



Lower School Kindergarten-5th Grade

THE BANFF SCHOOL



Admissions

At The Banff School, we want the process of joining our "family" to be easy and quick!

With the exception of an entrance test for students in first through twelfth grades, our admissions process is completed 100% online, from the initial application to the final enrollment, with the added convenience of online and automated payments for fees and tuition.

Families are encouraged to tour our campus to learn more about our programs, the fantastic faculty and our engaging curriculum. We also offer the option of a "Shadow Day" for students to join us for a full day at school, where they will get to experience what we call The Banff School Difference first-hand!



The Banff Difference

The Banff School is the leading independent private school for PreSchool - 12th grade in NW Houston, TX.

We equip our students with a college-preparatory education, in a personalized and stimulating environment, which enables them to become independent, creative thinkers.

Low student-teacher ratios, combined with dedicated, experienced teaching staff, allow us to help our students realize their full potential.

We strive to educate the "whole child," providing exciting and engaging curriculum as well as special programs and activities that help the students grow and mature, both academically and creatively. This brochure is just a glimpse at what makes Banff different and special...to find out more visit:

www.BanffSchool.org



Fine Arts Education

The Banff School's mission of "Educating the Whole Child" is illustrated by our commitment to arts education for all students as part of our regular curriculum programming. Our Visual Arts program develops an increased visual awareness through analysis of the environment in terms of color, light, texture and space. Students display their artwork each spring in our annual "Visual Arts Showcase." Our Performing Arts program is based around a Musical Theatre curriculum where students are instructed in music, movement and performance as they prepare for two theatrical productions each year on our well-equipped stage in Banff's Performing Arts & Athletics Facility.



STEAM Discovery

The Banff School utilizes an exciting curriculum to teach 21st century skills and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) principles to our students through creative and collaborative problem-solving challenges. The goal is to develop skills such as observation, classification, making comparisons, thinking on your feet, predictions and problem solving through their natural investigations.

These lessons become more advanced in our third through fifth grade classes where students learn above-level concepts in math and computer science, and develop good analytical skills while at the same time using their creativity. SNAP Circuits kits are used to build exciting electronics projects, while Physical Computing and Scratch/Python are taught on Raspberry Pi computers.

Library Programs

Our Lower School students visit our library for story time and other activities every week, and our on-staff librarian hosts many special events throughout the year to encourage a love of reading (like our all school "Read-In" where everyone wears pajamas to school and spends time reading throughout the day). Students check out library books each week through our digital circulation desk and complete reading and homework assignments based on their library activities.

Outdoor Education Trips

Students in 3rd through 5th grades participate in an optional outdoor adventure at "Mo Ranch" in the Texas Hill Country each year. They enjoy a week of water recreation, camping, environmental education, ziplining, sports activities, hiking, and a state-of-the-art ropes course. Our Outdoor Education trips are a time for renewal, outdoor excitement, building relationships, and relaxation as students learn team-building and leadership skills.

Our Facility

The Banff School will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019! Our beautiful, wooded campus is continually being updated, enhanced and improved for our students.

- ✓ Wooded, Serene Campus
- ✓ Science Labs
- ✓ Full-size Gym & Sport Facility
- ✓ Professional, Proscenium Stage
- ✓ Dedicated STEM Lab
- ✓ iPad & Touch-Screen Displays
- ✓ Library with Librarian on Staff
- ✓ Secured & Safe Campus

Our Mission

We strive to educate the whole child by providing a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment for each student to realize his or her fullest potential.

Our teachers know our students and their families personally and are able to adjust instructional styles to meet the needs of our students. We endeavor to create a school climate where students feel welcome, accepted, and free to explore in a secure learning environment.

Our curriculum is rigorous and college preparatory at all levels. Our teachers do not simply introduce a concept and hope that students will understand it. Our teachers teach to mastery. At the Upper School level, students have the option of taking the core academic courses as honors, AP, or Dual Credit. When they leave us for college, we know they are prepared because they are doing college level work while still at Banff.

We evaluate student achievement and mastery of objectives in the fall, winter, and spring using the Measures of Academic Progress test. This test provides national norms and percentiles for each student, but more importantly it allows teachers to track individual progress across the school year.

Our students are encouraged to balance academic pursuits with the development of skills in the visual and performing arts. Students study both performing as well as visual arts as part of the regular curriculum. Theatrical performances and art exhibitions are scheduled regularly throughout the school year and align with units of study within the academic curriculum.



The Banff School



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