ASHEVILLE SCHOOL

# Dare to Be Extraordinary









### FIND YOURSELF HERE

# Amid Rugged Mountains, a Place of Limitless Possibilities

Asheville School is for those who dare to be extraordinary. Those who are unable to pack themselves into neat boxes or stay in their lane. Those who pursue a higher life with limitless possibilities.

We cannot predict your future, just as we could not predict the futures of other great thinkers and doers and creators who have found themselves on our campus. So, we'll teach you all we know to be true. You will learn about classic literature and chemistry. Art, music, and physics. The sweet alchemy of a banana and sugar. The twisting trails and towering trees that frame our campus. The constellations over Mount Pisgah. The power of friendship. The rewards of being curious and receptive and open. To believe that you belong here—just as you belong everywhere.

It is a privilege to learn and live in this small and special enclave among ancient mountains, and your role in our community is vital. You will graduate a truer, braver, wiser version of yourself. And what you share with others will be something unique. It will be you.

In four years, you'll teach us more than we could have imagined. You will say the same of us.





## Why Board?

The benefits of a boarding school setting from those who know best—our students.



### The Individual Journey

The pursuit of a higher life is an open road. Where will it take you?



## Our Collective Journey

Explore the essential experiences that shape the spirit of Asheville School.

Blues Core A life skills program tha most formative years.

A life skills program that helps guide students across their most formative years.

## The Allure of Asheville

Our hometown, a place of endless outdoor adventure to unique cultural charm.



## The Power of Mentorship

Why mentorship is key to our community, and among our faculty's most cherished charges.

5.....Our Story
7.....From Our Head of School
9.....From Our Academic Dean
41....The Application Process
42....Fast Facts



### **ASHEVILLE SCHOOL**

Our Story

Asheville School owes its founding to a chance train encounter. In 1899, Charles Mitchell and Newton Anderson envisioned a school offering boys a classical education while living vigorously among nature. En route to purchase land in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, an Asheville resident on the train persuaded them to explore the Blue Ridge instead. Convinced, they quickly acquired prime acreage outside Asheville with a convenient rail stop and a commanding view of Pisgah.

1918

Challenge as a way to

challenge themselves

during the height of the

Spanish Flu epidemic.



Asheville School is

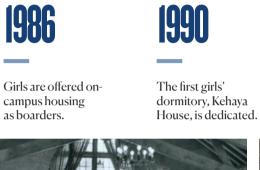
founded as a school for boys with 53 students spanning grades 5 through 12.



1903

The campus' second building, known simply as "The School," (Mitchell Hall today) is built. It contains all classrooms and laboratories, administrative offices, a large study hall, and a theater. Students create the Pisgah

Asheville School is sold to Pittsburg industrialist Walter P. Fraser.



930

Alumni are able to

and operate it as a

buy back the school

nonprofit institution.





## 2018

Asheville School is recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for integration of technology into the curriculum through 1:1 MacBook Air program.



1960

The Asheville School

first appearance and

becomes a dessert staple and rite of passage.

banana makes its

Newly built Athletics stadium is dedicated to Mr. J. Flint McNaughton, '82.



1968

are enrolled.

996

Historic Places.

First students of color

Winterim Program is created and offered to provide students and faculty the opportunity to explore interests not offered during the traditional academic program.





Asheville School becomes

coeducational, with girls

admitted as day students.







Asheville School Asheville School is named to the National Register of celebrates its centennial.



## From Our Head of School

Asheville School, a coed boarding school for students in grades 9 through 12, has provided an outstanding education to young people for more than 120 years. The heart of our curriculum is in-depth study in six core subjects—English, mathematics, history, science, foreign language, and the arts—disciplines highly valued by top colleges and universities around the world. But we do much more than prepare our students well for college. Our true mission is much greater: we prepare them for life.

Nestled in 300 wooded acres just outside the culturally rich city of Asheville, North Carolina, Asheville School takes advantage of a wide variety of opportunities for exploration and growth. Students enjoy the best of both worlds, whether it's backpacking the Appalachian Trail or going to a concert downtown.

