



FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL

Colorado Springs, Colorado

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Start Date: July 2022
fvs.edu



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES



Mission

Fountain Valley School of Colorado provides a transformative curriculum in a supportive environment where students are challenged to think critically, become leaders, and live by the School's core values: Courage, Compassion, Curiosity, Self-Reliance, Open-Mindedness.

OVERVIEW

Fountain Valley School of Colorado is a premier co-educational independent college preparatory school that embodies the spirit of the American West, and offers day and boarding programs for students in grades 9-12. Established in 1930, FVS is located on a stunning 1,100 acre campus situated on the edge of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado Springs, about 70 miles south of Denver. The School also has a picturesque 40-acre Mountain Campus near Buena Vista that provides abundant opportunities for year-round recreation and experiential education programs.

Fountain Valley School seeks a visionary leader as its next Head of School to start July 2022. The next leader will be tasked with further refining the School's rigorous academic program to take full advantage of Fountain Valley's unique location and values, working collaboratively with faculty and staff, enhancing the School's distinct mission, and increasing the School's admission outreach.

SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1930, Elizabeth Sage Hare and a group of friends founded the Fountain Valley School of Colorado. They shared the belief that a boarding school dedicated to traditional standards of excellence and the progressive ideals of individual dignity and creative promise would thrive in the American West. The land chosen for the School was a large ranch, known as Lazy B Ranch. Hare purchased the Lazy B and all of its amenities for \$150,000 in November 1929. The school opened as a boarding school for boys in September 1930.

At a Glance

Founded: 1930

Total students: 230

Students of color: 16%

Total faculty: 33

Faculty of color: 13%

Faculty with advanced degrees: 70%

Student/teacher ratio: 7:1

Financial aid budget: \$2.9 million

Students receiving aid: 44%

Endowment: \$51 million



THE SCHOOL

Fountain Valley School was established with the belief that a boarding school dedicated to traditional standards of excellence, character, and progressive ideals would thrive in the American West. FVS offers a unique educational experience that provides the quality of an East Coast boarding school and the culture of the West.

Fountain Valley School is a vibrant international community of students from 21 countries and 24 states. The broad-based liberal arts approach and dedicated faculty challenge students through globally minded inquiry, problem-solving, experiential learning, athletics, and creative expression. From the abundant opportunities to build character through sports like climbing, mountain biking, skiing, and horseback riding to the rigorous academic curriculum and senior capstone project, students are pushed to achieve at the highest level academically and personally.

FVS is accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS), whose accreditation standards are formally recognized by the State of Colorado's Board of Education, National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS).

ACADEMICS

Academics at Fountain Valley School of Colorado are challenging and comprehensive; the School offers honors and advanced courses in all disciplines and provides a flexible approach to ensure appropriate course placement for all students. FVS offers 19 AP courses in languages, science, history, and art.

College Matriculation

Students from the classes of 2016-2020 enrolled in the following institutions, among others:

American University
Auburn University
Barnard College
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Carnegie Mellon University
Colorado College
Dartmouth College
Emory University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Parsons School of Design at The New School
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Reed College
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of Visual Arts
Smith College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The New School
Tufts University
University of California - Berkeley,
Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa
Barbara, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Southern California
University of Washington
Washington University in St Louis
Yale University

[See the full list here.](#)



Classes at FVS are dynamic and hands-on with an exciting array of offerings. Everyone's opinion counts in lively, small-class discussions, and their global curriculum spans the departments, from art, to math, to history. Special yearly programs expand on student's understanding of their school, community, world, and their role within it, such as Chapter One for Freshman year, the Western Immersion program in Sophomore year, and the Senior Capstone for students in their last year.

College Counseling

The FVS college counseling process is student-centered, focused on finding fit, and spans three years, starting in sophomore year. With decades of combined experience, both as college counselors and college admissions officers, counselors are experts at helping students and colleges find a perfect match. Guidance is highly personal and attentive. As a boarding school where teachers are also coaches and residence hall staff, the connections they make run deep and thus their understanding does too.

Global Scholar Program

The Global Scholar Diploma program is one of FVS's Capstone experiences that serves as a culminating product of a student's educational and extracurricular experiences at Fountain Valley School. Through a curriculum and set of experiences that include travel and community service, students gain a rich understanding of global topics by conducting primary research and deep investigation. Students who earn a Global Scholar Diploma have gained the knowledge, skills, and ability to grasp the nature of global interdependence and are equipped to pursue an education in the international arena.



THE ARTS

Fountain Valley's visual arts program is robust, with a depth and breadth of offerings that kindle every student's creativity. Students can explore working in a variety of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, film, and metalsmithing.

Students can also gain skills and experience in the performing arts. Theatre at Fountain Valley School is as much about culture as it is about performing. Actors hone their skills through character analysis and developing onstage presence while studying classic and modern works. There are classes during the academic day to work on technique, as well as the after-school program which produces three plays a year, including the winter musical. Students interested in music can enjoy a full symphonic experience at FVS. Students can join the Fountain Valley Symphony Orchestra, as well as small ensembles such as horn trio, brass quartet with percussion, or string trio.

