



BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

All Boys • All Boarding • All College Bound



We are experts in teaching boys.



BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

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Founded in 1909, Blue Ridge School enjoys a rich history. With an extraordinary campus, unique traditions and generations of devoted faculty, we have consistently prepared our students for success in college and life.

Thanks to this legacy, today we are widely acknowledged as experts in educating boys.

BRS is a fully-accredited independent college-preparatory school serving boys in grades 9 through 12. Typically, we serve around 180 students from 20 states and 15 foreign countries, working together and benefiting from each other's shared experiences.

Blue Ridge is a small school by design, allowing us to offer a remarkable 6:1 student/faculty ratio and an average class size of just nine students. Our college acceptance rate is 100%. Likewise, all-boarding is an essential element in our formula. Life at Blue Ridge is safe, secure and comfortable, purposefully designed for living and learning. Everyone enjoys the same physical and natural spaces and social and cultural framework.

Our academic program is remarkable in its ability to specialize for each boy's requirements. We believe that a great preparatory education is a process, not merely an outcome. As a result, BRS students discover how they learn best as they use innovative study techniques and tools under the expert guidance of our faculty.

It is a point of pride for Blue Ridge that more than 70% of our teachers live on campus with their families. Further, every adult shares dormitory and coaching duties in addition to their particular teaching or administrative specialty. Our community truly comes together around our boys.

In your consideration of educational options, we invite you to visit BRS. Our 750-acre campus at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains – just 20 minutes from Charlottesville – is yours to explore, and we look forward to sharing more of our place and people with you.



Why Blue Ridge?

- As an all-boarding school, Blue Ridge offers more opportunities to make friends with boys who are more focused on academic achievement, more driven toward success and more positive about school.
- Blue Ridge boys gain independent life skills that prepare them well for college and beyond. 100% of our graduates gain acceptance to a college or university.
- Many boys come to Blue Ridge looking to improve their academic performance and study skills.
- More than 60% of our faculty hold advanced degrees.
- The majority of our faculty and administrators live on campus with their families.
- Financial aid and merit based assistance is available.

The bottom line is that Blue Ridge School takes boys — in all their varieties and stages of development — and produces gentlemen. They graduate with strengthened confidence in themselves, true character and integrity, and a much clearer vision for their futures. Many look back on their years at Blue Ridge as being one of the pivotal turning points in their lives.



Why all boys?

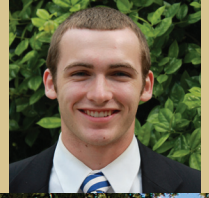
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lthough every boy is different, males generally mature at a different rate than females (physically, intellectually, emotionally and behaviorally) during their high school years.

There are distinct – and measurable – biologically-based differences between boys and girls. This is not soft science: evidence proves boys’ and girls’ brains and sensory systems develop at different speeds, especially the visual and auditory systems.

- Blue Ridge boys are more comfortable taking intellectual risks in the classroom.
- Blue Ridge teachers are truly experts on boys. Every year, teachers receive training based on the most current research about how boys learn. They then apply it in their classrooms, on the halls and the playing fields.
- The Blue Ridge Academic Program is intelligently crafted just for boys.
- Blue Ridge boys can simply be themselves. Without girls around, the desire to “show off” is greatly reduced.

"Being a proctor and prefect taught me how to be a good leader. I will always treasure my time at Blue Ridge School." - Isaac King '13 attending the University of Virginia





Our Boy-Focused Academic Program

Blue Ridge School teachers use lesson plans and teaching methods that are based on research that works best with boys.

For those students who want an academic challenge, here are just some of the custom-developed features offered through the Blue Ridge School curriculum.

- English teachers select literature that appeals to boys which helps students to like books more, to read more often, and to become much better readers and writers.
- Math and science teachers use real world, hands-on examples to bring abstract concepts such as Trigonometry or Physics to life. Students build and launch rockets in science class and monitor a motion-sensor camera mounted on the mountain to capture animal behavior.
- Blue Ridge School teachers take advantage of a boy's natural tendency to compete to increase class participation and homework completion.
- Essential study skills are reinforced in content-area classes, increasing the likelihood that the boys will consistently practice these skills.
- Important concepts are caught in more than one modality, with particular emphasis on the visual and kinesthetic modalities.
- Teachers differentiate instruction to accommodate different individual learning styles in each classroom.
- Our average class size is 9 students.

CORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION:

English	4 credits (including American Literature and Composition)
Mathematics	3-4 credits (including Algebra I and II, Geometry)
Science	3-4 credits (including Biology and Chemistry)
Social Studies	3 credits (including US History and Government)
Foreign Language	3 credits
Physical Education	2 credits
Electives	3 or more credits (including the Arts, Outdoors and Technology)

ELECTIVES:

Appalachian History	Mountain Ecology
Ceramics	Studio Art
Choir	Outdoor Leadership
Computer Art	Outdoor First Aid
Computer Programming	Outdoor Living Skills Theater Production
Guitar	TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Prep
Keyboarding	Wilderness First Aid
Music	Yearbook

Achieving Academic Success

Some boys need a little extra help to reach their full potential and achieve academic success. From its inception in 1994, the Fishburne Learning Center (FLC) has served as a resource for all BRS students and faculty. The FLC's essential focus comes from the assertion that all students, including those with a learning difference, benefit from an interactive, multi-sensory and considerate learning environment.

With this directive in mind, we have created a specialized learning environment in the FLC for anyone who requires additional support. We work best with boys who have mild to moderate learning differences, particularly when the differences are linked to memory, executive function, ADD/ADHD, reading comprehension and processing speed. The successful student from this category achieves academic success by using strategies specifically tailored to him.

The FLC's central location encourages all students to seek on-the-spot help while instructors create an atmosphere where learning is everyone's focal point.

FLC teachers and classroom teachers work closely together to give and receive feedback on various students.

Each FLC student is monitored by all content-area teachers who complete the FLC's "Weekly Progress Report" for each boy. These reports are used to rate the student in various categories such as effort, homework and test performance so that good progress is noted, and extra support is given when needed.

Providing the specialized and individual attention that some students require, the FLC is a valuable resource in Blue Ridge School's boy-centered academic program.





"I grew up hearing my dad's stories about what Blue Ridge meant to him. Now it's my turn to take advantage of everything Blue Ridge offers. I'm really thankful that I can create my own experiences here." - Clayton Turner '15 (father Clayton Turner is a member of the Class of 1987)

Educating the Whole Boy

An education at Blue Ridge School imparts knowledge and abilities to the whole student and includes all of the activities associated with his daily life at school. This holistic approach to education includes both curricular and co-curricular lessons.

Co-curricular programs are designed to help boys thrive mentally, socially and physically. They include our athletic, outdoor, performing and fine arts programs, our afternoon activities, meals, social events, field trips, residential life and much more. The programs address the full life of our students while at school with a range of activities to promote long-term habits of regular exercise, and to build character and self-esteem as well as encourage personal growth through manageable risk-taking.

Blue Ridge School is committed to creating a welcoming home away from home for our boys. Residential life is the centerpiece around which every other aspect of the Blue Ridge experience revolves. Caring committed teachers serve as hall parents in the residential dorms and offer students guidance and friendship. Hall parents are assisted in creating a familial environment by junior proctors and senior prefects. Proctors and prefects, elected by faculty and peers, serve as “older brothers” to the students on their halls.

Hall parenting is a series of multiple, interwoven tasks that require time, commitment, determination and patience. The goal of every hall parent is to develop the potential and individual talents of every boy while providing a loving, safe environment for his growth. A hall parent establishes and monitors daily routines for the boys under his charge. Blue Ridge School believes students must be treated

with the same respect that adults deserve. Hall parents must observe behavior and teach the correct behavior when necessary while at the same time recognizing that adolescence is a search for individuality and independence. Every student has mandatory, monitored study hours each evening so homework is never forgotten or lost.

OUR OWN INFIRMARY

It’s hard to be away from home and family when you’re ill or are recovering from an injury. Our caring and skilled full-time medical staff understand this and do everything they can to help the boys feel better in a comfortable environment. Experienced and licensed Blue Ridge nurses and athletic trainer are available to evaluate health concerns, provide health care, and administer medications and prescribed treatments.

ADVISORS

Every student is assigned an advisor who meets with him daily to monitor both his success in the classroom and all other aspects of his life at the School. The advisory program is designed to guide and assist students in addition to communicating with a student’s parents. This one-on-one relationship between a boy and his advisor builds trust and understanding. This gives the advisor the opportunity to not only guide the student but communicate both issues and success stories with his parents.

All adults at the School have some role in residential life and make up the residence life team. The entire team creates an environment that allows boys to enjoy their own academic successes and personal growth. Faculty are on duty every day and monitor study hours.

Instilling the Right Habits

Teaching values through Character Education is woven throughout the fabric of life at Blue Ridge School.