I hope you will spend some time learning more about us in this catalog. Then, if you believe Asheville School may be right for you, I invite you to visit our campus with your family. At that time, I hope to have the opportunity to discuss the school with you in person.

Anthony H. Sgro, Ed.D. '84 HEAD OF SCHOOL







**OUR VISION** A global community pursuing lives of meaning and service.

### **OUR MISSION**

Asheville School is a diverse and nurturing community that challenges and supports the mind, body, and spirit of our students by developing their resilience, intellect, and character.

### OUR VALUES

### Personal Excellence

Excellence is striving for personal growth, a desire to discover and explore possibilities, and the courage to see opportunities in challenges. We foster critical and creative thinking skills in diligent pursuit of personal excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, mountaineering, and service. We challenge students to continually seek to understand how their decisions and actions impact their own lives and the lives of others.

### **Inclusive** Community

We intentionally seek different perspectives and foster equity. Our community is stronger when each individual's voice is a valued and respected part of the conversation. We grow through exploration, understanding, and respect for the differences and similarities that are the foundation of the most essential piece of the Asheville School experience – our community.

### Perseverance and Resilience

Success involves hard work, dedication, and the courage to overcome barriers. Students learn to handle disappointment with grace and flexibility and move forward with renewed focus and fortitude.

### Life-long Curiosity

A life-long love of learning is rooted in curiosity. We collaborate and challenge one another to discover different ways of thinking, to pursue interests, and to explore opportunities to develop our mind, body, and spirit. We encourage a hunger for learning, enduring curiosity, and a profound interest in the people and world around us.

### Spiritual Reflection

Spiritual reflection opens the door to a greater understanding and appreciation of oneself, others, and the connection to something greater. Rooted in our nondenominational Christian heritage, we welcome students of all faiths and beliefs and encourage everyone to explore spiritual connection through multiple pathways, striving to embark on a meaningful and life-long spiritual journey.

# From Our Academic Dean

Rigor and relationships. This phrase is nothing new in educational circles. But there's something about it that sticks, and I believe these words are at the heart of what we offer at Asheville School.

First, there's rigor. We set high expectations for our students, believing in what they can achieve and in the merit of the challenge it takes to get there. Several years ago, the neuroscientist Frances Jensen delivered a talk to our community about the teenage brain. What inspired me most was her discussion of this extraordinary window of time in students' development, when their brains are ripe and ready to learn-ready to grow new pathways, ready to consolidate and store information, ready to become the critically thinking supercomputers they're capable of becoming. Teens are flexible thinkers, and the more they practice and challenge and stretch themselves, the more they transform right before our eyes. I'm in awe of my students' ability to absorb, analyze, and create. In fact, I've often joked with them that I can hear their brains whirring when they meet the challenge of a demanding problemor perhaps even fail at it; however, it's no joke that their brains are literally growing right before our eyes. We owe it to our students to push that growth, to prepare them with the foundation where they can share their knowledge and their burgeoning wisdom with the world around them.



But rigor alone doesn't get the job done, and we would be remiss if it were our sole focus. Purpose is firmly grounded in relationships—with teachers, with fellow students, and with the broader community. We challenge them and then provide the supportive connection they need to meet those challenges. And if they fail, we'll be there to encourage them and to help them identify what can be gained in that failure, what can be found in new approaches.

# Rigor & Relationships

When I first discovered the boarding school model seventeen years ago, what I found most compelling was the opportunity to live in a small, intentional community where learning transcends the boundaries of the classroom. Our students are building the foundations to connect and engage with others in meaningful ways, to discover the opportunities that abound for them to put those brains to use. Their brains are wired for learning about the value of strong and healthy relationships in their expanding circles just as much as they're wired to analyze Course of Empire or to predict the outcome of chemical processes. Even one meaningful relationship can make such a difference in what comes next.

It's a huge responsibility, and a huge privilege, to participate in this essential, formative time of a young person's life. The more they grow and learn, the more they understand who they're meant to be. It's an honor to watch them figure out how they will engage in this world and live full lives of purpose.

