



# VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

MOVING OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE WORLD

## Press Release

**For immediate release**  
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## **\$900,000+ in Merit Scholarships Awarded to VCS Class of 2010**

The faculty and administration of Vermont Commons School are pleased to announce that the 15 seniors in the Class of 2010 have been awarded more than \$900,000 in merit-based scholarships over the next four years. “This is a noteworthy accomplishment,” says Sarah Soule, Director of Admissions and College Counseling at Vermont Commons School. “We are extremely proud of the achievement and academic work of our seniors.”



*Back row, from left:*  
*Kathryn Van Cooper (Burlington),*  
*Grey Switzer (Shelburne), Sophie*  
*Daigle (Burlington), Nate Jaffe*  
*(Shelburne) Joseph Congdon*  
*(Charlotte), and Tamara Melkumov*  
*(Burlington).*

*Front row, from left:*  
*Peter Ballard (Colchester), Catie*  
*Mueller (Enosburg Falls), Joey Wiles*  
*(Williston), Elena Mudd (Colchester),*  
*CJ Bowman (South Burlington), and*  
*Allie Reed (Georgia).*

*Not pictured:*  
*Ross King (Milton), Patrick Magowan*  
*(South Burlington), and Eric Fournier*  
*(Shelburne).*

Vermont Commons School is a small, independent day school in South Burlington offering a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum for students in grades 7-12. The small class size ensures all students receive the

<b>SAT SCORES</b>	<b>Critical Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Writing</b>
Class of 2009			
Vermont Commons	631	592	604
State of Vermont*	518	518	506

*\*source: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)*



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individualized attention they need to succeed, and the focus on community service, ecological citizenship and adventure helps keep students engaged. On average, VCS students score higher on their SATs than other students in Vermont (see chart above). According to Soule, “Our students have the highest average SAT scores of any public, private or parochial school in Chittenden County.”

The VCS Class of 2010 has been admitted to more than 50 highly regarded colleges and universities (see list below). Students have until May 1 to make their final decisions as to where they will attend. In the mean time, the VCS seniors are all off campus for six weeks completing their Senior Projects. These are internships and other unique, community-based opportunities designed to allow seniors a chance to use the knowledge and skills they’ve learned at VCS to explore their passions or interests before going off to college. One student will be interning with Vermont’s Senate President Pro Tem, Peter Shumlin, while another will be interning at Cambancha, a world music record label in Charlotte.

Arizona State University, AZ  
Bard College, NY  
Bates College, ME  
Bishops University, PQ  
Boston University, MA  
Bowdoin College, ME  
Castleton State College, VT  
Cedar Crest College, NJ  
Champlain College, VT  
College of Wooster, OH  
Colorado State University, CO  
Cornell College, IA  
Davis and Elkins College, WA  
Drew University, NJ  
Eckerd College, FL  
Florida Institute of Technology, FL  
Green Mountain College, VT  
Hampshire College, MA  
Ithaca College, NY  
Johnson State College, VT  
Lasell College, MA  
Lawrence University, WI  
Lewis and Clark College, OR  
Maine College of Art, ME  
Maryland Institute College of Art, MD  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design, MA

McDaniel College, MD  
Moravian College, PA  
Mount Holyoke College, MA  
New York University, NY  
Norwich University, VT  
Ohio University, OH  
Parsons, The New School for Design, NY  
Paul Smith College, NY  
Pitzer College, CA  
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY  
Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, IN  
Savannah College of Art and Design, GA  
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, MA  
School of Visual Arts, NY  
St. Mary’s College of California, CA  
St. Michael’s College, VT  
University of Arizona, AZ  
University of Colorado, CO  
University of Massachusetts, MA  
University of Oregon, OR  
University of Rhode Island, RI  
University of Scranton, PA  
University of St. Andrews, Scotland  
University of Tampa, FL  
University of Vermont, VT  
Ursinus College, PA

***Comments from Melody Daigle, parent of VCS senior Sophie Daigle, regarding the college counseling process at Vermont Commons School:*** “Sarah Soule and the entire Vermont Commons staff were incredibly helpful toward our daughter, Sophie, in the college search process. First, and most important, they encouraged her to set high expectations for herself as she explored which colleges to consider.



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Through many conversations, referrals, and suggestions, Sarah guided Sophie toward colleges that fit her strengths and interests, and which would represent a range of accessibility, both academically and financially. Sarah and the teachers at VCS over and over made themselves available to look at essays, chat about options, clarify the process, write recommendations, and offer pep talks when Sophie felt overwhelmed or discouraged. Sarah guided Sophie without taking over, and Sophie really came into her own as she made important decisions and navigated the complex and sometimes confusing path toward higher education. As acceptance letters - and a couple of rejection letters - started coming in, Sarah and the teachers at VCS celebrated and commiserated with sensitivity and great interest. And when the news that Sophie was most hoping for arrived, the VCS staff were truly as excited and proud as we were. Sophie will be attending Bowdoin College this fall, full of excitement, hope, and deep gratitude toward the VCS family that help bring her there.”

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***About Vermont Commons School:** Vermont Commons School is an independent day school for students in grades 7 – 12. The school offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that includes a focus on community service and experiential education. Vermont Commons School students experience a unique blend of academics and global emersion, master fundamental academic disciplines, grasp the profound interdependence of the natural and human systems they inhabit, and graduate with the values, knowledge, skills and commitment necessary to become ethical and engaged ecological citizens. For more information, please visit [www.vermontcommons.org](http://www.vermontcommons.org).*

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