



SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-2020 CEEB Code 060-249

The Vanguard School is a tuition-free charter school with a classically based, college-preparatory curriculum designed to develop academic excellence, virtue, and leadership. The school's rigorous and meaningful program has led to being consistently ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top six performing high schools in Colorado and the number one high school in Colorado Springs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Vanguard School is to help guide students in development of their character and academic potential through academically rigorous, content-rich educational programs.

STUDENT BODY

For the academic year of 2017-18, The Vanguard School enrolled 305 students in grades 9 through 12, and approximately 40 percent came from minority groups. Nearly 22 percent of our high school students qualified for free or reduced lunch. Students are selected by lottery and are sourced from fifteen school districts in and around Colorado Springs.

The faculty to student ratio is 1:10. Teachers are distinguished by their content knowledge, virtue, active citizenship, and dedication to securing the success of every student. Nearly fifty percent of our high school teachers hold advanced degrees.

CURRICULUM

Vanguard's coherent, classical, and content-rich curriculum challenges students to excel. The enduring principles of Western civilization undergird Instruction. The teachers anchor students, investing in them an inheritance of ideas and stories that have shaped the Western world. Emphasis is placed on exegesis of primary sources, etymology and ancient languages, analytical thinking, and participation in the Great Conversation. The result is students who passionately pursue the good life.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Excellence in virtue is the seed that bears success in all areas of life. Character development takes precedence at Vanguard, and is the underlying current that integrates cross-disciplines. Students are challenged to live reflectively and intentionally in service to others.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The expansive extracurricular activities offered at Vanguard provide students with the opportunity to develop their talents and interests and engage with faculty where common passions overlap. In addition to concerts, plays, musicals, art exhibits, and dances, there are 24 clubs available, including National Honor Society, student government, Matchwits, and Junior Classical League.

Each spring, students have the opportunity to participate in educational trips to Europe. This cultural and educational experience profoundly enriches the lives of our students.

ATHLETICS

The Vanguard School offers interscholastic athletics for boys and girls in cross country, tennis, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and track.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Semester Credits for Graduation: 46

English	8	World Language	6
History	8	Fine Arts	2
Mathematics	8	Academic Electives	6
Science	6		

All students must take one year of Latin.

The Vanguard School is known for its rigorous and demanding curriculum. To properly acknowledge the academic level of our course work, we weight Honors classes and Advanced Placement classes. Honors and AP classes are identified on transcripts and weighted appropriately.

GRADING SCALE

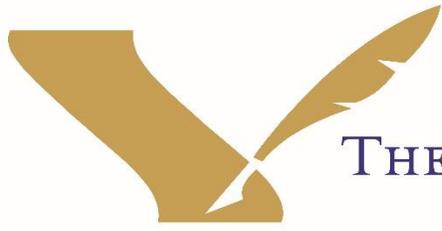
Grade	Un-weighted	Honors Weight	AP Weight	Percentage
A	4.0	4.5	5.0	90-100
B	3.0	3.5	4.0	80-89
C	2.0	2.5	3.0	70-79
D	1.0	1.5	2.0	65-69
F	0.0	0.0	0.0	0-64



The Culture of The Vanguard School

The culture of The Vanguard School is one of excellence in all things with particular focus on excellence in virtue, academics, leadership, and civics. This is achieved through continual self-examination with a focus on continuous improvement. Students and teachers are proud to be at a school that provides a rigorous education and expects more effort and results than other schools.