Helen Plaehn

# Why Board?

Seventy-five percent of our students live on campus, creating an immersive experience in which you learn and grow alongside your peers, teachers, and mentors even after the academic day ends. You will know everyone, and everyone will know you. You will never get lost or lose yourself. Because to board is to belong: to a collective of curious minds, to a dynamic body of students who call all corners of the globe home, and to a community where you are known and valued.

## Hear From Our Students

### IVA SIMMS (ATLANTA, GEORGIA)

We gain a better understanding of what the world is like by being around other people, handling different situations, and being part of a community rather than just going home every day and having our own lives outside of school. Being immersed in a place with so much going on prepares us for the real world.

### HENRY LEY (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Every night, walking to the dining hall as the sun is setting, it's hard not to be reminded of how cool of a place this is. The outdoors are built into the school culture. My experiences here have given me a different perspective and lifestyle that I never would have gotten had I stayed in New York.

## MARLEY TRUMBOWER (FORT COLLINS, COLORADO)

Asheville School is an engaging, inclusive place. There are groups here for everybody. I don't see cliques like you would in a normal high school setting.

### PETER PAN (SHANGHAI, CHINA)

Students come here from around the world. You meet people from Korea, Iceland, Brazil—it's a really international place in a small town. And you'll keep in touch with the friends you make throughout your life.

## WALLER DIXON (DILLWYN, VIRGINIA)

One of the things you can find here that you can't find anywhere else is how to live independently at such a young age. It provides a skillset going into college that a lot of kids don't have, but boarding school kids do. And the relationships you make at a boarding school are invaluable.



## Day Students

Day students are an important part of our Asheville School community, and have access to so much of what makes our school distinctive. Those who choose to attend our school as a day student experience all the benefits of being a boarder, while still going home to their family at night.



# Third Form

Begin on your path to become the truest version of yourself. Discover your place in this special community as you forge connections, build your character, and stretch beyond the confines of your imagination. This experience will be more than you dreamed—trust us.

### **EMBRACE THE BLUES CORE CURRICULUM**

MEET YOUR ADVISOR AND FELLOW ADVISEES

GET TO KNOW YOUR ROOMMATE AND BUILD A FRIENDSHIP FOR A LIFETIME

CONSIDER "WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LEAD A GOOD LIFE?" IN ANCIENT STUDIES

DANCE IT OUT IN A PERFORMANCE COURSE AT DOWNTOWN'S NC STAGE COMPANY

JOIN YOUR CLASSMATES IN SONG AS YOU LEARN OUR SCHOOL HYMN

ENGAGE LOCALLY THROUGH A SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

the individual journey Third Form

CAMP OUT WITH CLASSMATES UNDER THE STARS



# Fourth Form

You have found your footing, and it's time to keep growing. Fill your days with entirely new experiences; explore Asheville, a mountain enclave built by artists, musicians, and outdoor enthusiasts; and welcome with open arms the thrilling possibility that the opportunities before you are boundless.

### PERFECT YOUR SERVE IN A GAME OF VOLLEYBALL ON KEHAYA LAWN

ATTEND A HANDBELLS CONCERT

JOIN A NEW EXTRACURRICULAR CLUB

DIG IN DURING AN ADVISORY LUNCH AT ROCKY'S HOT CHICKEN SHACK

LEARN HOW TO ROLL YOUR KAYAK IN AMBLER POOL

BE ALL ABOUT THE DRAMA AND JOIN AN INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE

TRY YOUR HAND AT A SPORT YOU'VE NEVER PLAYED

TAKE A WEEKEND TRIP TO DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE



the individual journey Fourth Form

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CHEER ON THE BLUES AT A SPORTING EVENT





Welcome to a special year tucked between this world and the one that awaits you on the other side. College prep and travel opportunities blend with enjoying every second on campus and making our timeless traditions your own.

