

# WILLISTON

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



**WILLISTON**  
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL





# Be Yourself Here

The moment you step on campus, you will feel it: Williston is more than a school, it's a community—a caring fellowship of teachers, advisors, coaches, and classmates. Our job is first to understand what motivates you, then to guide and support you in pursuing your interests and discovering new ones. In our classrooms, on our playing fields, and in our dorms, we inspire our students to live with purpose, passion, and integrity. Because at Williston, what matters is not just what you will accomplish as a student, but who you will become as a person.





“Williston is a place that is big enough to pursue what you are passionate about and small enough that if you pursue those passions, you can really make a difference here.” —NATE GORDON '16

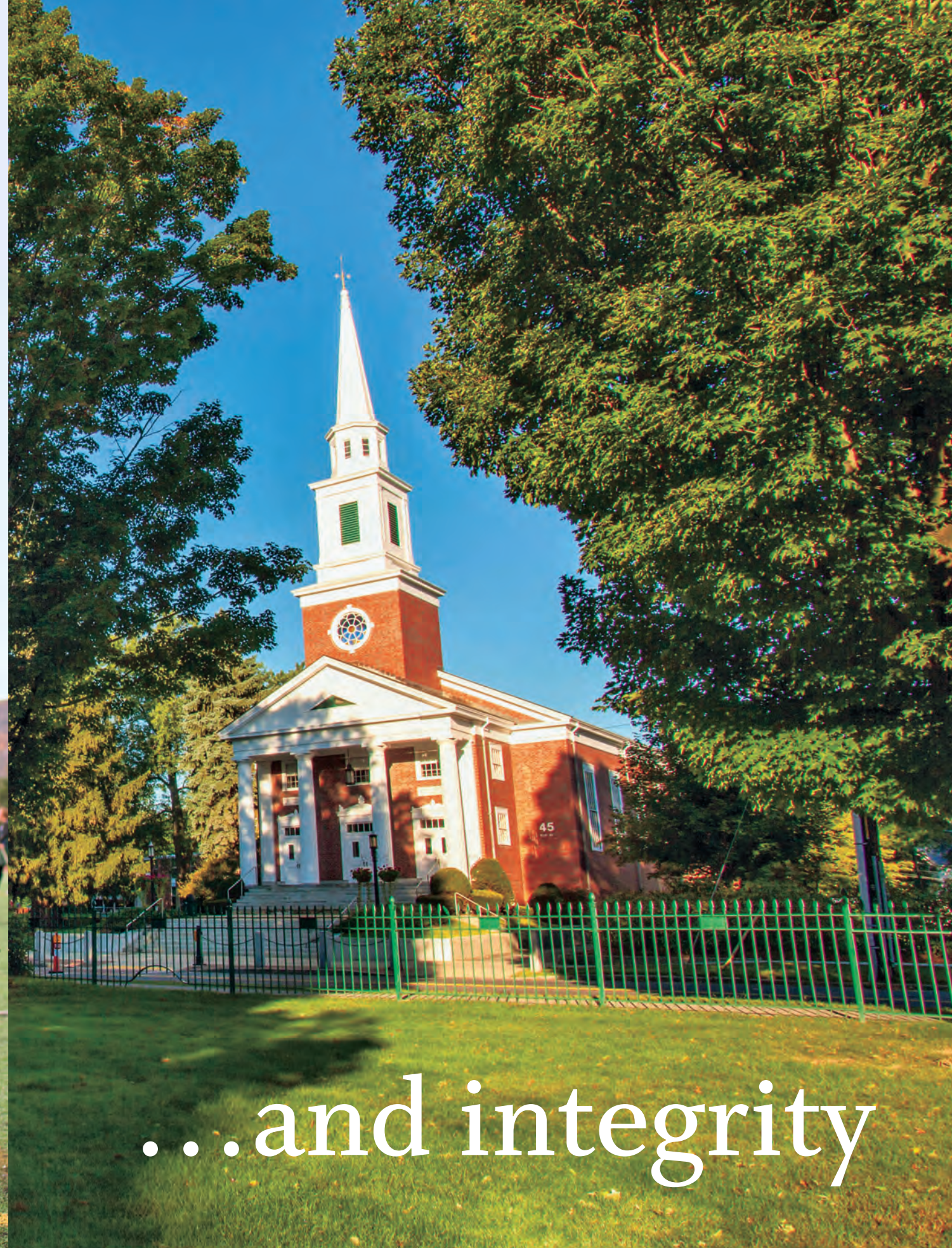




Purpose...



passion...



