

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 its 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 academic excellence, strength of character, and nurturing **EVERY** child.

In 2018, Summit expanded to add a high school program dedicated to growing leaders through academically rigorous and engaging experiences. Summit's first graduating class, the class of 2022, are known as **trailblazers**. As the first graduating class, students have helped develop high school traditions and culture; they have started our first clubs, sports teams and student council. Though they are a diverse group of students, the seniors share the courage it takes to believe in something yet to be seen and the fortitude it takes to embody the three pillars of a Summit graduate: Academically Prepared, Engaged in Community, and Strong in Character.

BY THE NUMBERS

Class of 2022 is Summit's first graduating class! There are 60 students total in the high school (15 in the class of 2022)

- 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 on an annual basis.*
- **Summit's 7 Virtues are at the heart of school culture!**

Every morning, each student recites 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 this year, students took academic year-long courses and semester-long elective courses.
- Honors English placement based on teacher recommendation on an annual basis
- Students enrolled in regular or advanced math sequence based on 8th grade math completion
- AP American History placement based on student choice
- Advanced placement in 11th grade Chemistry based on student choice
- In addition to core requirements, students chose two elective courses per year 10th-12th grade

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

Afterschool Clubs:

Summit offers a variety of afterschool clubs to high school students. The following club offerings were available to the class of 2022: climbing, visual arts, chorus, jazz band, home arts, creative writing, and frisbee sports.

Athletics:

Summit launched the high school athletics program in the fall of 2019. High school athletic offerings available to the class of 2022 include basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf, and cross country.

Travel Opportunities:

In 2021, Summit launched its Global Scholars Program, which offers Summit high schoolers opt-in educational travel opportunities. Select high school students participated in the inaugural trip to Alaska in July 2021 to explore the ecology, history, and culture of Sitka, Alaska.

Class of 2022 Course Sequence

GRADE 9

- English I or English I Honors
- Math I or Math II
- World History
- Earth/Environmental Science
- Spanish I
- PE/Health
- LEAD I (Leadership and Service Learning)

GRADE 10

- English II or English II Honors
- Math II or Math III
- AP World History
- Biology
- Spanish II
- LEAD II (course requirement waived due to COVID-19)
- Elective Offerings: Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Computer Science, Yearbook, NC Wildlife, Music Composition

GRADE 11

- English III or English III Honors
- Math III or Math IV (Pre-Calculus)
- American History or AP United States History
- Physical Science or Chemistry
- AP Seminar
- LEAD III
- Elective Offerings: Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Personal Fitness, Dual Enrollment Courses (minimum GPA required)

GRADE 12

- English IV or English IV Honors
- Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus
- Founding Principles and Economics
- Anatomy
- AP Research
- LEAD IV
- Elective Offerings (offered only in 2nd semester): Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Dual Enrollment Courses (minimum GPA required)

LEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LEAD (Learn, Engage, Analyze, and Discover) is a unique combination of classes and experiential opportunities designed to foster graduates that are inspired and equipped to lead. Summit students earn elective credits as they participate in LEAD 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. Students climb mountains, serve their communities, and explore the world around them as avenues through which to develop as thinkers, leaders, and citizens.