JUMP INTO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS WITH THE HELP OF OUR COLLEGE OFFICE

COMPETE IN OUR ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE RECITATION CONTEST

SEQUINS, SUITS, AND AN OPEN DANCE FLOOR AWAIT AT PROM

ATTEMPT THE PISGAH CHALLENGE

LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENT COUNCIL TO LEAD YOUR CLASSMATES WITH VISION

WATCH FOR THE SPLASH AS YOU DUNK A FACULTY MEMBER AT SPRING CARNIVAL

WHEELS UP! TRAVEL TO SPAIN ON A CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE IMMERSION

the individual journey Fifth Form

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SAVOR EARLY FALL IN ASHEVILLE AS YOU LEARN A WORLD LANGUAGE BENEATH THE TREES



# Sixth Form

By your final year, you have learned what so many before you have found to be true. This community is a tapestry of our students' curiosity, passions, and dreams. Your experiences are forever woven into our fabric.

GIVE A SENIOR TALK BEFORE YOUR MOST BELOVED CLASSMATES, TEACHERS, AND FAMILY

STEP UP AS A STUDENT LEADER ON HALL AND IN THE CLASSROOM

LEARN THE CHARLESTON FOR JAZZ NIGHT

TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, DC, AND BRING AMERICAN STUDIES TO LIFE

PAINT THE ROCK DURING ENGLISH FINALS

DEFTLY EXECUTE YOUR SENIOR DEMONSTRATION

ENVISION YOUR NEXT CHAPTER AS YOU FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

JOIN THE RANKS OF ASHEVILLE SCHOOL ALUMNI—A BLUE FOR LIFE!





JOIN FELLOW SIXTH-FORMERS IN A RITE OF PASSAGE: IGNITING A BLAZING SPIRIT BONFIRE THAT CELEBRATES ALL YOU'VE BECOME IN FOUR YEARS

> the individual journey Sixth Form

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# Our Collective Journey

*Education is about more than curriculum; it's about community.* 



You will become an integral part of this place, and this place will become an integral part of you. During our time together, these essential experiences anchor us all.

### **GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**

Clocking thousands of miles and amassing dozens of passport stamps, students from 25 countries call this place their home away from home. As we converge on campus each fall, our minds and perspectives expand alongside classmates from every corner of the globe.

### **A PLACE OF ETERNAL ENCHANTMENT**

Our feet are planted in one of the world's most ancient and biodiverse locales. This place-our backyard, our classroom—is pure magic. We are renewed with each changing season. Its peace, its calm, and its wonder are always here to welcome us.



### **AMID RUGGED MOUNTAINS**

The mountains are at our fingertips, quite literally. On any given afternoon, mountaineering students grip onto the craggy side of the Blue Ridge Mountains as they climb, repel, and explore—and marvel at their inner strength. You may be a city kid. You may live among miles of farmland. But as you traverse the mountain's edge, you'll find that the playing field is even.

### **THE SCROLL-FREE LIFE**

The heart of our experience is analog connection, and you'll discover there is so much to see when you stow your phone during the academic day. Learn to be present and engage in the scene around you, enjoying its color, its sound, its people–all here, together. It is gifts like these, conversation over dinner at our traditional seated meals, that often pass us by with devices in-hand.

### A SPIRITED EXPERIENCE

Why is pure, unabashed fun underrated in education? On our campus, it is essential. Our joy stems from painting our faces blue on game day, indulging in a sugar-laced banana, and cruising down snow-dusted hills, shrieking like children. Release your insecurities and revel in the delight of it all.

### THE WORLD IS CALLING

Much of our time together is spent preparing for life outside of school. During our Winterim course, you will dive deep into topics that transcend classroom walls. And while embarking on a global cultural and language immersion, you can discover firsthand what it means to be a student of the world.





### Education is about more than curriculum; it's about community.

### PUT ME IN, COACH!

The clop of horse hooves along shaded trails, a football slicing through eager silence, the crisp snap of a field hockey stick and ball. The sounds are unmistakable. The experience is unforgettable. Guided by former college and professional coaches, some of us leave these fields, gyms, and trails to compete in college; others simply inherit a lifelong love of mindful movement.

