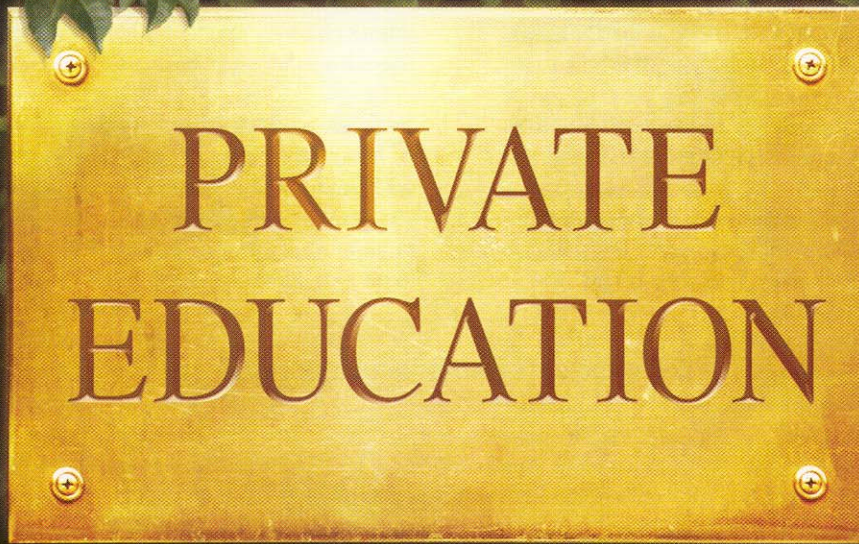


Robb Report Worth

WEALTH IN PERSPECTIVE



LESSONS *IN* LEGACY

THE ROLE OF ACADEMICS IN BUILDING
YOUR FAMILY'S INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

8 ALTERNATIVE PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Promoting Leadership, Values & the Family Mission

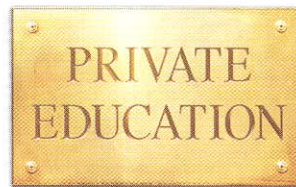
WHAT THE SWISS MISS
The Changing Role of Switzerland

BOARD MEMBERS
Should We Serve?



Inside – Read About
Colorado Rocky Mountain School

Select nontraditional private schools furnish unique curricula designed to develop the leadership skills, values and wisdom that will enable our children to play their parts in realizing our family missions.



Embracing OUR ALTERNATIVES

BY PETER MEYERS

MARGARET MILLER, A PRODUCER at the Discovery Channel, comes from a family that prizes a first-rate private school education. While her father served as United States Ambassador to Tanzania and Zimbabwe in the 1980s, her sister went to St. George's School and her brother to Andover. She followed their lead and began ninth grade at the elite National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. She hated it, partly because she missed Africa and partly because she had a hard time breaking into long-established cliques. Much more to her taste was the Colorado Rocky Mountain School, but it was a tough sell to her parents. "In my family," says Miller, 31, "anything west of the Mississippi you couldn't take seriously."

Miller eventually carried the day when she visited the school with her mother, who saw firsthand that its unique approach—combining outdoor activities with a conventional education—perfectly complemented her daughter's personality. Miller, who transferred to Colorado Rocky Mountain in her second year of high school, is not alone. Each year families whose children might ordinarily consider what some educational consultants loosely refer to as the "Big Ten"—the St. Pauls, Choates and Exeters of the boarding school world—seek alternatives that better suit the child's interests and temperament, as well as the family's values.

Fortunately at least at the high school level options abound, ranging from schools that train artistically gifted children to those that enable students to combine travel with study. We, as parents, must identify which schools have adopted a unique approach that attracts our child and us, while at the same time focusing on the core values that form the heart of any exceptional education. In assembling the following selection of outstanding schools, our staff consulted high school guidance counselors, educational consultants and families

whose children have attended these schools. All of the alternative schools featured here offer boarding facilities.

For adventurous teens only, the 51-year-old Colorado Rocky Mountain School (CRMS) integrates outdoor education with traditional classroom activities. Nestled at the base of a 13,000-foot mountain at the intersection of two rivers, CRMS requires students to participate in either a work or outdoor program four afternoons each week.

The former may include carpentry work on school buildings, fixing electrical problems or helping with the recycling. True, this component of the curriculum may appeal more to parents than to students at the outset. "I don't get kids who say, 'gosh I can't wait to enroll here, because it's going to be great to scrub that toilet,'" admits headmaster Andrew Menke, but he has discovered, as the year wears on, that many of the students voice pride in their contributions to the school's legacy.

The outdoor program entails full immersion in the wilderness at the school's doorstep. Mandatory outings include a 10-day orientation trip for new students, as well as biannual extended trips to locations like Moab, Utah and Crested Butte, Colo. Recent trips have combined geological study with rock climbing, kayaking with aquatic studies, and the study of environmental literature with camping.

Miller, who was a student leader on one such expedition, recalls the learning experience that occurred during the middle of the trip, when she had to escort a student who had broken her ankle back home. The path they had taken was too long, so Miller grabbed a topographical map and calculated a new route out, through a backcountry thick with vegetation. "There's a level of accountability that's expected which is not common in many schools," she notes.

COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Carbondale, Colorado

www.crms.org

Grades 9-12

Tuition, Room & Board for 1 Year: \$29,500

Acceptance Rate: 80%

Average SAT scores: Verbal 566 Math 570

Auspicious Alums:

- ▲ SUSAN MEISELAS, *photojournalist and MacArthur Fellow.*
- ▲ CONRAD ANKER, *world-class mountaineer known for breakthrough first ascents from the Himalayas to Antarctica and Patagonia, author of The Lost Explorer.*
- ▲ TAMIM ANSARY, *author of West of Kabul, East of New York, post-9/11 spokesperson for the plight of the Afghans.*