



**PROFILE:**

**The Town** East Burke is a rural community of approximately 600 residents in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The town is located at the base of Burke Mountain, an alpine and Nordic ski resort. East Burke is approximately 1 ½ hours east of Burlington, Vermont; 2 hours south of Montreal, Canada, and 3 ½ hours north of Boston, MA.

**The School** Founded in 1970, Burke Mountain Academy is a private, college preparatory ski academy with an annual enrollment of about 65 students in grades 7-12. The size of the 2016 graduating class was 16 students. Enrollment in the 8<sup>th</sup> grades is limited to a winter term program.

The staff/student ratio is 1:3. Class sizes range from 1 to 15.

Admission is based on ski racing ability, academic potential, and strength of character. Students come from all over the United States and the world. In recent years, the international student body has included students from: Australia, Chile, Canada, Poland, Iceland, England, Norway, Spain, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland.

2016-2017 tuition is \$53,012 for the full year; \$40,780 for full year day students; \$40,175 for post-graduate boarding students; and \$37,397 for winter term boarding students. Approximately one third of the student body receives financial aid.

CEEB Code Number: 460127.

Burke Mountain Academy is accredited by the State of Vermont and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

**Philosophy** *Burke provides in depth narrative evaluations in lieu of grades.* In Burke’s evaluative assessments, teachers write mid-semester progress reports and extensive individual evaluations of students at the end of each semester. The school recommendation written for each student – for the purposes of college admission and job placement, is comprehensive, detailed, and candid.

**Graduation Requirements** Students must earn a total of **20 credits**, including:

4 credits: <b>English</b>	2 credits: <b>Foreign Language</b>
3 credits: <b>Math</b>	3 credits: <b>Academic Electives (in any of the above courses)</b>
2 credits: <b>Science</b>	4 credits: <b>Art and/or Physical Education</b>
2 credits: <b>Social Science (including American History)</b>	

**Curriculum** The academic year is divided into two semesters. Students take 4 ½ - 5 classes per term. Classes meet four days per week, in 50-minute periods, with additional Lab Science Blocks and Reading Periods with advisory groups or “pods.” Adjustments are made to the schedule during the winter to account for ski training.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
 English  
 Math (Algebra 1 or Algebra 2)  
 Western Civilization  
 French  
 Art (1/2 year)

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
 English  
 Math (Algebra 2 or Geometry)  
 Biology  
 French  
 Art (1/2 year)

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
 English  
 Math (Geometry or Pre-Calculus)  
 American History  
 Chemistry  
 French

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
 English  
 Math (Pre-Calculus or Calculus)  
 Physics  
 French  
 Senior Elective or Art (1/2 year)

**Comprehensive School Recommendation**

The Comprehensive School Recommendation is based on consultations with each student, and a thorough reading of all Course Evaluations (see below). Because BMA does not provide grades, this document takes on special significance. We have made a strong effort to provide a thorough and objective evaluation for each student.

**Personal Qualities**

The majority of our students are truly outstanding young people in terms of academic motivation, self-discipline, maturity, and self-responsibility. They are preparing for the highest level of athletic competition, and subsequently learn to deal positively with hard work, high goals, tight daily schedules, and the stress of competition. Our students are also expected to fully engage in the academic rigors of college preparatory classwork. This forces students to become adept at time management. *In a variety of colleges and universities our students have consistently met or exceeded the projections we have made.*

**Student Activities**

*Burke Mountain Academy has no class elections, no dorm proctors, no student council, and very few additional sports. At Burke, each person has an equal responsibility for strengthening the community. Many schools consider the following list to be extracurricular activities. Burke considers these activities integral to our program. Every Burke student participates in:*

- Daily workouts both before (6:30-8am) and after (3-6pm) a full day of academic classes, totaling between 3 and 6 hours of strenuous physical activity daily
- General maintenance of school property
- Helping to set up for and stage major ski races
- Taking responsibility for his/her own dorm room and common living spaces
- Taking equal turn at kitchen and dining hall duties
- Being involved in Community Service Projects
- Collaborating to create and implement a Senior Service Project
- Establishing and participating in community meetings, dances, talent shows, and a general sense of fun
- Road and mountain biking, running, swimming, hiking, and soccer