### NURTURING COMMUNITY

Known, loved, and seen—three words that articulate how it feels to be part of this tight-knit community. Our small size is intentional. It's impossible to get lost. Between your teachers, advisors, and classmates, there are simply too many of us looking after you, checking in, and encouraging the discovery of your higher purpose.

### **EMBRACE YOUR INDEPENDENCE**

We relish spending our days together, but in the evening, quiet quarters of your own await. These four dorm room walls are built around your independence. Inside, you'll learn how to reflect, refresh, and recharge before a new day dawns on campus.

### THE SANCTITY OF STAINED GLASS

Perched on benches inside our iconic chapel, we gaze into the most colorful place on campus. Backlit in a painter's palette of stained glass hues, our chapel is a sacred space for students of all creeds. As you grow, the lasting vision will ground you: a reminder of this fleeting moment surrounded and supported by your closest friends, your entire life ahead of you.

# **Blues** Core

We'll teach you all we know to be true, but your future is yours—an exciting, but sometimes overwhelming, prospect. Blues Core is where we develop skills for life in small groups, with topics that evolve and elevate over time. Beginning in third form, students learn how to make informed choices, manage stress, and create healthy boundaries, and by graduation, they're ready to assume the responsibility (and great fun!) that comes with turning 18.

### **THIRD FORM: BELONGING**

The first year of Blues Core orients students to life at Asheville School and offers a health education tailored to today. We dive into the influence social media has on our lives and explore the bedrock of healthy relationships: consent, communication, and respect. Introductions to service learning and the arts at Asheville School sets students up for a year of active engagement.

### **FOURTH FORM: SAFE DATES**

Positive relationships are paramount to our overall well-being. We teach students how to actively build healthy dating relationships through positive communication, anger management, and conflict resolution. Designed by Dr. Vangie Foshee, a professor at University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, this program is endorsed by Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

### **FIFTH FORM: THE SOCIAL INSTITUTE**

As students continue to grow into capable and compassionate individuals, we explore emotional intelligence through the lens of leadership skills. We learn to navigate our social world in positive ways while maintaining high character and healthy choices. Emphasis is placed on leadership development; emotional intelligence; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and college and career prep.

### SIXTH FORM: POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

In their final year at Asheville School, students are preparing for the joys and challenges that come with life after graduation. Our capstone Blues Core curricula span financial literacy, political involvement, navigating relationships in a polarized world, and what it means to be 18 in the legal sense—topics that ensure students graduate as empowered individuals who are fully equipped to engage in the world around them.



# The Allure of Asheville

Nestled in a valley between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, Asheville buzzes with small-town appeal, creative leanings, and character aplenty. A haven for artists and adventurers of every stripe, our mountain town pulses with energy and a local spirit all our own.

Many come to this region for its natural wonders, and for good reason. Ample opportunities for unrivaled hiking, biking, paddling, and rafting pepper our peaks and valleys, all against the backdrop of lush greenery, roaring falls, and misty views. Beyond the trails, Asheville fosters countless cultural traditions, from the bluegrass music that echoes through our streets to the decades of unique mountain craftsmanship that evolved right here. A feast for the senses, the city brims with vibrant artistry, be it magnificent estates steeped in history, marvels of art deco architecture, or the countless award-winning restaurants bringing new acclaim to our region's cuisine.

Join us as we explore Asheville's unmistakable trove of culture and sprawling playground of outdoor pursuits. This is experiential learning at its very best.













# The Power Of Mentorship

Students are entrusted to our care for four transformative years that shape their character and direct their path. Our circle of devoted faculty and staff will challenge, support, and champion them as they stretch and soar past their comfort zone. Mentorship moments happen formally and informally, from weekly check-in sessions to a shared stroll through campus admiring the community garden. Among their many roles—coach, teacher, dorm parent—the charge of mentor is our faculty's most cherished.