At The Vanguard School, students are proud to excel in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, in community involvement, and in virtue. Those who excel are acknowledged and celebrated while those who don't are encouraged, pushed, and supported. Our culture values every student and promotes fulfillment of The Vanguard School's mission for every student. It is the product of people and environment. Toward that end, the people who comprise the staff are virtuous, educated in the classical liberal tradition, and committed to striving with others in pursuit of a high and noble purpose. They possess an understanding of human experience that is a consequence of serious study in literature, history, and philosophy. From this education, they understand each person's potential for good and evil, and they strive to develop virtue in themselves and their students as they impart knowledge. They recognize – and choose – what is good, true, and beautiful. Together, these people endeavor to produce an environment that is serious, purposeful, academically-oriented, appropriately intellectual, and student-focused; one that is, at the same time, warm, supportive, and compassionate. Those things that embody truth and beauty are hallmarks of the environment and readily discerned in the school. In this environment, objective rights and wrongs exist, and our American patrimony is explained, embraced, and celebrated. Ultimately, the school culture – the school's environment and the people whose labors shape it – helps equip students to lead virtuous lives and achieve at the highest intellectual levels. It is a beacon for students, their families, and the wider society; it serves, in the words of T. S. Eliot, as “the preface to our successors' victory.”



THE Vanguard School

Recent Exemplary Achievements

- Last year's Class of 2019, with 66 graduates, earned \$8,328,541 in scholarships.
- Over the past ten years, our students have earned over \$43,000,000 in college scholarships.
- Fifteen percent of the Class of 2019 earned recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Students from the 2010-2019 classes have had 65 members who have received recognition through the National Merit Scholarship program.
- In the last ten years, we have had sixteen National Merit Finalists, two Boettcher Scholarship recipients, and five Daniels Scholarship recipients.
- The Class of 2020 scored an average of 1218 on the SAT during their junior year.
- Sixty-five students took 128 Advanced Placement exams in the spring of 2019. The percentage of total AP students with scores of 3 or higher (on a 1 to 5 scale) was 91%. American colleges generally grant placement and course credit to students who obtain scores of 3 or higher on exams.
- In 2019, the Colorado Department of Education also awarded The Vanguard School the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award, and Vanguard was the only school in Colorado Springs and El Paso County to receive the High School Academic Growth Award.
- The Vanguard School consistently ranks as one of the top schools in Colorado and the nation and has received recognition from *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*. For 2019, Vanguard was ranked #1 in Colorado Springs and #3 in Colorado.
- Three Vanguard students earned a spot at last year's All State Choir, bringing our total students selected for this honor to 32 in the past eleven years.
- Our art department shines in competitions, bringing home top recognitions at both regional and national art competitions. Last year, in the Colorado Scholastic Art competition, Vanguard art students won 10 Gold Key Awards; two of those students went on to the National competition where they were awarded a Gold and a Silver Medal. Vanguard art students also won 3 awards at the Congressional Art Show, 4 awards at the Tri-Peaks League, and 14 awards at the Young Peoples Art Exhibition.
- In 2019, the Vanguard Matchwits Team placed sixth in the region (first among 3A schools) and qualified for the State tournament for the eleventh consecutive year.
- Our Rocketry Team was one of only 27 nationwide (and the only team from Colorado) to be invited by NASA to apply to participate in the Student Launch Initiative. The team will complete a proposal over the next month to qualify for the next steps of the project.
- CHSAA Academic All-State Awards for 2019 included 20 Vanguard athletes on "First Team" (with a 3.60 or higher GPA) and 14 Vanguard athletes with "Honorable Mention" (with a GPA between 3.30 and 3.59).
- The Boys Basketball Team finished second in the State 3A tournament and completed the team's best season ever.
- The Girls Cross Country Team finished fifth at the 3A State cross country meet.
- The Boys Volleyball Team won their fourth consecutive State championship.

University and College Acceptances 2013 – 2019

*Note: * indicates students attending this college*

Abilene Christian College*
Adams State University*
Alfred University*
Allegheny College*
Azusa Pacific University*
Baylor University*
Beloit College*
Benedictine College*
Bethany College*
Black Hills State University*
Brigham Young University, Provo*
Boston University*
California State University-Channel Islands*
Carnegie Mellon University
Carthage College*
Case Western Reserve University*
Chapman University*
Central Washington University*
Colorado Christian University*
Colorado College*
Colorado Mesa University*
Colorado School of Mines*
Colorado State University*
Cornell University
Creighton University*
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drake University*
Duke University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, AZ*
Flagler College, FL*
Florida State University*
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
George Mason University
George Washington University*
Georgia Tech University
Gonzaga University
Grand Canyon University*
Harvard*