Character Education is designed to instill the habit of doing the right thing. At Blue Ridge, our Character Education program is based on our Code of Conduct, which is itself a code encompassing commonly held values throughout the world and in the world's major religions. Boys are absorbing values all the time – through the music they listen to, the books they read and the people they hang out with – which is why it's important to deliberately inculcate positive values throughout a boy's day.

We use both an informal and a formal approach to teaching Character Education. We believe it should be taught in the classroom. This allows teachers to focus on that portion of the code about which they feel most passionate. It is reinforced in advising, coaching and on the halls.

Teaching Character Education is no different than how we teach any other subject at Blue Ridge. A steady and consistent reinforcement of positive values is how boys learn best. They also learn better with hands-on experiences that are applicable to real life. The lesson can't be purely abstract.

Community service is an important practical tool in teaching Character Education. Hammering nails at a Habitat site is a hands-on activity for which they can see the product of their work. Other service opportunities available to our boys include Meals on Wheels, Operation Smile and the American Chestnut Foundation.

While our classes include some type of Character Education throughout the year, our Saturday Morning Program is specifically set aside for more focused value-based topics and activities. Challenging, ethical questions with real-life examples lead to small group discussions. Speakers involve boys in discussions about medical ethics, for example.

At other times, the Saturday Program gives the boys a chance to relax and take risks in loosely-structured and adult-supervised “Blue versus White” games such as tug-of-war, mini basketball or soccer tournaments, or a canoe race across the lake. These informal games teach team work and offer a healthy competitive outlet for the boys.





"I've played soccer my entire life but tried mountain biking here for the first time my sophomore year because back home my mother wouldn't let me ride a bike. She was worried I'd get hurt. I've been on the mountain biking team for three years, and I love it." – Nana Yaw Ohemeng-Tinyase '14 attending Emory University.

Healthy Competition

What better place to learn about life skills and positively impact a young man's character than on the playing field? Athletics are an integral part of the Blue Ridge culture, and students are expected to play a sport to help in their personal development.

INTANGIBLE LIFE SKILL BENEFITS FROM PLAYING SPORTS INCLUDE:

- Commitment to and being part of a team
- Discipline
- Developing physical fitness
- Fulfillment
- Goal setting and attainment—individual and team goals
- Motivation
- Positive thinking
- Respect for coaches, teammates, opponents and officials
- Structure
- Winning with grace and humility

BRS supports 20 varsity and junior varsity athletic programs. All students are active participants. Many of our athletes play more than one varsity sport each year.

Our athletic programs have developed a storied history of excellence. Over the years, our varsity teams have won many conference and state championships. More importantly, our athletic teams have helped instill pride and school spirit for our students.

BLUE RIDGE COMPETITIVE SPORTS TEAMS

Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Indoor Soccer
Lacrosse
Mountain Biking
Soccer
Tennis
Track & Field
Wrestling

The BRS Outdoor Education Program also provides a daily afternoon activity in which interested students may participate each trimester.

Discovering Your Creativity

To engage in the arts is to be human. At BRS we believe that no one needs a special calling to create; no one lacks the equipment or the talent.

Like athletics, our performing arts program offers our students opportunities to work as part of a team, push themselves beyond perceived limits, overcome fear and anxiety, and risk failure in order to achieve success. Always aiming for excellence, we continually raise the bar on what our boys think they can and cannot do. Blue Ridge provides many entry-level opportunities for all our students to try their hand at some aspect of the performing arts. We also offer challenging opportunities for those who are ready to take their art to a whole new level.

We each express our creativity in a variety of ways and to differing degrees. Some detect patterns better than others; some manipulate physical materials with greater skill; some move their bodies with precision and strength; for others, it's all about words; and still for others, sound.

Our arts program has been developed to meet the skill development and creative forces of each boy's unique talent.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS COURSES

Chorus
Advanced Chorus
Music Theory
Guitar
Intro to Theater
Keyboarding
Studio Art
Advanced Studio Art
Ceramics
Computer Art

Pictured right is David Kim '14 who is attending the University of California, Irvine





Your Outdoor Classroom



Step outdoors at Blue Ridge and you'll step into another classroom — the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The forests, streams, hills and lakes that comprise our campus give us the natural venue to offer outdoor activities along with other competitive team sports. The BRS outdoor program takes full advantage of its location as the campus offers eight miles of trails through verdant wooded foothills. The program gives boys a chance to learn to mountain bike, canoe, fish, ski, hunt and work as a team.