...and integrity



“The community at Williston is like no other, and our mission is to embody purpose, passion, and integrity; these are words I will live by for the rest of my life.”

—SOPHIE COWPERTHWAIT '19





# Small Classes, Big Results

Williston's classes (see page 83 for a list of honors and AP offerings) are designed to foster discussion and collaboration. Our teachers set the tone, encouraging an open exchange of ideas and opinions, knowing that active conversations stimulate a passion for learning and a deeper understanding of the subject at hand. Why does this collaborative approach flourish at Williston? Because our faculty bring wide-ranging life experiences and enthusiasm to the classroom. Because outside the classroom, teachers also interact with students as advisors, coaches, and dorm parents. And because our classes average just 12 students.



“In the classroom, I am able to excel in leading and participating in discussions because of the small class sizes.” —ZACHARY MADDOX '16

## YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN A WILLISTON CLASSROOM WHEN:

You are being pushed outside your comfort zone—and you are not uncomfortable.

You are eagerly raising your hand, again.

You and your classmates have screens in front of you, but all eyes are on the teacher.

You are gaining mastery over subjects even as you discover new paths of inquiry to explore.





# Books & Beyond

Sure, Williston students read the classics, but our courses offer so much more. Our creative faculty love connecting ideas on the page to discoveries in the real world.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

Students taking the Journalism elective are part of a storied legacy: The school's newspaper, *The Willistonian*, is the oldest continuously published high school newspaper in the country.

## SONG OF HERSELF

*Les élèves* in AP French explore the theme of *la quête de soi* (the quest for self) by examining the difficult life and celebrated music of Edith Piaf, drawing on her and Charles Trenet's book *La France Des Années 40 En Chansons*, as well as the acclaimed film *La Vie en Rose*.

## GAME ON!

Drawing on ideas in *The Game Maker's Apprentice* by Jacob Habgood and Mark Overmars, students in Video Game Programming & Design learn to code by creating video games, eventually developing their own "mods" (that's programmer-talk for modifications).

## DRAWING OUT DISCUSSION

Marjane Satrapi's graphic autobiography *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* transports the entire 10th-grade class to Iran to experience the Islamic Revolution and its aftermath. Acclaimed and provocative, the book always sparks discussions of issues still shaping the world.

## THE HEIGHTS OF DRAMA

To help students prepare for their performance of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*, director Emily Ditkovski led the cast on a field trip to the Manhattan neighborhood where the show is set to meet with actors from the Broadway production.

## A BETTER 'BOT

Williston's competitive drive isn't limited to the athletic fields. The school's robotics team develops and programs its mechanical athletes (with names like Will-E) for competitions around the state and beyond.

## WE THE STUDENTS

After studying *The Thirteen American Arguments: Enduring Debates That Define and Inspire Our Country*, by Howard Fineman, students in AP U.S. Government and Politics put their knowledge to the test in the "We the People" civics competition. Williston teams have placed in the top three in the state all but three years since 1998.

## THE WRITER'S LIFE

Williston's annual Writers' Workshop brings some of the country's most respected authors—Richard Russo, Jodi Picoult, and David Maraniss, to name just a few—to campus for a public reading and a workshop with the advanced writing class. In 2014, Williston alumna and author Jennifer duBois '02 returned to the school to discuss her book *Cartwheel*.







“Since my sophomore year, I have been fascinated with the sciences, and my teachers have been helping me along each step of the way.” —ALEX FAY '16





**WHAT DO STUDENTS  
DO ON THEIR SURFACE  
PRO COMPUTERS?**

Share class notes in a virtual notebook and get comments from classmates and teachers.

Record and play back their voices to practice pronunciation in language class.

Sketch a landscape and get instant feedback from their art teacher.

Write code to control a robot, create a video game, or design an electrical circuit.

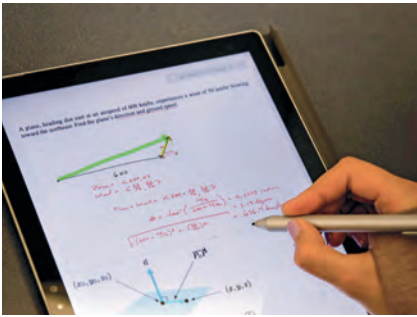
Track a falling object in physics class using probes that connect to their device.

