

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP | COMMUNITY | GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2025-2026

ABOUT VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

Founded in 1997, Vermont Commons School is celebrating 29 years as an independent, college-preparatory day school for students in grades 6-12 located in the greater Burlington, Vermont area. With a curriculum that balances academic rigor with innovation, Vermont Commons educates students who are academically motivated and intellectually curious. From its inception, Vermont Commons School has cultivated an ethic of environmental awareness and responsibility, as well as a focus on local and global community.

ACCREDITATION

Vermont Commons is accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE), and the Vermont State Board of Education.

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

- **Average class size:** 12 students
- **Geographic Distribution:** Vermont Commons School students generally live in the greater Chittenden County area, although some students hail from as far away as Middlebury, Waitsfield, towns along the Canadian border, and towns on Lake Champlain in New York.
- **Financial Aid:** Approximately 30% of the student body receives need-based financial aid.
- **2025-2026 Enrollment:** There are 96 students enrolled in grades six through twelve. There are 10 students in the class of 2026.
- **Teaching Faculty holding advanced degrees:** 12 of 15

Vermont Commons School's Mission:

SCHOLARSHIP.
COMMUNITY.
GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.

ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

Vermont Commons School presents a challenging college preparatory curriculum for students in grades 6-12. The academic program offers courses and presents material in ever-increasing depth and complexity throughout a student's career. Classes at Vermont Commons are writing-intensive, hands-on, and focus on critical thinking skills across the curriculum. Students move from acquiring skills and understanding systems to analyzing and communicating solutions. The curriculum includes honors and advanced coursework, affording students the opportunity to experience the expectations of college-level courses while still having a strong mentoring relationship with their faculty as they transition to higher education.

NOTES ON COURSES AND PROGRAMS:

CONTRACT HONORS

Vermont Commons School offers Contract Honors, an exciting alternative to Advanced Placement courses. The Contract Honors program provides students with greater challenge, complexity, and coursework in grades 10-12. Students “contract” for additional studies and earn an Honors designation for that course on their transcript. Participating teachers offer students who meet each department's prerequisites the option to participate in Contract Honors; however, this option may not be offered in all courses. In order to take more than two Contract Honors courses, students must gain approval from the Department Chairs Committee. Honors grades are not weighted when computing a student's GPA. All honors work is graded and included in calculated course grades.

SCIENCE SEQUENCE

Vermont Commons School Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses are divided into two semesters that occur over multiple years. This curriculum allows students to see how each of the science disciplines intersects with the others.

ENCOUNTER WEEK PROGRAM

Each student participates in three multi-age Encounter Weeks per year, one in late September, one in early February, and one in late May. These intensive experiential education offerings allow students to learn new skills in a variety of settings, from the summit of Mount Mansfield to the streets of Lima, Peru, from Acadia National Park to the Sonoran Desert. During these weeks students explore the wilderness, the arts, and community-based projects. Encounter Weeks give students and faculty alike a new platform for connection, leadership, and understanding. Students engage in these challenging but rewarding journeys as fully as they do any other aspect of school.

SENIOR PROJECTS

At the end of the spring semester, each Vermont Commons School senior is provided the opportunity to design and implement their own senior project. These internship-style projects are five weeks long and replace regular classes. Students are able to pursue a career or skill interest and gain a sense of the professional setting outside of the classroom. This program allows seniors to creatively tie together their personal interests and academic experiences as they make the transition from high school to higher education. Students who choose to complete the senior project work with a community mentor for 30-35 hours/week, research an issue in their field of study, and present their experience to the school community.

DIPLOMA CERTIFICATES

Vermont Commons School offers Diploma Certificates of Concentration recognized with a graduate's diploma at their graduation ceremony. These allow our particularly dedicated students to dig deeply into their passions and build expertise in an area of interest with independent work at a high level of scholarship over a multi-year period. Students work for hundreds of hours to become an expert in a field. Approximately 0-4 students complete this rigorous program in a given year.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Each year, students are expected to successfully complete a full complement of courses. The available disciplines include Science, Mathematics, English, World Language, Social Studies, Visual Arts, Physical Education and Electives. Students must meet both the Vermont State requirements and the additional requirements as prescribed by the school.

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION*, INCLUDING:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Science
- 4 years of Mathematics
- 4 years of Social Studies
- 4 years of World Language
- One semester of Health class
- 6 quarter credit courses in the Arts with at least one each in the Visual and Performing Arts
- Participate in 11 Encounter Weeks
- Successfully complete the requirements of the Senior Project Program, if student chooses to participate

**Vermont Commons School's flexible curriculum allows students to freely pursue their academic interests at a variety of colleges, universities and online programs. In doing so, they may elect out of any discipline at Vermont Commons, assuming school approval and only in cases of an equally rigorous and balanced academic program.*

GRADING

Vermont Commons School grades on a 100-point numeric scale, and courses are offered on either a semester or year-long basis.

GRADES & PERCENTAGES

A+	97-100%	C	73-76%
A	93-96%	C-	70-72%
A-	90-92%	D+	67-69%
B+	87-89%	D	63-66%
B	83-86%	D-	60-62%
B-	80-82%	F	59% and below
C+	77-79%		

Students receive a final grade at the end of a semester-long class. This grade is recorded as a final grade on the transcript. In year-long classes, the final grade is determined by the average of the two semester grades. Students receive a pass/fail grade for health, internships, and some art and music classes.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES – (SOURCE: WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM)

	VCS Class of 2025	Nationwide Class of 2024
EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING	693	519
MATHEMATICS	663	505
TOTAL	1348	1024

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION RECORD (2019-2025)

American University
 Bard College
 Bates College
 Bentley University
 Bryn Mawr College
 Carleton College
 Case Western Reserve University
 Champlain College (2)
 Clark University
 Clarkson University
 Colorado College (2)
 Columbia University
 Dickinson College
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona
 Emerson College
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Fordham University
 Haverford College
 Hobart & William Smith Colleges (2)
 Ithaca College
 Lafayette College
 Lynn University
 Massachusetts College of Art & Design
 Middlebury College (3)
 Mount Holyoke College
 Northeastern University (2)
 Oberlin College
 Purdue University

Rochester Institute of Technology
 Saint Mary's of Maryland
 Saint Michael's College (and Honors College)
 Savannah College of Art & Design
 Skidmore College
 Smith College
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 Trinity College
 University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Denver
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of Massachusetts Boston (2)
 University of Michigan (3)
 University of New England
 University of New Hampshire
 University of Oregon
 University of Rochester
 University of Southern California Cinematic Arts
 University of Toronto
 University of Vermont (and Honors College)
 Vanderbilt University
 Vassar College
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute
 Washington University in St. Louis (2)
 Wesleyan University
 Yale University (2)

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

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