ATHLETICS

All students participate in afternoon programs, choosing from either a sport or non-athletic option, and each student is required to participate in at least one season of physical activity each year. FVS offers a range of athletic options, including cross country, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming, lacrosse, and volleyball. The School takes full advantage of the Rocky Mountains' landscape to provide students with opportunities they won't find anywhere else, including mountain biking, climbing, skiing, and snowboarding.



FVS is also well-known for its equestrian program. Fountain Valley’s riding program caters to all riders — from competitive and experienced to never-ridden — in both English and Western style riding and the facilities for both horse and rider are first rate.

SCHOOL LIFE

Campus culture at FVS is vibrant and engaging. When the school day is over, students engage in a mix of athletic and non-athletic activities, from yearbook and theatre to outdoor programs and athletic conditioning. Students often gather at the Frautschi Campus Center during free periods and on weekends to hang out, study together, order snacks from the RK Cafe and play ping pong, pool, or video games. The School also sponsors a variety of yearly events, workshops, dances, and outdoor outings.

Residential Life

Small groups of 16-20 students live in adobe residential houses along with a house director and their family. To best support the needs of students transitioning to boarding school, ninth graders live together in their own dorms, while others are comprised of mixed-grade students. Homes include double and triple rooms, communal kitchens and common rooms, fireplaces, and patios.

In addition to the house director, each student has two resident advisers to lean on. RA’s are upperclassmen chosen through a rigorous selection process to serve as role models who help oversee residential life. They plan fun social events and offer an empathetic ear and support to housemates who seek help with academic, social, or personal concerns.



CAMPUS

FVS's 1,100-acre main Colorado Springs campus is characterized by classic Southwestern architecture and provides a park-like refuge from the big city that surrounds it. The campus is home to state-of-the-art classrooms, performing and visual arts spaces, and athletic facilities. Just two hours away near Buena Vista, the Mountain Campus is a 40-acre learning landscape that is built for camaraderie and fun. Students head there for seminars, class retreats, ski weekends, and outdoor education outings.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

With an estimated population of approximately 738,000, the Colorado Springs metro area is the second most populous area in the state of Colorado. Located at the base of the Rocky Mountains and home to many trails and renowned parks, the city consistently receives high rankings such as No. 1 Best Big City in "Best Places to Live" by Money magazine, #1 Outside Magazine's list of America's Best Cities and #2 on the U.S. News list of most desirable cities. Colorado Springs is also known as the "Olympic City" and is the home to the Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center and the headquarters of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.



Boasting 300 days of sunshine annually, Colorado Springs is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts seeking scenery, rock formations, and other unique geological features, like Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods Park, The Broadmoor Seven Falls, and Cave of The Winds Mountain Park. Colorado Springs is also home to a variety of cultural, educational, and historical attractions including the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Peterson Air and Space Museum, the Boardmoor Hotel, and the United States Air Force Academy.

The area has the additional allure of proximity to ski resorts like Breckenridge and Vail without the associated steep costs of living and high levels of traffic. Plus, Colorado Spring's quaint downtown is just an hour's drive to Denver's lineup of cultural, athletic, and culinary attractions. Colorado Springs residents appreciate having access to both outdoors and urban activity and the friendly community.

PRIORITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES

Fountain Valley School seeks in its next Head of School a visionary leader who can embrace the School's history and culture, foster a sense of belonging, inspire excellence, and embody the self-reliance and spirit of the American West. Fountain Valley will continue to build upon its strong reputation and heighten its visibility as one of the premier and culturally unique boarding schools in the United States. The next leader will be tasked with increasing the School's admission outreach, working collaboratively with faculty and staff to build upon a rigorous academic program, and further enhancing the School's unique mission.



DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Fountain Valley is an aspirational and caring community. The School is looking for a visible leader, a strategic thinker, and a collaborative team builder, who can inspire and direct the passion and commitment of the school community. Successful candidates will have a background and skills that include the following:

- Be a person of high character, compassion, empathy, humility, and courage;
- Be a collaborative decision maker with a strategic mindset;
- Be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Be a visible presence in the lives of students, faculty, and staff;
- Be a leader who relishes learning and can communicate and inspire;
- Have an understanding and appreciation for the opportunities and challenges of boarding school life;
- Have an understanding and affinity for the ethos of the American West;
- Possess a track record of outstanding leadership;
- Understand marketing, admissions, and fundraising to reach strategic goals;
- Be eager to partner with an engaged and committed Board of Trustees who care deeply about Fountain Valley;
- Bachelor's degree and preferably a graduate degree.



TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

Search Calendar

Semifinalist Interview: April 2-3, 2022

Finalist Visits: Late April 2022

Charlie Britton

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