



# BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## 2025-2026 SCHOOL PROFILE



CEEB: 470324 ☎ 540-828-2233 🌐 [www.brcschool.org](http://www.brcschool.org) 🌐 PO Box 207, Bridgewater, VA 22812

### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Blue Ridge Christian School is a private, Christian school founded in 1990. The Lower School, grades EE-6th, is located in Bridgewater, Virginia. The Upper School, grades 7th-12th, is located in Dayton, Virginia. Blue Ridge serves approximately 460 students in EE-12th grade from 27 towns.

### ACCREDITATION

Blue Ridge Christian School is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Through the accreditation process, Blue Ridge is held accountable to best practice standards in academics, character development, student activities, school administration and operations, and board governance. Reaccreditation is completed every 6 years and was most recently completed in 2024.

### FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS (EE-12)

Faculty members hold earned degrees (including 21 Master's degrees) and ACSI and/or state licensure and average 14 years of teaching experience.

### BRCS DISTINCTIVES & PROGRAM DESIGN

#### DESIGN

**Pillars:** All aspects of the BRCS education are designed with a purpose, building on a spiritual foundation with "pillars" of Academics, Community, Service, and Leadership based on grade and individual readiness.

**Foundational Documents:** Statement of Faith, Statement of Educational Philosophy, and Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.

**Portrait of a Graduate:** We aspire to serve God by partnering with students, families, faculty, staff, and churches in developing graduates who impact the world for Christ. Through our pillars, students will discern truth, demonstrate confidence in their identity, recognize their God-given gifts, become lifelong learners, serve others with care, lead well, and pursue and cultivate Biblical community.

**Senior Capstone:** Students translate their God-given passions and abilities into action. Learning from local ministry leaders, students develop, implement, and present a project that meets essential community needs.

#### STUDENT LIFE

**Service:** 100% of EE-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and staff serve in our community. Additional service projects take place in Washington D.C., Baltimore, and internationally.

**Leadership:** Student Government, Student House Leaders, Worship Team, National Honor Society

**Community:** House System, socials, retreats

**Athletics:** 21 teams including volleyball, soccer, basketball, cross country, track & field, golf, and shooting team. Conference Athletics offered through the Virginia Association of Christian Athletics (VACA).

**Creative Arts:** Choir, Chamber Choir, Worship Team, Theater, Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Lessons: Guitar, Violin, Piano

**Competitions and Festivals:** FFA, Poetry Out Loud Festival, ACSI Creative Writing, Virginia District Choir, Bridgewater College Music Festival, Kings Dominion Music Festival, Clay Sporting

### MOTTO AND MISSION

**Rooted in Christ  
Joyful in Learning  
Faithful in Service**

To assist parents and evangelical churches by providing a biblically-based educational program that instills a whole-hearted love of the Lord Jesus Christ, develops Godly character, and emphasizes academic excellence.

### LEADERSHIP

<b>Karen Shomo</b> Head of School	<b>Jacob Palumbo</b> Upper School Principal
<b>Lori Swortzel</b> Lower School Principal	<b>Amy Good</b> Director of Finance
<b>Daniel Padilla</b> Director of Athletics	<b>Carolyn Paradzinski</b> Director of Admissions & Marketing

### STUDENT ADVANCEMENT

<b>Paula Fulton</b> College & Career Counselor	<b>Matthew McDonald</b> Director of Student Life
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### MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Virginia Council for Private Education  
Virginia State Literacy Association  
Virginia Association of Christian Athletics  
Campus EDU  
Cedarville University  
National Honor Society

### AWARDS

**BEST OF VIRGINIA:** 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

**BEST OF THE VALLEY:** 2023, 2024, 2025  
**SHENANDOAH VALLEY BEST:** 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

## GRADING SCALE AND GRADE POINT AVERAGES

Grades and Grade Point Averages are calculated according to the scale shown. Weighted and unweighted GPAs are shown on student transcripts.

Grade	Range (%)	GPA Value	Honors GPA Value	AP GPA Value
A	90-100%	4	4.5	5
B	80-89%	3	3.5	4
C	70-79%	2	2.5	3
D	60-69%	1	1.5	2
F	0-59%	0	0	0

**RESOURCE** The Resource Department provides support to students with identified learning needs. Faculty work with each resource student's individual plan.

## ADVANCED COURSEWORK

Honors level courses are available in all main subjects. Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses are available in select subject areas.

