



YVHS

YAMPA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Student Handbook

Yampa Valley High School
325 7th Street
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Phone: (970) 871-3299
Fax: (970) 879-3943

YAMPAVALLEYHIGHSCHOOL.ORG

YVHS is an accredited public school in the Steamboat Springs School District. There is no cost for attendance. Any high school aged student living in Routt county is encouraged to apply for admission.



School Staff

Allison Wither - School Counselor
awither@ssk12.org
970-871-3296

Chuck Rosemond - Dean of School and Special Education
crosemond@ssk12.org
970-871-3294

Eric Bender - Math and Science
ebender@ssk12.org
970-871-3295

Greg Johnson - Language Arts and Social Studies
gregjohnson@ssk12.org
970-871-3293

School Mission

The Yampa Valley High School provides a healthy, respectful and supportive learning environment that promotes cooperation and personal interaction among students and teachers in order to facilitate individual growth and academic achievement.

The Yampa Valley School is committed to:

- Providing every student with a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment
 - Respecting each student's individuality
 - Focusing on the student's overall well-being
 - Expecting students to do their best
 - Encouraging students to improve academically, socially, and personally
 - Helping students develop critical thinking skills
- Teaching students the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their future
 - Creating a positive school culture



School Overview

The Yampa Valley High School serves students who are seeking an alternative learning environment that can better meet their personal and educational goals. Our school facilitates a supportive learning community that respects all individuals and their overall well-being. Critical thinking, collaboration and self-direction are the foundations of YVHS's academic system and serve to provide our students with the skills and abilities that will promote a successful and happy life.

Fast Facts

- Accredited public school in the Steamboat Springs School District
- SSSD School of Choice with admissions process
- Grades 9-12
- Small student-staff ratio 7:1
- Graduation diploma recognized by all Colleges and Universities
- Traditional grading scale with GPA
- Family atmosphere fostering a supportive learning environment
- Personalized Learning Plans with flexible scheduling per individual
- Emphasis on Post Secondary Career Readiness
- CMC Concurrent Enrollment - both high school and college credit
- Students can take classes at SSHS for credit at YVHS
- Students can participate in all extracurricular activities offered at SSHS
- Vocational and Career and Technical Education internship/apprentice opportunities available
- Outdoor programming including Friday afternoon hikes and overnight field trips
- Therapeutic supports available

The Yampa Valley High School offers an alternative to the traditional secondary school experience through a number of unique approaches.

School of Choice:

YVHS is open to Routt County high school aged students seeking an alternative style of education. Limited enrollment is available and students are expected to value their opportunity by following attendance, academic, and behavior policies. If a student chooses to not follow the school's policies, they may be dismissed from the program.

Experiential Education:

Students are placed in situations that encourage observation, exploration, and personal reflection about the world in which they interact. Courses are designed to be immediately relevant to the students' lives.



Small Class Size:

Our student-to-teacher ratio (7:1) and small class size (max 14 students) allows the YVHS faculty to provide more individualized education opportunities based on students' needs and learning styles.

Flexible Curriculum:

All classes at YVHS meet the State of Colorado educational standards. While emphasis is placed on broad exposure within subject areas throughout the student's high school education, courses at YVHS are purposely designed to explore in depth topics related to specific subject areas.

Personalized Learning Plans:

Personalized Learning Plans are developed for each student and are used to facilitate a clear pathway to graduation and post secondary aspirations.

Quarter Scheduling:

Students receive credit at the end of each quarter and new classes start every eight weeks.

Grading:

Classes are graded on a traditional grading scale and a numeric GPA is earned by all students.

Homework:

YVHS does not assign homework. Time is provided during the school day to complete all assignments. Students may be required to attend study hall if time was not spent productively in class or if they need to make up work due to an absence.

Outdoor Physical Education:

Friday afternoons are reserved for hikes throughout Routt County. These hikes are mandatory for all enrolled students and count as PE credit.

Overnight Field Trips:

There are three annual overnight field trips. Students engage in a wide variety of activities in the outdoors or urban environments including camping, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, theater performances, college visits and museum tours. These trips are mandatory and provide opportunities for students to learn outside of the traditional classroom, build leadership skills, expand personal experiences and facilitate a positive school culture and community.

Counselor Support:

YVHS provides opportunities for one-on-one counseling with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and self-exploration in a group setting. Additionally, the school counselor oversees class scheduling, post secondary planning and CMC concurrent enrollment.



Access to Steamboat Springs High School Classes and Activities:

Students can take SSHS classes for graduation credit while enrolled at YVHS. Additionally, any YVHS student can participate in extracurricular activities offered at SSHS including athletics, theatrical productions, clubs and school sponsored dances and prom.