**Student Awards**

*As a policy, Burke Mountain Academy does not issue academic, athletic, or character awards.*

**Course Evaluations**

*Instead of grades teachers write Course Evaluations for each student at the end of each semester. The evaluation summarizes the oral and written comments shared with the student throughout the semester. Specific attention is given both to subject-specific competencies such as critical thinking, written and oral communication, and problem-solving, as well as intellectual character such as collaborative abilities, self-direction & leadership, self-awareness & responsibility, and curiosity & passion. These evaluations are far more thorough than grades and consequently more informative for our students and for college admissions.*

**2016-2017 Elective Courses**

BMA does not offer Advanced Placement or Honors Courses. However, some students exceed the curriculum sequence. Each year, several college-preparatory courses are offered for those students who qualify.

**Statistics:** This course prepares students to critically and intelligently manage information. Students use modern statistical methods including simulations and analysis via computer software and graphing calculator technology. They explore, summarize, and display data; design surveys and experiments; use probability to understand random behavior; and they make inferences about populations by looking at samples from those populations. Text: Stats Modeling the World, Bock, Velleman, DeVeaux, 3rd Edition, Addison Wesley

**Current Affairs:** This seminar-style class aims to help students understand the major problems and developments facing us both nationally and internationally. The course is organized around six units: Political and Economic Polarization in America, American Foreign Policy, Gun Violence and Gun Policy in the United States, Environmental Degradation, Incarceration in America, and The Immigration Debate. Students will be expected to regularly read both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. For each unit, students will be required to craft policy proposals to deal with a major problem raised by our studies. Other assessments will include short analytical essays, formal debates, and quizzes.

**French 4/5:** This course is a culminating experience in the development of French listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Oral fluency is promoted through authentic communication, creative role play and musical and theatrical performance. Text based skills are honed through extensive reading, daily journal writing and creative and academic writing. *Contact Based Language Instruction* methods are employed relating to athletic performance, personal development and student interest based projects relating to francophone culture and history.



BURKE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

*College Acceptances 2013-2016*

*Most Recent Four-Years*

(**Matriculation in bold**) (Acceptances in parentheses)

**Babson College (2 matriculating)**  
**Bates College (3 matriculating/2 other accepted)**  
*Boston College (2 matriculating)*  
Boston University (1 accepted)  
Brock University (1 accepted)  
Carleton University (1 accepted)  
Clemson University (1 accepted)  
**Colby College (4 matriculating/ 2 others accepted)**  
Colby-Sawyer College (**1 matriculating/2 others accepted**)  
**Columbia College (1 matriculating)**  
Dalhousie University (1)  
**Dartmouth College (6 matriculating)**  
Elon University (1 accepted)  
High Point University (1 accepted)  
*Hobart & William Smith (1 accepted)*  
Hofstra University (1 accepted)  
McMaster University (1 accepted)  
Macalaster College (1 accepted)  
Michigan State University (1 accepted)  
**Middlebury College (4 matriculating/1 other accepted)**  
Montana State University (3 accepted)  
Plymouth State University (**2 matriculating**)  
Quest University (2 accepted)  
Quinnipiac University (1 accepted)  
*Reed College (1 accepted)*  
St. John's University (1 accepted)  
*St. Lawrence University (3 matriculating/5 others accepted)*  
St. Michael's College (5 accepted)  
*St. Olaf College (2accepted)*  
*Syracuse University (1 matriculating/1 other accepted)*  
University of Colorado (**2 matriculating/ 4 others accepted**)  
University of Connecticut (1 accepted)  
University of Denver (**3 matriculating/ 10 others accepted**)  
University of Guelph (**1 matriculating**)  
University of New Hampshire (**1 matriculating/ 11 others accepted**)  
University of Ottawa (2accepted)  
University of Utah (1 accepted)  
University of Vermont (**3 matriculating/ 13 others accepted**)  
Westminster College (1 accepted)  
Whitman College (1 accepted)  
**Williams College (4 matriculating)**  
**West Point (United States Military Academy) (1 matriculating)**

**Highly Selective Schools = less than 30% Acceptance Rate** and *Selective Schools= 30%-50% Acceptance Rate*