Harvey Mudd College*
Hillsdale College*
Howard University*
Iowa State University*
Jacksonville State University*
John Brown University*
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College*
Knox College*
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College*
Lehigh University*
Letourneau University*
Lewis and Clark College*
Louisiana State University*
Loyola Marymount University*
Macalester College
Marymount Manhattan College*
McKendree University*
Michigan State University*
Montana State University*
Mount Holyoake College
Nebraska Wesleyan University*
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology*
New York University*
Pacific Lutheran University*
Pepperdine University*
Point Loma Nazarene University*
Purdue University
Regis University*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhoades College*
Saint Louis University*
Santa Clara University*
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University, WA*
Smith College
South Dakota School of Mines*
Southern Methodist University*
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Taylor University*
Texas Christian University*
Texas Tech University*

The King's College, NY*
Trinity University (TX)
Truman State University*
United States Air Force Academy*
United States Merchant Marine Academy*
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy*
University of Arizona*
University of California – Berkeley
University of California – Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado-Boulder*
University of Colorado- Colorado Springs*
University of Dallas*
University of Denver*
University of Glasgow, Scotland*
University of Kansas*
University of Minnesota*
University of New Mexico*
University of Northern Colorado*
University of Notre Dame*
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Puerto Rico*
University of Southern Mississippi*
University of Tennessee
University of Washington*
University of Wyoming*
Vanderbilt University*
Villanova University
Virginia Military Institute*
Virginia Tech
Wayland Baptist College*
Western State University*
Western Washington University*
Wheaton College
Whitworth University
Whittier College, CA*
William Woods University*
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University*

Course Offerings



THE Vanguard School

Please see the *Course Description and Registration Guide* for additional information.

English

Honors Classical Literature & Composition
Honors European Literature & Composition
Honors American Literature & Composition
Honors British Literature & Composition
***AP English Language & Composition**
***AP English Literature & Composition**

Creative Writing
Forensics
Gothic Literature
Science Fiction
Yearbook

Mathematics

Algebra I
Algebra II
Honors Geometry

Advanced Math
Pre-Calculus
Statistics

***AP Statistics**
***AP Calculus AB**
***AP Calculus BC**
Personal Finance

History / Social Science

Honors The Classical World
Honors European History
***AP European History**
Honors U.S. History
***AP U.S. History**

Honors U.S. Government
***AP U.S. Government**
Honors Micro Economics
***AP Micro Economics**
***AP Human Geography**

American Warfare
Classical Warfare

Physical Education

Conditioning
Physical Education

Technology

Engineering

Programming

Web Design

Science

Honors Biology
***AP Biology**
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
***AP Chemistry**

Physics
Honors Physics
***AP Physics 1**
***AP Physics C: Mechanics**
***AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism**

Anatomy/Physiology
Astronomy

Language

Latin I

Latin II

Latin III

**Latin IV

**Latin V

Spanish I

Spanish II

Spanish III

Spanish IV

***AP Spanish Language & Culture**

German I

German II

German III

German IV

Fine Arts

Music History

Art History

Art-2 Dimensional

Art-3 Dimensional

***AP Studio Art Portfolios in**

2-D Design, 3-D Design, and Drawing

Instrumental Ensemble

Choir/Select Choir

Ceramics

Sculpture

Photography

Advanced Photography

Acting

****16 Advanced Placement courses offered***

Colleges and universities offer college credit to students who earn qualifying AP Exam scores.

*****CU-Succeed Dual Enrollment***

The University of Colorado offers credit for these courses.

Athletics & Activity Offerings

Vanguard Coursers compete at the
3A level of the Tri-Peaks League.