Concurrent Enrollment:

Students may attend courses at Colorado Mountain College and earn high school and college credit. Students must meet specific YVHS requirements before enrolling in a CMC course.

Student Admissions & Enrollment

The Yampa Valley High School is a *School of Choice* in the Steamboat Springs School District.

We have a formal admissions process that includes an application and student interview. Any high school aged student living in Routt county is encouraged to apply for admission.

YVHS has a rolling admissions policy and accepts students into the program at the beginning of each new academic quarter in August, October, January and March. (See yearly academic calendar for exact start dates.)

A successful applicant for YVHS must demonstrate the required levels of performance for admission. These include previous demonstration of academic engagement, prior satisfactory attendance , no significant behavior issues (expulsion or multiple suspensions) and a genuine desire to engage in one's education and graduate from high school.

The admissions process is completed in 5 steps:

1. **Meet and Tour with Dean of School** - This is required for both the student and their parent/guardian. A brief tour of the school will be provided followed by a meeting when questions about the program will be answered by the Dean of School. A student handbook and application will be provided at this meeting.
2. **Submission of Application** - Both student and parent portions of the application must be completed. Once the application is submitted, an interview will be scheduled. The application may be submitted at the time of the initial meeting with the Dean of School.



3. **Transcript Review** - This allows the School Counselor and Dean of School to review the student's most current transcript to evaluate specific credit needs and determine a perspective graduation timeline.
4. **Student Interview** - The interview lasts approximately 15 minutes and is an opportunity for the student and YVHS staff to meet and discuss the student's current academic, attendance, and behavior performance and discuss future goals. Interview questions will be provided to the student prior to the interview. Parents are invited to meet with YVHS staff at the end of the interview when the the student's perspective graduation timeline will be reviewed.
5. **Notification of Admission** - We do our best to notify applicants of our admission decision within 24 hours of their interview. If a student is not admitted into the program, they are encouraged to reapply in the future when they have better demonstrated the required levels of performance for admission.

Earning Credits at YVHS

Teacher Guided Courses: YVHS faculty includes a science/math teacher, a social studies/language arts teacher and a special education resource teacher. All educators offer required and/or optional courses.

Learning Expeditions: Students have the opportunity to participate in independent learning projects of their choice. To earn academic credit, students must submit a teacher approved learning contract and successfully complete all components of the contract by the end of the academic quarter.

Physical Education: PE is co-taught by all the teachers. Outdoor activities are scheduled on Friday afternoons to satisfy the PE requirement. Two unexcused absences in PE during an academic quarter result in a failing grade.

Crew:

All students are assigned to a crew class every quarter. The crew curriculum consists of a variety of personal and group objectives including group check-ins with the school counselor, current events, study hall/work time, all school meetings, and individual career and college planning (ICAP). ICAP activates such as interest inventories, postsecondary exploration and planning, academic planning, student lead conference preparations, information literacy classes and research skills are scheduled for an hour every Wednesday morning.



Work Based Learning:

11th and 12th grade students are eligible to participate in WBL. The requirements for Work Based Learning credit include working at least 5 hours per week for 8 weeks, submitting copies of pay stubs, attending bi-weekly meetings with and completing assignments for the WBL coordinator.

Access to Steamboat Springs High Classes:

Students may take SSHS classes for graduation credit while enrolled at YVHS.

Colorado Mountain College Concurrent Enrollment:

Students who qualify may enroll in college courses at CMC while also enrolled in YVHS and earn both high school and college credit. The YVHS school counselor coordinates the concurrent enrollment program.

CMC/YVHS concurrent enrollment requirements and protocol:

- Student may not have any academic, attendance or behavioral strikes from previous two academic quarters at YVHS.
- CMC classes must align with student's college or career goals as listed on the student's current ICAP.
- The student must have passed all YVHS academic classes (Crew and PE excluded) for the previous two academic quarters.
- The student must be enrolled in YVHS at least one semester before they are considered for concurrent enrollment classes at CMC.
- All Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA) enrollment paperwork must be filled out and submitted.
- The student must have all district fees paid before the concurrent enrollment is approved.
- If required, the student must agree to have their CMC instructor sign an attendance form for each CMC class and return to YVHS counselor throughout the semester.
- The Yampa Valley High School agrees to pay for a maximum of nine credit hours per academic semester.
- YVHS will pay tuition for courses if the student earns a grade of C or better.
- If a student earns a grade below a C, the student must repay YVHS for the course tuition.
- The student is required to pay for all course fees and purchase textbooks required for CMC classes.
- When applicable the student must drop the CMC class by withdrawal date to avoid a withdraw/fail (WF) grade and reimbursement of course tuition to YVHS.



