



“Within one month of arriving, I knew I wanted to stay for all four years of high school. That's the power of VVS: the impact this school has had on my life has been astronomical, something like Pandora's Box. The difference between Pandora's Box and VVS is that VVS has only ever been positive and remarkable. Had I not opened the box I would have never known what I was missing; having opened it, I can't believe I almost opted out of this experience.”

Finley H., Class of 2024

Boarding School

Verde Valley School Arizona

Verde Valley School is a private college-preparatory boarding and day school in Sedona offering the International Baccalaureate curriculum and a project-based experiential model. The school integrates outdoor learning, international perspectives, and community engagement through field expeditions, Decemblemester, and Project Period.



BOARDING CO-ED SPORTS ARTS MOUNTAIN IB

Quick Facts

Founded: 1948
Students: Co-educational
Niche.com Rank: A+
Accepting students: Grades 9-12th
University Acceptance Rate: 100%

Interview Required? Yes
Diploma Year? No
English as Second Language (ESL) support: No
Climate: Mild winters and Warm, dry conditions
Special Programs: Decemblemester

Academic Excellence

Verde Valley School delivers a college-preparatory curriculum centered on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, which all seniors may pursue through rigorous coursework and IB examinations. The lower grades build a foundation that prepares students for the demands of IB through collaborative, experiential study rooted in real-world contexts. Instruction emphasizes critical thinking, research, and interdisciplinary application, with small classes that support personalized engagement and mentorship. The school pairs in-class learning with outdoor field expeditions, Decembermester projects, and a Project Period that deepens inquiry and problem-solving across disciplines. Graduates are prepared for selective universities through strong academic counseling and a curriculum designed to develop global citizenship.

Student Accomplishments

- IB Diploma pass rates consistently between 85 % and 90 %.
- Student research and project exhibitions through Project Period.
- Participation in field expeditions combining research, service, and outdoor leadership.



Recent University Acceptances

- Stanford University
- Dartmouth College
- Columbia University
- United States Naval Academy
- Augustana College
- Colorado College
- Knox College
- Providence College
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado Boulder
- Wheaton College
- Pitzer College
- Sierra Nevada College
- Southwestern University
- Marist College



Stats

5:1

Student Teacher Ratio

#1

Best Boarding High Schools in Arizona

15

IB Courses Offered

18

Countries Represented

86%

Faculty with Advanced Degrees

114

Total School Enrollment

26

Average ACT Score

1250

Average SAT Score

Campus Facilities

Verde Valley School is set in the red rock landscape of Sedona, with a campus surrounded by national forest and natural terrain ideal for experiential learning and outdoor engagement. Academic facilities support an IB-based program, with science, math, and arts spaces designed for collaboration and hands-on work. Athletic facilities include outdoor courts and fields, a rock-climbing wall, stables for equestrian programs, and nearby golf and tennis facilities. The campus uses its natural surroundings for field expeditions, trail running, and environmental study, reinforcing the school's emphasis on contextual and place-based learning.

Residential Life

Verde Valley School's boarding program supports students in grades 9–12 with a residential model focused on community and responsibility. Students live in dormitories organized to foster peer support and leadership, with adult residential staff providing supervision and guidance. The boarding environment includes shared rooms, common lounges, and dining facilities, with weekend activities and outdoor explorations complementing academic life.

Athletics and Arts

Athletics are woven into the VVS experience with both competitive and non-competitive offerings that leverage the desert and red rock environment for year-round activity. Students engage in traditional team sports and outdoor pursuits that build physical resilience and connection to nature.

The arts program integrates visual and performing arts into the curriculum, with studios and performance spaces supporting disciplines such as music, theater, and studio arts. Creative expression is encouraged across grade levels, with opportunities for exhibitions, ensembles, and interdisciplinary projects that reflect IB principles.



Lists

Sports: Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Cross-Country Running, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding, Rock Climbing, Hiking, Dance

Arts: Music, Theater, 2D Studio Arts, 3D Studio Arts, Photography, Performance Ensembles

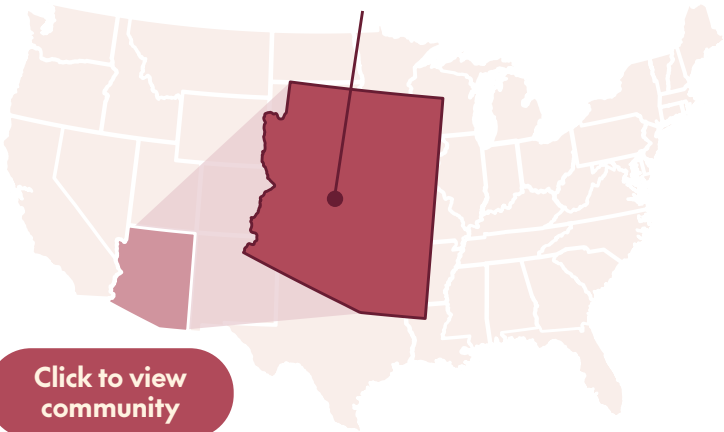
Languages:
French, Spanish

IB Courses offered:
Biology, Economics, English A: Language and Literature, Environmental Systems and Societies, French Ab Initio, History, Mathematics Analysis and Approaches, Mathematics Applications and Interpretation, Music, Physics, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Spanish Ab Initio, Spanish B, Theory of Knowledge, Visual Arts

Clubs and Extracurriculars:
Astronomy Club, Community Service, International Club, Model UN, National Honor Society, Newspaper, Peer Tutoring, Photography, Environmental Club

Community

Sedona is a small city on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, known for its dramatic red rock formations, outdoor recreation, and artistic communities. Students benefit from proximity to national forest land for fieldwork, hiking, and experiential education. Sedona is approximately two hours north of Phoenix, with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport providing global travel connections while offering a quieter natural setting for focused academic and residential life.



[Click to view community](#)

Climate in Sedona, Arizona

Warm desert climate with mild winters and hot, dry summers typical of northern Arizona, supporting year-round outdoor activities and experiential learning in natural landscapes.



Video
Welcome To
Verde Valley School