Create a digital portfolio of all their school work, then take it with them, via the cloud, to college.

Design a monument to commemorate a historic figure or event using 3-D modeling software, then print it on a 3-D printer.

# We Are All Connected

In the 21st century, preparing for success in college and beyond means learning how to take full advantage of available technology. Our Curricular Technology Program (CTP) teaches students how to use technology thoughtfully to communicate, problem-solve, learn remotely, and think critically. With a Microsoft Surface as the centerpiece, the CTP also encompasses software, such as the note-taking program OneNote; Veracross, the school’s learning management system; training and support; and a campus-wide Wi-Fi network that makes everything hum.



“Having this device in every faculty member’s hand and every student’s hand creates opportunities to take our inquiries deeper,” says Math Department Head Joshua Seamon, who uses his Surface to record and share his lectures, so that his students spend less time scribbling notes and more time engaging with the material.



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

“Before coming to Williston, if someone had told me I would be attending a national debate competition I would have told them they were insane. Now, I can see that the supportive community at Williston is exactly what has helped me find my passion.”

### HELP IS HERE

“What I love about being a boarding student is having the privilege to live and meet with my teachers at almost any time of the day.”

### YOU WILL GROW

“Through different classes, arts, and sports, this school has shown me the person who I want to be.”

### THE SKILLS YOU NEED

“Williston taught me to manage my time and not to be afraid to ask for help when I need it.”

### TOP TEACHERS

“You will never find a place with people who are as invested in your success and happiness as those at Williston.”

# 27

NUMBER OF ADVANCED  
PLACEMENT CLASSES

# 12

STUDENTS IN EACH  
CLASS, ON AVERAGE



# Location, Location

Our home in western Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley lets us tap the resources and faculty of the local Five College Consortium. We are minutes from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith colleges, and the University of Massachusetts. This proximity provides Williston students and faculty with extraordinary opportunities for academic collaborations.

**1 MASS MoCA**  
Students in Advanced Practices in Studio Art made the 45-mile pilgrimage to the Berkshire town of North Adams and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (better known as MASS MoCA), a former textile factory whose cavernous halls now house an impressive collection of artworks and installations.

**2 Smith College**  
When the college staged Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Williston acting and scenic-design students were in the audience. The Bard's tale was given a provocative interpretation, thanks to an all-female cast and a contemporary setting, which gave students a new way to think about a classic.

**3 University of Massachusetts**  
Students in Chinese language classes recently took in a rare performance by the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan at the university's Fine Arts Center. Williston's male and female choir groups sang in the university's High School and Collegiate Choral Festival.

**4 Amherst College**  
Amherst artist-in-residence Dave Gloman exhibited his plein air paintings (created in a mobile studio fashioned from a 12-foot box truck) in Williston's Grubbs Gallery. Austin Sarat, award-winning author and professor of jurisprudence and political science, spoke to members of the Political Awareness Club.

**5 Hampshire College**  
Professor Chris Perry, a screenwriter, director, and producer who worked at Pixar and won a technical Oscar for the animation software used in the film *Life of Pi*, partnered with Williston theater students to create a pilot for an animated television series. He later visited the school with his crew to discuss the business side of television.

**6 Northampton**  
Just a few minutes away by bus (or by bicycle via the scenic Manhan Rail Trail), the bustling arts town of Northampton offers students a host of cultural diversions: galleries, concert venues, craft fairs, farmers markets, bakeries, coffee shops, and more.

**7 Mount Holyoke**  
Every year, Williston Latin students attend Mount Holyoke's Classics Day, a celebration of classical culture and language; also, this year, AP French students visited the college's Matisse exhibit. Williston is partnering with the college to offer a new Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership degree, with a specialization in Independent Schools.

**8 BOSTON**  
AP U.S. Government students regularly travel to Boston's Edward M. Kennedy Institute to compete in the state "We the People" civics competition (and have compiled an impressive record of high place finishes!).