THE Vanguard School

Courser Sports: Fall

Cross Country: Boys & Girls
Soccer: Boys
Tennis: Boys
Volleyball: Girls

Courser Sports: Winter

Basketball: Boys & Girls
Cheer: Boys & Girls

Courser Sports: Spring

Lacrosse: Boys
Soccer: Girls
Tennis: Girls
Track: Boys & Girls
Volleyball: Boys

Community Service

Christmas Volunteerism
Neighborhood Clean-Up
Thanksgiving Food Drives
Christmas Store

Courser Extra-Curricular Activities

Calm Club	Matchwits
Card Club	Musicals & Plays
Chess Club	National Honor Society
Culture Club/International	Outdoor Skills Club
Dungeons & Dragons Club	Poet Society
FCA	Puzzle Club
Forensics	Recycling Club
German Club	Refuge
Horror Club	Rocketry
Jazz Band	Science Club
Knitting Club	Service Club
Latin Club	Star Wars Club
Leadership Club	Stretch Class
	Student Government

Courser Traditions

High School Retreat	Ski Trip
College Fairs	Winter/Spring Dance
Spirit Week	Talent Show
Homecoming	Prom
Holiday Baking Contest	Baccalaureate/Graduation
Musicals/On Broadway	Foreign Exchange Program



Graduation Requirements

46 Credits (1 credit = 1 semester; 2 credits = 1 year)



SUBJECT / CREDITS REQUIRED	9th Grade		10th Grade		11th Grade		12th Grade	
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
English 8 credits	Classical Literature / Composition	Classical Literature / Composition	European Literature / Composition	European Literature / Composition	American Literature / Composition (or AP)	American Literature / Composition (or AP)	British Literature / Composition (or AP)	British Literature / Composition (or AP)
History 8 credits	Classical World	Classical World	European History (or AP)	European History (or AP)	U.S. History (or AP)	U.S. History (or AP)	U.S. Government (or AP)	Micro-Economics (or AP)
Mathematics 8 credits ¹	Algebra I	Algebra I	Algebra II	Algebra II	Geometry	Geometry	Math ⁵	Math ⁵
Science 6 credits	Biology (or AP)	Biology (or AP)	Chemistry (or AP)	Chemistry (or AP)	Physics (or AP)	Physics (or AP)	Note ³	Note ³
Language 6 credits ²	Latin I	Latin I	Latin II, Spanish I or German I	Latin II, Spanish I or German I	Latin III, Spanish II or German II	Latin III, Spanish II or German II	Latin IV, Spanish III or German III	Latin IV, Spanish III or German III
Fine Arts 2 credits			Music History ⁴	Art History ⁴				
Electives 8 credits	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies

Revised 5-30-19

¹Multiple math tracks are available. Only the most basic track is shown.

²Six (6) credits of the same language (Latin, Spanish, or German) are required. Students successfully completing Latin I in junior high will have fulfilled the high school Latin I requirement.

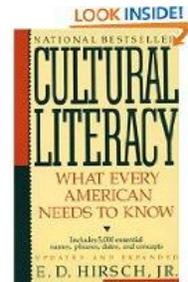
³A minimum of five (5) courses besides study hall must be taken each semester, regardless of whether graduation requirements have been met.

⁴Art History and Music History may be taken any year and are requirements for graduation.

⁵Advanced Math, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, AP Calculus AB or BC

Suggested reading for parents:

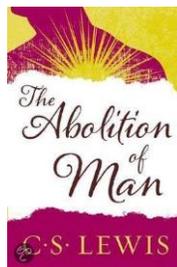
- *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*
by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. (1988)



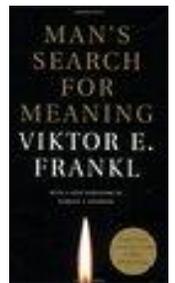
- *Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong: Moral Illiteracy and the Case for Character Education**
by William Kilpatrick (1992)



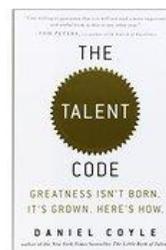
- *The Abolition of Man*
by C.S. Lewis (1943)



- *Man's Search for Meaning*
by Viktor E. Frankl (1959)



- *The Talent Code*
by Daniel Coyle (2009)



- *The Great Conversation – Volume I*
Robert M. Hutchins, Editor

<https://archive.org/stream/greatconversatio030336mbp#page/n7/mode/2up>

*see attached article