### Maggie Frelinghuysen HUMANITIES INSTRUCTOR



I advised a student for four years, but I never knew quite where I stood with her—she was never a "heart on her sleeve" kind of person. What I did not realize was that we were slowly

building a strong relationship built on trust and accountability. When she graduated, she wrote me a letter thanking me for always standing beside her and supporting her throughout her time at Asheville School. I was honestly a bit surprised, but I was also incredibly touched. Her letter reminds me that faculty-student relationships are not built through a few grand gestures; rather, offering consistent and unwavering support to a student makes a greater impact than we may believe. This student and I still keep in touch. As for the letter, I will hold on to it for the rest of my life.

Nate Sell



Mentorship is akin to being a good guide. On a journey, guides help show the way, point out beautiful things, teach skills, and share insight. High school is the last place young adults

have intentional opportunities to learn from elders before they are out on their own. It is a pivotal time of formation where they set trajectories for the rest of their lives, not just professionally, but personally. High schoolers are figuring out what a well-lived life looks like, and as mentors, we're here to help.

### Burt Gordon Director of Alumni relations



Mentorship is everything. It is my why. High school students are going through a time in their lives in which all things are changing. It can be turbulent. Young people are searching for

some consistency, some anchor. They need adults, other than their own parents, who embody high standards, strong work ethics, and a strong sense of being. High school students need a non-judging ear to hear them, a steady shoulder to lean on (and sometimes) cry on, a reliable person who shows up for things, a trustworthy person with whom to share vulnerable news. I put so much stock in our students. They are a mighty group of young people, and every year I am moved to see how they rise to the occasion.

### Mohamud Isaq humanities instructor, dorm parent



I live on dorm with my wife and our son. It's really interesting raising him here because he's surrounded by all these other kids and they're the smartest, funniest, most interesting

teenagers. These students are highly motivated and super serious about their education. My favorite part about Asheville School is getting to know them. Eating with them, watching them get better at sports and write great papers, attending chapel with them. I genuinely enjoy walking through the hallways on the nights I'm on duty and seeing the kids in a different light.



## THE APPLICATION PROCESS Breaking it Down

**VISIT AND INTERVIEW** U.S. Students: Interview with Admissions counselor Campus tour

International Students: On-campus or virtual interview Candidates from China are required to first interview through Vericant

SUBMIT TEST SCORES U.S. Students: SSAT (optional)

International Students: SSAT (required) TOEFL OR Duolingo (required)

### COMPLETE ONLINE APPLICATION

Supplementary Materials Include: Recommendations from an English teacher and a math teacher Grades from current school (full academic transcript required upon enrollment)

Application Fee: U.S. students: \$60 International students: \$110

### **FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS**

Our financial aid program serves to make an excellent education available to students of all socio-economic backgrounds. 35% students receive need-based or merit-based scholarships. Learn more and apply online.

### EARLY OR REGULAR DECISION?

If you have already decided that Asheville School is your first choice or you're an international student, Early Decision is a good option for you. Early Decision is a binding agreement—applicants who are accepted agree to enroll at Asheville School and withdraw all applications to other schools.

**EARLY DECISION** Deadline to apply: December 10 Notification of acceptance by: January 10

**REGULAR DECISION** Deadline to apply: February 1 Notification of acceptance by: March 10

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### **CONTACT US**

Visit ashevilleschool.org/admission to start your application. If you have questions or would like to schedule a tour, contact our team by email at admission@ashevilleschool.org or by phone at 828-254-6345 ext. 4022.

# A Small and Special Enclave



**J**<sup>0</sup> BOARDING STUDENTS

25% DAY STUDENTS

STUDENTS FROM 23 STATES & 25 COUNTRIES

**15%** DOMESTIC STUDENTS OF COLOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

> OF STUDENTS RECEIVE NEED -BASED OR MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS



The open road before you is best traveled by those who dare to be extraordinary. We cannot predict your future, but we will prepare you with all we know to be true. You will learn that you belong here—just as you belong everywhere.

ASHEVILLESCHOOL.ORG

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