YVHS Graduation Credit Requirements

24 total credits are needed to graduate from YVHS and each quarter long course is worth .25 credit.

Minimum Graduation Requirements:

- 4 credits - Language Arts
- 3 credits - Math
- 3 credits - Science
- 3 credits - Social Studies
- .5 credits - PE
- .5 credits - Health
- 10 credits - Electives

Students must complete their senior year with the minimum credit requirements to earn a YVHS diploma. Students may earn more than the minimum graduation requirements. The Steamboat Springs School District requires all students to be enrolled in 3.5 semesters of high school prior to graduation.

Yampa Valley High School Policies

Students attending YVHS are bound by all Steamboat Springs School District's Code of Conduct and administrative policies. Failure to comply with these policies may result in dismissal from YVHS and further disciplinary action. Refer to the Steamboat Springs School District Board of Education and Administrative Policies for policies and procedures applicable to students attending YVHS.

YVHS academic, attendance and behavior policy is based on a strike system. Two strikes (academic, attendance and behavior or a combination thereof) within an academic quarter or three strikes within an academic year may result in loss of academic credit for that corresponding quarter and potential dismissal from the program.

Academic Expectations

Students are given the opportunity to earn at least 1.75 credits per quarter. New students are expected to earn at least 1 credit for their first quarter at YVHS. All other students are expected to earn at least 1.25 credits every quarter. Failure to achieve these minimum academic expectations will result in an academic strike.

Passing a class is contingent upon consistent attendance. Ten unexcused absences to any one academic class, ten tardies to crew or two unexcused absences in PE in an academic quarter will result in a failing grade in that specific class for the quarter.



Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to be on time to class every day. The YVHS attendance policy is based on a point and strike system.

Points:

- Unexcused all-day absence = 1 point
- Unexcused half- day absence (not returning after lunch) = 1 point
- Willfully skipping a class period or study hall = 1 point
- Chronic tardiness (less than ten minutes late to class):
 - Ten tardies throughout a student's entire academic schedule (excluding crew) during an academic quarter = 1 point
 - Ten tardies to crew during an academic quarter = 1 point
- Any student arriving more than ten minutes late to class will be marked absent for that class period. Five unexcused individual academic class absences throughout a student's entire academic schedule (excluding crew) during an academic quarter = 1 point

Strikes:

- 3 attendance points within any academic quarter

Consequences:

- Point 1: one week loss of open lunch privilege
- Point 2: two weeks loss of open lunch privilege
- Strike: four weeks loss of open lunch privilege
- Potential referral to Student Attendance Review Board
- Two strikes during an academic quarter or three strikes within a school year will result in a loss of all academic credit for the current quarter.
 - Credit recovery options may be provided on an individual basis within the regular academic schedule or through off-site online options.
- Students may be required to reapply to the Yampa Valley High School after two strikes in a quarter or three strikes in an academic school year.

Study Hall

- Students are required to attend study hall following any absence until all work is made up.
- Failure or refusal to attend study hall will result in a point and potential disciplinary action.

SARB (Student Attendance Review Board)

- Habitually truant = four unexcused absences within 30 days or ten unexcused absences within a school year may result in the student being referred to the SSSD Student Attendance Review Board.

Crew Attendance Policy

- Any student accruing ten tardies during an academic quarter in crew will fail the class for that quarter and receive an attendance point.
- A student will be marked tardy in crew if they arrive later than 8:20 AM.



Excused Absences: The school reserves the right to make the final decision when determining if absences are excused or unexcused. In accordance with SSSD policy, excused absences include:

1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured or whose absence is approved by the administrator of the school of attendance on a prearranged basis. Prearranged absences shall be approved for appointments or circumstances of a serious nature only which cannot be taken care of outside of school hours. The school may request medical verification for illness after four absences per semester.
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental or emotional life event (family illness, loss, etc).
3. A student who is pursuing a work study program under the supervision of the school.
4. A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity or activities of an educational nature with advance approval by the administration.
5. A student who is suspended or expelled.

Any non-school related activity may be reviewed by the building principal and dean of school to determine if the absence will be excused or unexcused. A parent call to notify the school to that a student will be absent will not necessarily result in an excused absence.

Prearranged Absences: Students planning to miss school for extended time must notify the dean of school for approval prior to the absence.

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to contribute to a positive, healthy, safe and productive learning environment, as well as refrain from behaving in ways that negatively impact one's own learning or the learning of others. YVHS engages in a variety of activities in and out of school and students are expected to abide by all rules and guidelines set by YVHS staff.

