

SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL



370 Mitten Lane
Cashiers, N.C. 28717
828.743.5755 ext. 250
www.summitschool.org

Lauren Bennett,
Director of Student Experiences
lbennett@summitschool.org

Lauren oversees college planning
and is the point of contact for
admissions representatives.

*"Contact me any time, I know all
of our students like family!"*

OUR RURAL COMMUNITY

Tucked away in the mountains of western North Carolina, the quaint village of Cashiers is a small town and one of the state's most popular travel destinations. Our community supports a mix of working year-round families and part-time residents from all over the world. Our unincorporated town is home to families across a wide socioeconomic spectrum. Summit Charter School is an integral part of the community and ensures our families and visitors have a wonderful place to live, work, play, and raise families. Summit strongly values community relationships and strives to be excellent stewards of our beautiful, natural surroundings.



COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM

Cashiers is located on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau at an elevation of 3,487 feet. The area features incredible natural elements, including the headwaters of the Chattooga River, Panthertown Valley (the Yosemite of the East), and the Nantahala National Forest. Summit uses these outdoor classrooms to facilitate experiential learning opportunities. In addition to these unique community resources, Summit's 33-acre campus is home to a student-built trail system (including a model Appalachian Trail), a climbing tower, a greenhouse and an educational garden. **Summit leverages the power of our place to personalize student learning.**

OUR RURAL SCHOOL

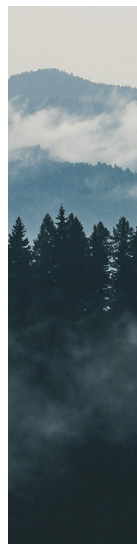
The founding of Summit represents our commitment to parent and community involvement. In 1996, parents and community members drafted one of North Carolina's first public school charters, stating *"Our goal is to create a school that will serve as the cornerstone of this community; an institution that serves rich and poor, those of various ethnic backgrounds and those who have lived here for generations with those who have just arrived."* For 25 years, Summit Charter School's program has focused on **nurturing every child**.

In 2018, Summit expanded to add a high school program (9-12), and our first class of seniors graduated in May 2022. 100% of students in the Class of 2022 earned admission to at least one college or university, and over 90% enrolled in college in fall 2022. We emphasize the three pillars of a Summit graduate: **Academically Prepared, Engaged in Community, and Strong in Character.**

BY THE NUMBERS

**60 students total in the high school
(10 in the Class of 2023)**

- 30% of students are first generation college-bound
- 75% of teaching staff have a graduate degree in their content area
- 78% Caucasian, 20% Latino, 2% more than one race
- 51% of our students are eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch
- 1:12 teacher student ratio



SCHOOL CULTURE

- Student-teacher relationships are central to Summit's commitment to ensure each graduate is known, challenged, and encouraged to reach their full potential. **Our small town and school allows students and staff to know each other like family!**
- Summit prioritizes parent partnership and involvement in student education.
FUN FACT: K-12 Summit families devote over 7,000 hours of volunteerism annually.

Every morning, students recite the **Summit Pledge**, which drives school-wide character education and culture: *"Each day, in my words and my deeds, I will do my best to live these seven virtues: Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Perseverance, and Giving"*

OUR WAY OF LEARNING

Scheduling & Placement

Summit shifted to block schedule in 2021-2022. Prior to 2021-2022, students took academic year-long courses and semester-long elective courses.

- Honors English placement in grades 9-12 based on teacher recommendation.
- Students enrolled in regular or advanced math sequence based on 8th grade math placement.
- AP U.S. History is open enrollment.
- Advanced science (Chemistry Honors) in grade 11 is open enrollment.
- In addition to core requirements, students choose two elective courses per year in grades 10-12.

Grading Scale & Quality Points

Grading is on a 100-point scale, converted to a GPA on a 4-point scale. All classes are included in the cumulative high school GPA.

Letter	Percentile	Standard Pts	Honors Pts	AP & Dual Enrollment Courses
A	90-100	4.00	4.5	5
B	80-89	3.00	3.5	4
C	70-79	2.00	2.5	3
D	60-69	1.00	1.5	2
F	0-59	0.00	0	0

Student Activities

Clubs:

The following clubs are currently offered: climbing, visual arts, home arts, creative writing, frisbee sports, and Dungeons & Dragons.

Athletics:

Summit launched the high school athletics program in the fall of 2019. High school sports currently offered: basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf, and cross country.

Travel Opportunities:

In 2021, Summit launched its *Global Scholars Program*, which offers high school students optional educational travel opportunities. The inaugural trip was to Alaska in July 2021 to explore the ecology, history, and culture of Sitka.

Class of 2023 Courses

GRADE 9

- English I or English I Honors
- Math I or Math II
- World History
- Earth/Environmental Science
- Spanish I
- PE/Health
- LEAD I

GRADE 10

- English II or English II Honors
- Math II or Math III Honors
- Civics or Civics Honors
- Biology or Biology Honors
- Spanish I or Spanish II
- LEAD II

GRADE 11

- English III or English III Honors
- Math III or Math IV (Pre-Calculus)
- American History or AP U.S. History
- Physical Science or Chemistry Honors
- Junior Seminar or AP Seminar
- LEAD III

GRADE 12

- English IV or English IV Honors
- Math IV (Pre-Calculus) or AP Calculus
- Founding Principles and Economics
- Anatomy & Physiology, Anatomy & Physiology Honors, or Chemistry Honors
- Senior Research or AP Research
- LEAD IV

Elective offerings vary year to year. Students in grades 11 and 12 who meet minimum GPA requirements can apply to take Dual Enrollment courses.

LEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LEAD (Learn, Engage, Analyze, and Discover) is a unique combination of project-based classes and field experiences, rooted in community engagement, outdoor leadership, mentoring, and life skills. Summit utilizes place-based and experiential opportunities in southern Appalachia to gain global understanding. Example projects include grant-writing workshops for local non-profits, participating in personal finance classes, climbing local peaks, learning to fly fish while participating in a river clean-up, and coordinating local blood drives.