# Guided by COMPASS

Williston's Comprehensive Program for Academic and Social Success—COMPASS—is an innovative, 360-degree framework that deeply engages students and prepares them for college and later life. Through four signature elements (described on the following pages), the program creates a rich academic and social environment in which students acquire the tools they need to excel. At once challenging and supportive, COMPASS helps students realize their full potential.



## **WILLISTON SCHOLARS**

The **Williston Scholars** program allows students to explore their academic passions through a trimester-long process of directed independent study.

## **COLLEGE COUNSELING CURRICULUM**

Our personalized and collaborative **College Counseling Curriculum** features workshops, panels, and support to help students find the perfect college fit.

## **CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

The **Center for Academic Success** provides students at every level with the resources, instruction, and academic support they need to succeed.

## **CORE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

The four-year **CORE Life and Leadership Program** teaches organization and self-awareness and builds decision-making and leadership skills.





# Do Your Own Thing

The Williston Scholars independent study program allows students to conceive and develop their own trimester-long research or arts projects. Working closely with leading members of the faculty and resources from the nearby Five Colleges, students engage in deep, self-directed learning culminating in a report and final presentation to the school community.



Nina Renkert '20 directed the full-length play *Eleemosynary* by Lee Blessing. "It was amazing," she said, to see what had been just ideas in her head play out on stage.



Carbon sequestration is important to combat global climate change, found Conrad Kang '20, but it is not "the end-all-be-all." Conrad explored using sodium hydroxide to trap CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## PURSUING A PASSION

What Williston Scholars choose to explore is as varied as their personal interests and artistic talents. One recent cohort of scholars built a nine-foot water barometer, studied the Lisbon earthquake, and examined the birth of Romanticism. Even though topics must fall within academic subject areas, students continue to find surprising new areas to explore. A sampling:

**MATH:** Kohmei Kadoya '19, Peter Seo '20, and Jack Long '20 coded and built a working robotic arm and hand.

**PERFORMING ARTS:** Maddie Elsea '19 directed and acted in an original interpretation of Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*.

**SCIENCE:** Trevor Corsello '20 launched a high-altitude weather balloon that rose to 95,000 feet.

**HISTORY:** Robby Hill '19 explored historical issues around felon disenfranchisement in Alabama.

**VISUAL ARTS:** Keyu Lu '20 created a series of mixed-media political graffiti as part of her explorations of the historical and sociological value of that art form.

**LANGUAGE:** Sophie Little '19 researched and presented the history of French New Wave Cinema in French.

**ENGLISH:** DJ Poulin '19 wrote an original collection of short stories, all of which take place on the same night.



# Preparing for College

Williston's college counseling process is highly personalized. Students meet frequently with their counselors to talk about goals, values, ideals, and interests. Classroom sessions and workshops provide students and families with key information at the appropriate time. Counselors offer valuable insights into the college admission process, but they also foster self-awareness and independent thinking so students can effectively determine which colleges are uniquely suited to them.



“College Counseling was incredibly supportive and helped keep me on track throughout the process so that I could choose the right school for me.” —NAT MARKEY '20



## FINDING YOUR IDEAL SCHOOL

*Williston provides a six-point college counseling support program.*

### 1. College fairs.

Meet with admission officers from roughly 75 schools that visit Williston each fall.

### 2. Expert panels.

Get questions answered by college representatives during college panels at Family Weekend.

### 3. Mock interviews.

Practice with visiting college admission deans.

### 4. Athletic guidance.

A customized strategy helps you navigate the recruiting process.

### 5. Peer insights.

Hear from recent Williston grads about their college experience and what worked for them.

### 6. Step-by-step help.

A dedicated junior year course fully prepares you for the application process.



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**ACADEMIC STRATEGIES  
TUTORIAL**

Students electing to join this skill-building class meet regularly with learning specialists in small groups to receive specific, targeted instruction in note-taking, study habits, and organizational strategies.

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**LABORATORY FOR  
ACADEMIC SUCCESS (LAS)**

Every evening during regular study hours, LAS faculty supervise and support small groups of students as they complete their homework. The low teacher-student ratio allows every student to get customized attention and assistance.

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**WRITING, MATH, AND  
SCIENCE CENTERS**

These three drop-in centers in the library offer one-on-one support to help students with assignments, long-term projects, or exam prep. Staffed by teachers and peer tutors, the centers are open during the class day and evening study hours. A testament to how great they are? Students log more than 1,500 visits each year.