Depending on the behavior offense and number of offences, a discipline hearing may be required to determine a course of action which may include a behavior plan and contract, suspension and requirement to participate in restorative practices. Suspendable offenses count as a behavior strike. In exceptionally egregious cases, the student may be immediately dismissed from YVHS and face further consequences from the Steamboat Springs School District.



Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons

Any student using drugs or alcohol, or in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, drug paraphernalia or a weapon while on SSSD property or attending any school sponsored activity may face disciplinary action including suspension from school, potential dismissal from YVHS, further consequences from the Steamboat Springs School District including referral to local law enforcement.

Tobacco Use

Tobacco possession or use is not allowed on any SSSD property or during any off campus school activity. Tobacco violations will result in loss of open campus privileges as determined by the dean of school.

Violence, Threatening Behavior and Vandalism

Students who acts out violently, behave in a threatening way towards others or vandalize property of others, including school property, may face disciplinary action including suspension from school, potential dismissal from YVHS or further consequences from the Steamboat Springs School District including referral to local law enforcement.

Theft

Respecting other people's property is fundamental to a safe and productive learning environment. Consequences of theft may face disciplinary action including suspension from school, potential dismissal from YVHS or further consequences from the Steamboat Springs School District including referral to local law enforcement.

Bullying

A safe learning environment is the right of every member of the YVHS community. Students who feel bullied, including cyber bullying, are encouraged to report it to a YVHS staff member asap. Students who continually bully may be suspended or dismissed from YVHS and face further disciplinary action including referral to local law enforcement. Bullying Prevention Efforts are further addressed in Steamboat Springs School District policy S-31.

Language

Students are expected to use appropriate language for school. Language that is attacking or threatening in nature, belittling, racially or sexually discriminatory may result in an immediate suspension and further disciplinary action.

School Sponsored Events and Off Campus Activities

All district and school policy applies to students participating in school sponsored events and off campus activities. Failure to comply with YVHS policy or staff instructions while participating in events and off campus activities will result in disciplinary action to be determined by the dean of school.



Meals and Open Campus Privileges

Breakfast and Lunch

Students may purchase breakfast and lunch from the Steamboat Springs School District. Meals are delivered to YVHS daily. Student must have an account set up with nutritional service and meals must be prepaid. Free and reduced lunch applications are available at YVHS. Room 130 has a small kitchenette and eating area for student use. Lunch orders must be placed by 8:50 AM.

Open Campus

Open campus (leaving the YVHS building) during lunch period is a privilege. Open campus privileges may be revoked at any time if a student fails to meet the open campus expectations and requirements. Students who do not have open campus privileges are expected to remain in the school building during lunch. If a student is truant during the lunch period, the unexcused absence will count as an attendance point.

Expectations:

- Students must demonstrate polite and considerate behavior toward our neighbors, local businesses and community during open campus lunch periods. Loitering, violation of tobacco use policy, inappropriate language or disrespecting community members will result in the loss of open campus privileges as determined by dean of school.
- Student must return from lunch on time and be ready for class.

Open Campus privilege may be revoked for the following reasons:

- **Attendance** (see attendance policy for description of points and strikes)
 - Point 1: one week loss of open lunch privilege
 - Point 2: two week loss of open lunch privilege
 - Strike: four week loss of open lunch privilege
 - Students who return from lunch habitually or exceedingly late may have open campus privileges revoked for a period of time determined by the dean of school.
- **Academic**
 - The student has late academic assignments beyond one week. Open campus privileges are revoked until all missing assignments are satisfactorily completed.
- **Behavior**
 - Students who violate YVHS behavior policy may lose open campus privileges for a time period to be determined by the dean of school.
 - Students who are suspected by YVHS staff to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or on school sponsored activities may have open campus privileges revoked for a period of time to be determined by the dean of school.



Technology Use

YVHS students are required to follow all SSSD technology use policies.

Cell phones: Cell phones are to be put away and turned off while class is in session. If a teacher sees or hears a phone in class the following policy will be followed:

- 1st Offense:
 - Dean confiscates phone and student may pick it up at the end of the day.
- 2nd Offense:
 - Dean confiscates phone and the student's parent may pick it up at the end of the day.
- 3rd Offense:
 - Dean confiscates phone and student's parent may pick it up in three days.
- 4th Offense:
 - Dean confiscates phone and student's parent may pick it up in five days.

If a student refuses to surrender a phone, the student will suspended for the number of days corresponding to the above stated policy.

Internet: students may not view pages that contain illicit drug reference, pornography, or any other material that teachers deem inappropriate.