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

2019, 2022 (both attended K-12)  
Average: PSAT:1485, SAT:1480, ACT 33

## INTERNSHIPS

Optional internships are available for students to explore areas of career interest.

## SCOPE & SEQUENCE

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Bible	Survey of the Old Testament	Survey of the New Testament	Biblical Foundations; the Gospel of John	Kingdom & Culture; Apologetics; Spiritual Disciplines; Senior Capstone
English	*Introduction to Literary Analysis	*American Literature	*World Literature	AP English -OR- *British Literature
Math	Honors Geometry -OR- Algebra I	Honors Algebra II -OR- Geometry	Honors Pre-Calculus -OR- Algebra II -OR- Consumer Math	AP Calculus -OR- Pre-Calculus
Science	*Earth Science	*Biology	*Chemistry and/or *Physics	*Anatomy & Physiology and/or *Physics
Social Sciences	*World History I	*World History II	US History (two semesters; DE enrollment option - 6 credits) AND Personal Finance (one semester)	US Government (DE option - 3 credits) AND Economics (DE option - 3 credit)
Language (Advanced Diploma)	*Spanish I	*Spanish II	*Spanish III	*Spanish IV
Additional Courses	Physical Education Options	Logic AND Physical Education Options	Health AND Physical Education Options	Additional DE Options, Internships
Electives	Select 2 per semester	Select 2 per semester	Select 2 per semester	Select 2 per semester
Service	Heart & S.O.U.L.	Heart & S.O.U.L.	Heart & S.O.U.L.	Heart & S.O.U.L.

\* Honors and Standard options available

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Standard and Advanced Diplomas offered. Diploma requirements for main subjects align with graduation requirements established by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Bible:** 4.5 Credits (includes a senior capstone project)

**Math:** 3 Credits Standard; 4 Credits Advanced

**Social Studies:** 4 Credits

**Economics and Personal Finance:** 1 Credit (DE Option)

**Logic:** .25 Credit

**World Language:** Advanced- 3 Credits of one language  
OR 2 Credits each of 2 different languages

**English:** 4 Credits

**Science:** 3 Credits Standard; 4 Credits Advanced

**Physical Education:** 1.5 Credits

**Health:** .25 Credit

**Electives:** 2 Credits Standard; 3 Credits Advanced

Total Credits Required for a **Standard Diploma= 24 Credits**

Total Credits Required for an **Advanced Diploma= 28 Credits**

\*Fifteen hours (Heart & S.O.U.L.) of community service are required annually.

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE (CLASS OF 2018-2025)

Over \$4 Million offered in scholarships

Appalachian State University  
Augustana College  
Belmont University  
Blue Ridge Community College  
Bowie State University  
Bridgewater College  
Cedarville University  
Christopher Newport University  
Covenant College  
Davis & Elkins College  
Eastern Mennonite University  
Geneva College

Grove City College  
Hillsdale College  
James Madison University  
LeTourneau University  
Liberty University  
Longwood University  
Mary Baldwin University  
Messiah College  
Randolph Macon College  
Regents University  
Rosedale Bible College  
Taylor University

Texas A&M University  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Richmond  
University of Sioux Falls  
Universal Technical Institute  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia Wesleyan University  
West Virginia University  
Wheaton College

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND HONORS COURSES:

- AP English
- AP Calculus
- Introduction to Literary Analysis
- American Literature
- World Literature
- British Literature
- Geometry
- Algebra I and II
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus
- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Anatomy & Physiology
- World History I and II
- Spanish I, II, III, IV

## DUAL ENROLLMENT (SOME AVAILABLE IN 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

- US History
- US Government
- Economics
- Introduction to Communication
- Art Experience and Appreciation
- Sociology
- Intro to Philosophy
- Intro to Psychology
- Intro to Computing with C++
- Theater Appreciation
- Personal Cybersecurity
- Astronomy
- Statistics
- Christian Journey into Psychology

## ELECTIVE OPTIONS

- Art I & Art II
- Advanced Art
- Choir
- Chamber Choir
- Creative Writing
- Music History/ Appreciation
- Photography I & II
- Theater I & II
- Lessons - Piano or Guitar
- Consumer Science I & II
- Debate
- Drivers' Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Introduction to Agriculture
- Lego Robotics
- Mock Trial
- Weight Training
- Yearbook
- Flex Period, DE, Study Hall
- International Missions Trip