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**PEER TUTORING**

For general academic help, Williston created Areté, a peer-tutoring organization (the name is Greek for excellence). Juniors and seniors in high academic standing are invited to be tutors. They are then matched with peers looking for extra academic support in the tutors' areas of strength.

# Help for Every Student

Williston's Center for Academic Success is a constellation of services that provides students at every level with the resources, instruction, and academic assistance they need to succeed. We offer levels of support for every kind of learner, ranging from drop-in consultations at our writing, math, and science centers to the more structured offerings of the Academic Strategies Tutorial and Laboratory for Academic Success. Because confident students achieve great things.



“At Williston, I was surrounded by people that care about me and push me to be my absolute best.”

—MAURA HOLDEN '19



# Life Skills are CORE Here

Williston's CORE Life and Leadership Program is a scaffolded, four-year curriculum that introduces students to important life skills through the use of developmentally appropriate themes (Be Curious, Look Outward, Embrace Responsibility, Seek Excellence). Tailored to each grade, the program helps students develop organization, self-awareness, character, judgment, and leadership, through class assemblies, conversations in advisories, dedicated classroom sessions, and all-school discussions.



## FOUR YEARS OF CORE

Each year of CORE introduces students to themes and life skills that directly relate to their personal and social concerns.

### 9TH: BE CURIOUS

Ninth graders focus on the importance of curiosity and establishing a foundation of values based on organization, reflection, and empathy.

### 10TH: LOOK OUTWARD

Tenth graders explore identity in the context of the community and the world, and examine issues around decision-making as they gain more independence and responsibility.

### 11TH: EMBRACE RESPONSIBILITY

In eleventh grade, students work on finding their voice and taking ownership of their future through the college application process and other leadership roles.

### 12TH: SEEK EXCELLENCE

In their senior year, students focus on honing leadership skills in their community and developing a personal legacy that will live on at Williston—and accompany them into the world.

# 100+

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, INCLUDING  
INTERNATIONAL MENTORS, ADMISSION INTERNS,  
PROCTORS, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPS



# Welcome to Williston

Beginning with an overnight orientation trip and continuing through the year with special workshops, assemblies, and projects, the C.O.R.E. Program for Ninth Graders is designed to welcome students into the Williston community. The program's advisors specialize in the first-year experience, meeting regularly as a team and with the ninth-grade faculty. Ninth graders all live together in the dorms and have their own social events and grade-focused presentations (on topics such as the best way to prepare for exams). This strong academic and social support system creates the foundation for a successful Williston experience.



"No matter where I looked, there were classmates and teachers willing to help me out and thrilled to introduce me to their interests." —CAROLINE BORDEN '16



KEY ELEMENTS OF THE  
CORE PROGRAM FOR  
NINTH GRADERS

# 80

STUDENTS IN THE NINTH-  
GRADE CLASS

- 1 Overnight orientation trip
- 2 Leadership workshops for class rep applicants
- 3 Dorms dedicated to ninth-grade students
- 4 C.O.R.E. principles (curiosity, organization, reflection, and empathy)
- 5 Socials that build community

# 6:1

STUDENT/ADVISOR RATIO



# A New Year, a New Opportunity

In addition to the themes embedded in CORE, each year brings new choices and special events for Williston students. No two experiences will be exactly alike, and that's the whole idea. You can pick the path that is right for you.

## 10th Grade

Hit the Activities Fair to sign up for a club.

Show your skills at bowling night or during the 10th-grade Olympics.

Hang out with classmates on Movie Night and at class dinners.

Come down from the chapel balcony and sit (finally) in the main hall for all assemblies.

Attend special 10th-grade assemblies and learn about mindfulness, nutrition, social media, and more (and be entertained by the talents of your classmates).

Fill out an application for School Year Abroad.

Read *Oedipus* and *Othello*.

Take the PSAT for practice.

## 11th Grade

Become a dormitory or day-student proctor.

Sharpen your civics skills for the "We the People" competition by taking AP U.S. Government.

Attend College Counseling workshops, find out who your counselor will be, and develop a customized plan to navigate the college search process.

Take the SAT and ACT.

Apply to be a tutor with the Writing Center or Areté.

Read *The Great Gatsby*.

Run for a class representative seat on the Student Council.

Start work on what will be the best college essay you ever imagined, with the support of writing teachers and mentors.

