

AN INDEPENDENT COLLEGE-PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS, GRADES 9-12

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1909 750 ACRES 180 BOYS

Founded in 1909 by Reverend George Pickett Mayo as the Blue Ridge Industrial School, Blue Ridge School (BRS) is an all-boys, all-boarding, college-preparatory school set on 751 acres at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains outside Charlottesville, Virginia. At the heart of the Blue Ridge experience is a simple belief: boys thrive when they are known. Guided by the idea that it takes a village to raise a child, BRS offers a deeply relational education in which students are challenged, supported, and encouraged by a community of adults who are invested in their growth.

Small classes, capped at 15 students and averaging 11, allow teachers to know their students well and tailor instruction to their individual strengths and needs. That sense of connection extends far beyond the classroom. Faculty members serve as teachers, advisors, coaches, and hall parents, creating a network of trusted adults who support each boy academically, socially, and personally. At Blue Ridge, learning happens not only in classrooms, but on athletic fields, in residence halls, on the trails, and through the daily experiences of living and learning together.

The Blue Ridge experience is shaped by five core values - Growth, Brotherhood, Character, Support, and Community. Together, these values encourage boys to embrace challenge, learn from failure, act with integrity, build meaningful relationships, care for one another, and take increasing ownership of who they are and who they are becoming.

College preparation is an important part of a Blue Ridge education, but it is not the ultimate measure of success. BRS seeks to graduate young men who are prepared not only for college, but for lives of purpose. Through a continually evolving curriculum and a breadth of experiences inside and outside the classroom, students develop as global citizens, critical thinkers, effective communicators, artistically and culturally literate individuals, environmental stewards, and young men equipped with the habits of wellness and independence.

Ultimately, Blue Ridge aims to help each boy discover his strengths, confront his challenges, and leave campus with the confidence, character, and sense of purpose to make a meaningful contribution to the world around him.

WHO TO CALL

William A. 'Trip' Darrin III

Head of School

Amber WilkinsAssistant Head for Instructional
Programs

434.992.0558

Michaeline Shuman

Director of College Counseling

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180

STUDENTS ENROLLED

6:1

STUDENT TO FACULTY

11

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

100%

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCE

FIVE CORE VALUES

GROWTH

BROTHERHOOD

CHARACTER

SUPPORT

COMMUNITY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English - 4 credits
- Social Studies - 4 credits
- Mathematics - 4 credits
- Math I, Math II, and Algebra 2 required
- Science - 4 credits
- including Biology and Chemistry
- Foreign Language - 3 credits
- Electives - 3+ credits
- must include credits in the Arts & Outdoors

SCHEDULE & QUICK FACTS

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday classes are 45 minutes long; Thursday and Friday classes run 1 hour and 20 minutes.
- All classes are on a semester schedule.
- 10 honors courses and 5 AP courses offered, plus 4 dual-enrollment courses through a regional college partner.
- Every student participates in a co-curricular activity each semester.
- Average class size of 11; student-to-faculty ratio of 6:1.
- Boarding enrollment of approximately 180 boys, grades 9-12.
- Full course descriptions: blueridgeschool.com/academics

ENGLISH

Composition and Literature Survey I–IV; Honors Composition and Literature Survey II–IV; AP English Language.

HISTORY

Ancient World History 9; Modern World History 10; U.S. History and Government 11; Government and Contemporary Studies 12; AP Human Geography; AP Comparative Government and Politics.

MATHEMATICS

Math 1; Math 2; Algebra 2; Precalculus; Honors Precalculus; Statistics; AP Calculus AB.

SCIENCE

STEM 9; Biology; Chemistry; Honors Chemistry; Physics; AP Physics; Anatomy & Physiology; Astronomy; Environmental Studies.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1; Spanish 2; Spanish 3.

PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning and Advanced Guitar; Piano; Music Theory; Music Appreciation; Introduction to World Music; Songwriting; BRS Recording Workshop Band.

VISUAL ARTS

Computer Art; Studio Art; Advanced Art; Ceramics.

OUTDOORS

Outdoor Expedition Skills; Ornithology; Outdoor Emergency Response; Appalachian Studies; Outdoor Leadership; Outdoor Appreciation.

LEARNING CENTER

FLC Tier 1 and FLC Tier 2.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ELL; ELL Lab. Two levels offered, plus an end-of-summer immersion program.

OTHER OFFERINGS

Research Topics; Advanced Research Topics; Pathways Seminar: College and Career Planning; Introduction to Christianity; Introduction to Judaism; Shamanism 1; Shamanism 2; Lifetime Wellness; Introduction to Exercise Science; Teacher’s Assistant; Money, Banking & Investments, Entrepreneurship and AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics.

GRADING SCALE

GRADE	PERCENT	GRADE POINTS
A (-/+)	90-100	3.7-4.3
B (-/+)	80-89	2.7-3.3
C (-/+)	70-79	1.7-2.3
D (-/+)	60-69	0.7-1.3

Grade point averages are cumulative and weighted: **AP +.50**, **Honors +0.25**. The school does not rank students.

HONOR ROLLS

Head of School's List - no grade below 90% and a GPA of 3.7 or higher.

