

*"Our philosophy is simple: Hire the best teachers, provide superb facilities, nurture a culture that values achievement in all its forms, celebrate the many accomplishments of our students, and strive for excellence in everything we do."*

— Headmaster Mark Tashjian



## **BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY**

### *An Independent High School With a Public Mission*

Burr and Burton Academy is a unique high school that combines the ideal of public education with the educational excellence of an independent school. Founded in 1829, Burr and Burton operates as an independent school, with a board of trustees, headmaster, and student-centered curriculum, while serving as the public school for eleven towns in southern Vermont. Students living in these towns are automatically eligible for admission and their tuition is paid by the towns. Many families living elsewhere choose to pay tuition to allow their students to attend Burr and Burton.

### **A World of Opportunities**

Situated at the foot of Mount Equinox and looking out on the picturesque Green Mountains, Burr and Burton's 29-acre campus is home to 650 students, 70 faculty members, and world-class facilities and technology. The hallmark of the school is its enormous range of opportunities for students to flourish academically, athletically and artistically. "Students thrive when they combine talent, passion and hard work," says Headmaster Mark Tashjian. "This happens on stage, on the sports fields, in the art and music studios, and in the classrooms, and each success begets further success."

Students learn a great deal from each other. Burr and Burton welcomes international students, with over 50 from a dozen countries currently enrolled. "We can offer students from all over the world an opportunity to immerse themselves in a very American place," says Tashjian. "The school takes pride in respecting diversity and cherishing different perspectives."

In addition to international diversity, the student body includes students from a true cross-section of life in southern Vermont. "We're big enough to have a diversity of academic and extracurricular experiences, yet small enough to provide a supportive setting in a close-knit, quintessential New England community," says Tashjian. "You get the best of both worlds."

### **Proven Success**

The Burr and Burton tradition of excellence is reflected in the numbers: over 80 percent of students attend college, with Ivy League schools well represented; SAT scores average 122 points higher than the national average. It is in the top 4 percent of high schools in state assessment scores. Athletically, the school has won an astounding 21 state championships in the past three years. Artistically, students have over a dozen performance opportunities each year, compete in the Congressional Art Show, and participate in the Art in Schools show at Southern Vermont Arts Center. Over 85 percent of students participate in extracurricular endeavors.

"Those are all quantifiable measures of academic success. But test scores can't always speak to our quality of experience," says Tashjian. "We have a school culture that fosters a closeness of community and support for each other. Those values are reflected very much in how kids feel about their high school experience and in how well they learn."

"We are a model for education reform even though we are 180 years old," says Tashjian. "Our faculty is extremely attentive to students because that is ingrained in our culture. This is a place where excellence is a tradition."



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**Burr and Burton Academy's mission is to educate students intellectually and morally for a life of responsibility, integrity and service.**

- 650 students and an average class size of 16.
- College matriculation rate of over 80 percent.
- SAT scores 122 points higher than the national average.
- 85 percent extracurricular participation rate.
- 12 AP courses.
- 60 percent participate in 16 sports, with two JV teams for virtually every varsity team.
- The Performing Arts Department offers over a dozen major performance opportunities a year.
- Over 50 international students from Europe, Asia and South America.
- A new Mountain Campus lets students immerse themselves in environmental studies.