## 12th Grade

Pursue a project of your own choosing as a Williston Scholar.

Help plan and put on campus events such as Why Not Speak Day, Willy Gras, and the Snowball.

Get inducted into the Cum Laude Society (all that hard work pays off!!).

Submit applications to colleges that best match your interests and aspirations.

Make honors and be granted additional dorm privileges.

Read and perform scenes from *Hamlet*.

Select a classmate to speak at graduation. (Or maybe be chosen yourself!)

Celebrate with your classmates at Senior Prom, Senior Day, Baccalaureate, and Commencement.







Advisor Sarah Klumpp and students gather for an Advisory Dinner.

# Our Advisory Program

Advisors at Williston are like your own personal support network—there when you need them to help you set goals, tackle challenges, and celebrate successes (often with brownies!). Each week, advisors meet with students individually and in small groups. And at regular Advisory Dinners, students relax and have fun together over a casual meal at a local restaurant or at the advisor’s home.

## FOUR KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL ADVISORY PROGRAM

To prepare students for the challenges of secondary school, Williston offers a comprehensive program of social support and academic guidance.

1. We start with our C.O.R.E. Program for Ninth Graders (see page 32), which uses introductory workshops, group activities, and one-on-one guidance to ease students’ transition.
2. Students in grades 10 through 12 have mixed-grade advisories. Advisors meet with students individually and in advisee groups of six each week to discuss goals, explain courses, help with time management, and offer counsel on any other issues of concern.
3. At regular Advisory Dinners, group members share a casual meal at a local restaurant or at the advisor’s home to further build on their relationships.
4. Advisors keep parents up to date through email and Skype, and encourage parents to check in as needed.







# Make Your Mark...



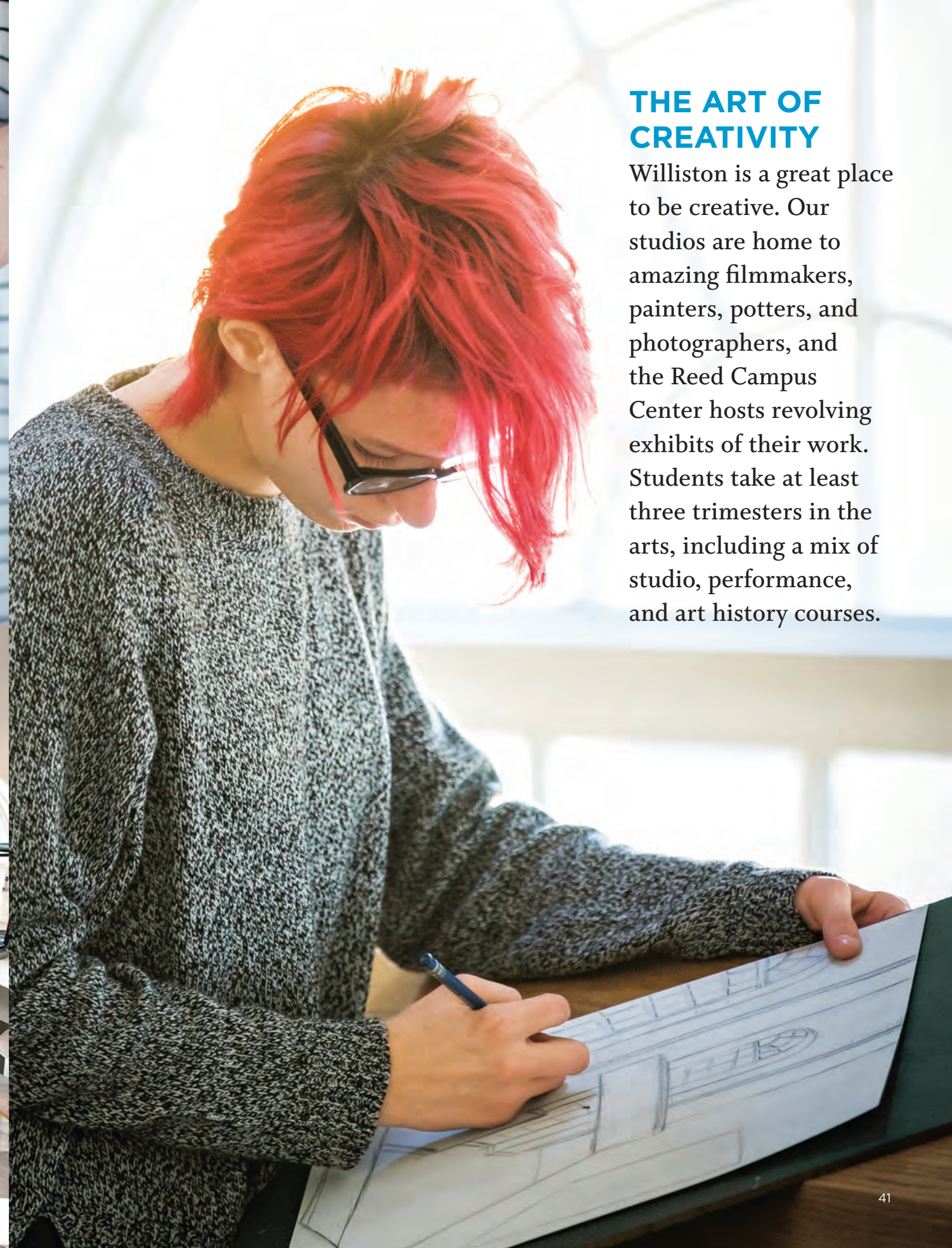
“At Williston, I’ve pushed myself along the way to explore new art styles and materials.”