The Blue Ridge School Outdoor Program exists in conjunction with the School's belief that a comprehensive co-curricular program of interscholastic athletics, fine arts and outdoor activities provides opportunities for students to develop their talents and pursue their interests. These experiences enhance self-esteem, promote teamwork and encourage the development of leadership skills.

Outdoor Education is also included in our academic program in addition to afternoon activities. Boys can choose from electives such as Outdoor Appreciation, Outdoor Living Skills, Wilderness First Aid and many others. Our afternoon options in the outdoors include rock climbing, mountain biking (which is also a competitive sport in the spring), skiing, canoeing and hunting.

Playing in, learning in, and just experiencing the open-air environment transports our boys to a place where they learn to appreciate the outdoors, exercise, try new skills and personally challenge themselves while having a lot of fun.

"Blue Ridge gave me so many opportunities – from skiing in Utah to canoeing in West Virginia. I also took full advantage of the beautiful area surrounding the campus."

- Mason Schmidt '13 attending Auburn University

Exploring Your World

Blue Ridge students have the opportunity to participate in activities or clubs that speak directly to their individual interests or pique their imaginations for new worlds to explore.

SOCIAL, TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Along with events planned just for Blue Ridge students (listed below), there are many private girls' and boys' prep schools in Virginia which plan social events for all of our students to enjoy.

AT BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL, WE TAKE TRIPS TO:

- Washington D.C. to enjoy national monuments, the Smithsonian and historic sites
- Trips to historic sites in Virginia (Monticello, Williamsburg, Jamestown, etc.)
- Amusement parks and shopping malls
- Area college and professional sporting events
- Skiing and snowboarding to nearby resorts
- Hikes along local trails including the nearby Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park
- Weekend mountain biking, canoeing, white water rafting, and other wilderness adventure trips

SPRING BREAK AND SUMMER TRIPS

Faculty provide travel opportunities during school vacations. Some of the recent destinations have included Europe, South America, the Caribbean, as well as adventure trips for skiing, white water rafting, camping and exploring in the American West.



Spring break trip to Europe, 2014

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES AT BLUE RIDGE

Barontones a Capella Choir
Citizens of the World
Concert Choir
Drama/Performing Arts
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Digital Literary Magazine
Mixed Martial Arts Club
National Honor Society
Polar Bear Club
Robotics Club
Social Activities Committee

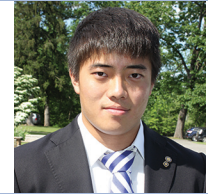


"The rafting trip on the New River was exciting! I was thrown out once and the next thing I knew I hit the bottom and popped up. It wasn't scary because I didn't have time to think. I'm glad I took this trip. Having played mostly on varsity teams like football and basketball, it was great to try something new." - Ryan Etheridge '14 attending James Madison University





Your International Community



We strive to incorporate our international students into our community by encouraging English to be spoken as often as possible and pairing international students with native English-speaking roommates. We also strive to teach our American students about the rich cultures and traditions of the countries from which our international students have come. Our international students enrich our campus and increase the diversity in our student population while helping prepare our U.S. students for a more globalized world.

Blue Ridge School provides all students with a rewarding education and a rich cultural experience. Our international students leave our campus not only qualified for college but also well-prepared to be good citizens, diplomats for cultural understanding and advocates for peace across our globe.

Blue Ridge School's English Language Learner Program attracts international students who seek to improve their English while preparing for a post-secondary education within the United States or abroad. The ELL Program is designed for students of all English levels, from beginners to those honing their language skills before entering college.

The ELL Program offers students social opportunities to practice their English through organized and enjoyable activities as well as community lunches at which teachers and students from other countries sit together, and play games designed to encourage conversation.

"Blue Ridge is a band of brothers. Everyone will become your family and your friends are like your brothers. We all help each other."

– Yuichi Isaka '14 from Tokyo
attending James Madison
University



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Williams Library
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Chapel Hill, NC 27514

A Spectacular Campus



Our sprawling campus in the Blue Ridge Mountains encompasses rolling hills, three lakes, forested mountains, athletic facilities (including a 20,000 square-foot Field House and gymnasium, tennis courts, soccer/lacrosse/football fields, swimming pool, fitness center), academic buildings and residence halls.

Our unique location offers a safe environment with access to the outdoors yet close to bustling cities such as Washington, D.C., Richmond, and Charlottesville, which offer historical, cultural and recreational choices.

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BOYS THRIVE AT BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

