYSICAL EDUCATION Four units of non-academic credit			WELLNESS 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.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2015 – 2017

American Univ. of Paris	Harvard University (7)	UC, Berkeley (13)
Arizona State University	Harvey Mudd College	UC, Davis
Bard College	Haverford College	UCLA (6)
Barnard College (3)	Ithaca College	UC, Santa Barbara (4)
Berklee College of Music	Johns Hopkins University (2)	UC, Santa Cruz (3)
Boston College (2)	Lafayette College	University of Chicago (3)
Bowdoin College (7)	Lehigh University	U. Colorado at Boulder (2)
Brown University (6)	McGill University	University of Miami (2)
Bucknell University (2)	Middlebury College (5)	University of Michigan (7)
Carnegie Mellon	Muhlenberg College	UNC, Chapel Hill
Chapman University (5)	New York University (6)	University of Notre Dame
Claremont McKenna (2)	Northeastern University	University of Oregon
Colby College (3)	Northwestern University (2)	University of the Pacific
Colgate University	Occidental College	University of Pennsylvania
Colorado College (2)	Oregon State University	University of Rochester
Colorado School of Mines	Pacific University	University of San Diego
Columbia University (4)	Pitzer College	U. Southern California (9)
Connecticut College	Pomona College (2)	University of Toronto
Cornell University (4)	Princeton University (3)	University of Utah
Dartmouth College (4)	SF Conservatory of Music	University of Virginia (2)
Davidson College (3)	Santa Clara University (4)	University of Washington
Dillard University	Scripps College (3)	U. Wisconsin, Madison
Duke University (5)	Skidmore College	Vanderbilt University (2)
Emory University (2)	Smith College	Wake Forest University (6)
George Washington	St. John's College	Washington U. St. Louis (8)
Georgetown University (2)	Stanford University (6)	Wesleyan University
Hamilton College	Tufts University (7)	Whitman College (2)
Hampton University	Tulane University (3)	Williams College (4)
	U. British Columbia	Yale University (6)