



# YVHS

YAMPA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  

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UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

## Student Handbook

Yampa Valley High School  
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[YAMPAVALLEYHIGHSCHOOL.ORG](http://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

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## 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 try their best
  - Encouraging students to improve academically, socially, and personally
    - Helping students develop critical thinking skills
- Providing students the opportunity to learn 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 School Environment:**

Our student-to-staff ratio (7:1) and small class size (up to 15:1) 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, service learning activities, and place-based instruction throughout Routt County. These movement focused activities are mandatory for all enrolled students and count as PE credit.

**Field Experiences:**

Community building and place-based learning activities outside of the school building are an important part of YVHS. Each year, field experiences will be incorporated in the school schedule that may include overnight trips along with day trips. These activities may include: camping, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, theater performances, college visits and museum tours. Trips 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. All students are expected to participate in field experiences.



**Counselor Support:**

YVHS provides opportunities for one-on-one counseling and self-exploration in a group setting. Additionally, the professional 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, YVHS students can access the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities offered at SSHS including athletics, theatrical productions, clubs and school sponsored dances and prom. The student, YVHS principal and/or counselor, and the appropriate SSHS staff must coordinate participation in classes and activities for eligible students.

**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.

**Restorative Practices:** YVHS incorporates a restorative mindset to conflict and school culture. This means that our goal of YVHS staff is to support a process that makes things right for all parties when there is a conflict instead of only imparting punitive consequences. This approach is about repairing harm so students can develop empathy, responsibility and personal accountability. At YVHS, Connection Circles involve whole school opportunities for building community, Restorative Conversations between staff and students are used to problem solve conflicts, and Restorative Mediations can be used to address more complex conflict when affected parties agree to this approach.

## 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 Principal** - 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 Principal. 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 Principal.
3. **Transcript Review** - This allows the School Counselor and Principal 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 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.

**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: (Includes LEAP and FLEX)** 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 activities 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 WBL 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. YVHS counselor and principal must coordinate this with SSHS administration and counselors.

**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:**

- 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 school 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 D or better.
- If a student earns a grade below a D, the student must repay YVHS for the course tuition.
- 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.
- The student is required to pay for all learning materials and activity fees required for CMC classes.
- A YVHS needs-based concurrent enrollment scholarship is available to students requiring assistance paying learning materials and activity fees. Scholarship applications are available from the YVHS school counselor.

## 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. Beginning with the class of 2020, YVHS students must meet graduation proficiency requirements on at least one measure in both English and math. Please refer to page 14 for specific requirements.

## 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. In alignment with Steamboat Springs School District initiatives, YVHS may incorporate Restorative Practices as a component of responding to situations that lead to strikes.

## Academic Expectations

Students are given the opportunity to earn at least 1.75 credits per quarter. Failure to achieve minimum academic expectations will result in an academic strike as follows:

- 2 Fs = strike
- 1 F and 2 Ds = strike
- 4 Ds = strike

Student grades are dependent upon satisfactory completion of all assigned work, daily participation grades, and attendance. Ten unexcused absences to any one academic class or ten tardies to crew in an academic quarter will result in a failing grade in that specific class.

## Attendance Expectations

Student success at YVHS is contingent on regular attendance. 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
- Ten tardies to any class during an academic quarter = 1 point
- Any student arriving more than ten minutes late to class will be marked absent for that class period. Six 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

### 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 an attendance point and potential further disciplinary action.



### **Crew Attendance Policy (includes LEAP and FLEX)**

- Any student accruing ten tardies/absences during an academic quarter in crew will fail the class for that quarter.

### **PE Attendance Policy**

- Participation in PE/Friday hikes is mandatory for students enrolled in the class. In PE, students are allowed one excused absence per academic quarter. Absences are only excused with a doctor's note or documented court ordered appearance. Students missing two or more Friday hikes (excused with a doctor's note or court ordered appearance) will be given the opportunity to make up the activity for academic credit. Any student receiving two unexcused absences on Friday hikes in an academic quarter will fail the class for the academic quarter.

### **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.

**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 to determine if the absence will be excused or unexcused. A parent call to notify the school 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 may have an option to participate in restorative practices. SSSD behavioral handbook policies apply to YVHS students.

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 will 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 principal of the 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 principal.

## **Consequences:**

- Point: five days loss of open lunch privilege
- Strike: ten days 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.