Dean's List - no grade below 83% and a GPA of 3.0 or above.

AVERAGE SAT

1150

AVERAGE ACT

23

FISHBURNE LEARNING CENTER

Individualized learning strategies for boys who learn differently, serving roughly 30 percent of the student body since 1994. Classes hold three or fewer students in Tier 1 and up to five in Tier 2.

TIER 1 - executive functioning, adaptive thinking, self-monitoring, self-advocacy, study skills.

TIER 2 - college readiness skills including research and writing, generalized executive functioning, and civic responsibility. Both tiers work across fifteen named skills, from flexible thinking to perseverance. Students meet daily with a learning specialist.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

International students strengthen their English through the ELL curriculum while taking a challenging college-preparatory program with English as the primary language.

Three levels of ELL coursework are offered, along with an intensive 18-day summer immersion program before the school year begins. Students study alongside American peers and take part fully in athletics, the arts, and outdoor programs.

The program is designed to carry a boy from Blue Ridge to the university level.

OUTDOOR & CHARACTER

Outdoor Education - electives, afternoon activities such as mountain biking, fishing, and rock climbing, and weekend destination trips across 750 acres and 15+ miles of trail.

Character Education - the goal is a young man of character: how a boy conducts himself when no one is there to judge him. Development programs are built into the curriculum and activities, anchored by the school's Code of Conduct.

Athletics - 18 varsity and JV teams in the VIC and VISAA; every student takes part each trimester.

FACULTY HOLDING ADVANCED DEGREES

77%

STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

67%

STUDENTS IDENTIFYING AS STUDENTS OF COLOR

31%

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES, 2024-2026

Typically 100 percent of Blue Ridge School students are accepted to four-year colleges and universities. An asterik* denotes matriculation of one or more students.

Alma College	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Rutgers University (New Brunswick)	University of Rochester
American University	Illinois Institute of Technology	Rutgers University (Newark)	University of South Carolina
Appalachian State University	Indiana University (Bloomington)	Sacramento State University	University of South Florida (Main Campus)
Arizona State University (Tempe)	Jacksonville State University	Saginaw Valley State University	University of Tennessee
Auburn University	James Madison University	Saint Joseph's University	University of Utah
Babson College	Johns Hopkins University	Seton Hall University	University of Vermont
Ball State University	Knox College	Sewanee: The University of the South	University of Virginia
Bowie State University	Lake Forest College	Shepherd University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Bowling Green State University (Main Campus)	Liberty University	South Carolina State University	Ursinus College
Bridgewater College	Longwood University	St. Lawrence University	US Naval Academy
California State University (Sacramento)	Lynn University	St. Olaf College	Virginia Commonwealth University
Carthage College	Marquette University	Stetson University	Virginia Military Institute
Case Western Reserve University	Marshall University	Stony Brook University	Virginia Tech
Catawba College	Menlo College	SUNY New Paltz	Virginia Tech (Full Tuition and Attendance Scholarship)
Central Michigan University	Merrimack College	SUNY Plattsburgh	Wartburg College
Chapman University	Miami University (Oxford)	SUNY Cortland	Washington and Lee University
Christopher Newport University	Michigan State University	Syracuse University	West Virginia University
Clarkson University	Mid America Christian University	Temple University	Whitman College
Clemson University	Middle Tennessee State University	Texas A&M University	William & Mary
United States Coast Guard Academy	Minot State University	The University of Alabama	
Colorado State University	Mississippi State University	The University of Tampa	
Concord University	Montana State University	Trident Technical College	
Denison University	Mount St. Mary's University	Union College	
Dickinson College	NC State University	University of Cincinnati (Main Campus)	
Drake University	Northern Kentucky University	University of Connecticut	
Earlham College	Northumbria University	University of Dayton	
Eastern Michigan University	Oberlin College	University of Denver	
Elon University	Ohio State University	University of Detroit Mercy	
Fairfield University	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of Georgia	
Florida International University	Old Dominion University	University of Indianapolis	
Florida Southern College	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of Kansas	
Franklin & Marshall College	Penn State University (University Park)	University of Kentucky	
Furman University	Purdue University	University of Lynchburg	
Gannon University	Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)	University of Manitoba	
George Mason University	Quinnipiac University	University of Mary Washington	
George Washington University	Radford University	University of Massachusetts Boston	
Georgia Southern University	Randolph College	University of Michigan (Dearborn)	
Gettysburg College	Randolph-Macon College	University of Mississippi	
Glenville State University	Rider University	University of Nevada (Las Vegas)	
Hampden-Sydney College	Roanoke College	University of Nevada (Reno)	
Hampton University	Robert Morris University	University of Pittsburgh	
Harvard University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Richmond	
Hawaii Pacific University	Rollins College		

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Counseling begins in the junior year and runs through matriculation, with individual meetings, testing strategy, essay work, and family sessions. Transcripts, school reports, and letters of recommendation are submitted through the Common Application and SCOIR.

Michaeline Shuman - Director of College Counseling
434-992-0588

Essence Ellis - Registrar - transcripts
434-992-0512