## **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 the principal.
- Student must return from lunch on time and be ready for class. Habitually tardy students will lose open campus privileges as determined by the principal.

**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 principal.
- **Academic**
  - The student has late academic assignments beyond one week. Open campus privileges may be revoked until all missing assignments are satisfactorily completed.
- **Behavior**
  - Students receiving a behavior strike will lose open campus privileges for ten days.
  - Students who violate YVHS behavior policy may lose open campus privileges for a time period to be determined by the principal.
  - 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 principal.

## Technology Use

YVHS students are required to follow all SSSD technology, use of internet and electronic communications policy (Administrative Policies I-23). Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

**Cell phones:**

Learning is the focus during class time at YVHS, and this time is especially important since YVHS does not have homework. Parents should not expect to communicate with students while they are in class through cell phones. Parents should call the YVHS



office if they have an immediate need to communicate with their students. Cell phones are to be put away in a backpack or in an area designated by the teacher (i.e. hanging pockets) and turned to silent with no buzz while class is in session. During specific times of a class period, a teacher may allow phones to be used for a designated purpose. If a teacher sees or hears a phone in class or if a phone is used in class for a purpose other than what is specifically identified by the teacher the following policy will be followed:

**1st Offense: Warning for each class period:** The student may receive a warning each class period

**2nd Offense: (per quarter)** After a student has received a warning during the class period, if the student uses the device again, the Teacher retrieves the device; student may pick up the device from their teacher at the end of the class period

**3rd Offense: (per quarter)** After a student has received a warning during the class and the student has already received a 2nd offense during the quarter and the student uses the device again in the quarter, the device is securely stored in the principal's office; student may pick up the device at the end of their school day.

**4th Offense: (per quarter)** After a student has received a warning during the class and the student has already received a 3rd offense during the quarter and the student uses the device again in the quarter, The device is securely stored in the principal's office; parent must come to school to pick up the device; Principal will conference with the student about the repeated behavior and determine appropriate response.

**If a student refuses to surrender a phone, the student may be suspended.**

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

## Dress Code

School board policy S-41 applies for dress code. This includes detailed descriptions of clothing requirements that are not vulgar or have drug/alcohol references. The dress code outlines the minimum amount of students' bodies that must be covered. The dress code does not allow sunglasses to be worn in class and does not allow hoods to be worn over students' heads. More details can be found in the policy S-41.



## Yampa Valley High School Graduation Proficiency Guidelines

Students must demonstrate college or career readiness on at least one measure in both English and math.

SAT	
English: 430	Math: 460
<p>The SAT is a college entrance exam that is accepted or required at nearly all four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. Students at YVHS take the SAT during the spring of their 11th grade year. The current SAT includes sections on reading, writing and math. The highest possible score for each section is 800.</p>	

ACT WorkKeys	
English: Bronze or higher	Math: Bronze or higher
<p>ACT WorkKeys is an assessment that tests students' job skills in applied reading, writing, mathematics and 21st century skills. Students at YVHS take the ACT WorkKeys assessment during the fall of their 12th grade year. Students who score at the bronze level (at least 3) in applied mathematics, mapping and reading earn the ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate.</p>	

Accuplacer	
English: (new cut scores pending) on Reading Comprehension	Math: (new cut scores pending) on Elementary Algebra
<p>Accuplacer is a computerized test that assesses reading, writing, math and computer skills. Students at YVHS take the Accuplacer during the fall and spring semesters of their 11th and 12th grade years. It is used to determine the appropriate placement of students in CMC concurrent enrollment courses aligned with their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) and post secondary goals.</p>	

Concurrent Enrollment	
English: Passing grade of "C" or better per school policy	Math: Passing grade of "C" or better per school policy
<p>Concurrent enrollment provides students the opportunity to take postsecondary courses at CMC while simultaneously earning high school and college credit. Students at YVHS are eligible to take ICAP aligned concurrent enrollment courses when they have demonstrated college readiness by achieving cut scores on the Accuplacer (determined by CMC). An eligible concurrent enrollment course is a 100 level (or greater) credit-bearing college course.</p>	

YVHS Capstone Project	
English: Individualized	Math: Individualized
<p>The capstone project is a graduation requirement of all YVHS seniors and is the culminating exhibition of a student's Personalized Education Pathway including their ICAP. It demonstrates academic and workforce readiness in language arts and math through self evaluation, postsecondary planning and real-world budgeting. Additionally, it includes a portfolio of a student's best work.</p>	