—NINA RENKERT '20



## THE ART OF CREATIVITY

Williston is a great place to be creative. Our studios are home to amazing filmmakers, painters, potters, and photographers, and the Reed Campus Center hosts revolving exhibits of their work. Students take at least three trimesters in the arts, including a mix of studio, performance, and art history courses.





# Let There Be Music (and Dance!)

Students in Williston's music program sing, compose, arrange, and improvise on their way to becoming complete musicians. Our well-equipped facilities support ensembles large and small, student bands, and a cappella groups. Our proximity to Boston and New York makes the area popular among professional musicians, a number of whom are part of our adjunct music faculty. Alums have gone on to careers in music through top programs such as those at Michigan and Yale, and conservatories such as the Berklee College of Music. The dance program offers a wide spectrum of opportunities: technique classes for students of all levels, as well as training in choreography and performance.



“One of the most important things I have learned as a student at Williston is never to be afraid to try new things.” —NATALIE AQUADRO '17





# Step onto the Stage

The Williston Theatre is a state-of-the-art, 288-seat performance space designed for flexibility. The seating and stage areas can be moved to create a traditional theater with stage, a thrust-stage, or a theater-in-the-round. The facility boasts a fly system, computerized lighting system, sound system, and an attached scene shop. Downstairs are the theater studio (used as rehearsal space), costume shop, and dressing rooms. Students act, of course, but also serve as set and lighting crews, costume designers, and box office managers.

## PERFORMING ON A LARGER STAGE

Williston's fine art and performing arts offerings prepare our graduates for success at leading arts colleges, including:

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Art Institute of Chicago

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Berklee College of Music

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Parsons School of Design

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Pratt Institute

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Rhode Island School  
of Design

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Savannah College  
of Art and Design

---

NYU Tisch School  
of the Arts

---

School of Visual Arts





“At Williston, there is room for  
independence and quirkiness.”

—JILLY LIM '13



# Join the Team

Athletics are a key part of a Williston education. We field teams at the varsity, junior varsity, and beginner levels to give students a full range of opportunities to play and compete. (We also offer recreational options and fitness training.) Our coaches, most of whom are also faculty members, view athletics as another chance to educate and mentor students. Williston has an impressive record of success supporting students who aspire to play in college—our student-athletes are recruited by Division I, II, and III across the country.

Spectacular Mt. Tom rises over Galbraith Fields, a constant presence at home games.

180,000

Square feet of synthetic turf fields

32

Sports offered each year  
(see page 86)





Want to try a new sport? We've got quite a few for you to choose from!

95% of students compete on at least one team during their years at Williston.

The boys and girls swim teams have combined to win four NEPSAC championships in the past three years, setting numerous school and NEPSAC records.

Williston fields 65 teams at the varsity, junior varsity, and lower levels.

The field hockey team went undefeated in 2019 and earned their eighth NEPSAC postseason tournament appearance in the last 10 years!

Tweet all about it! Follow all the athletic action on @willistonteam.

296

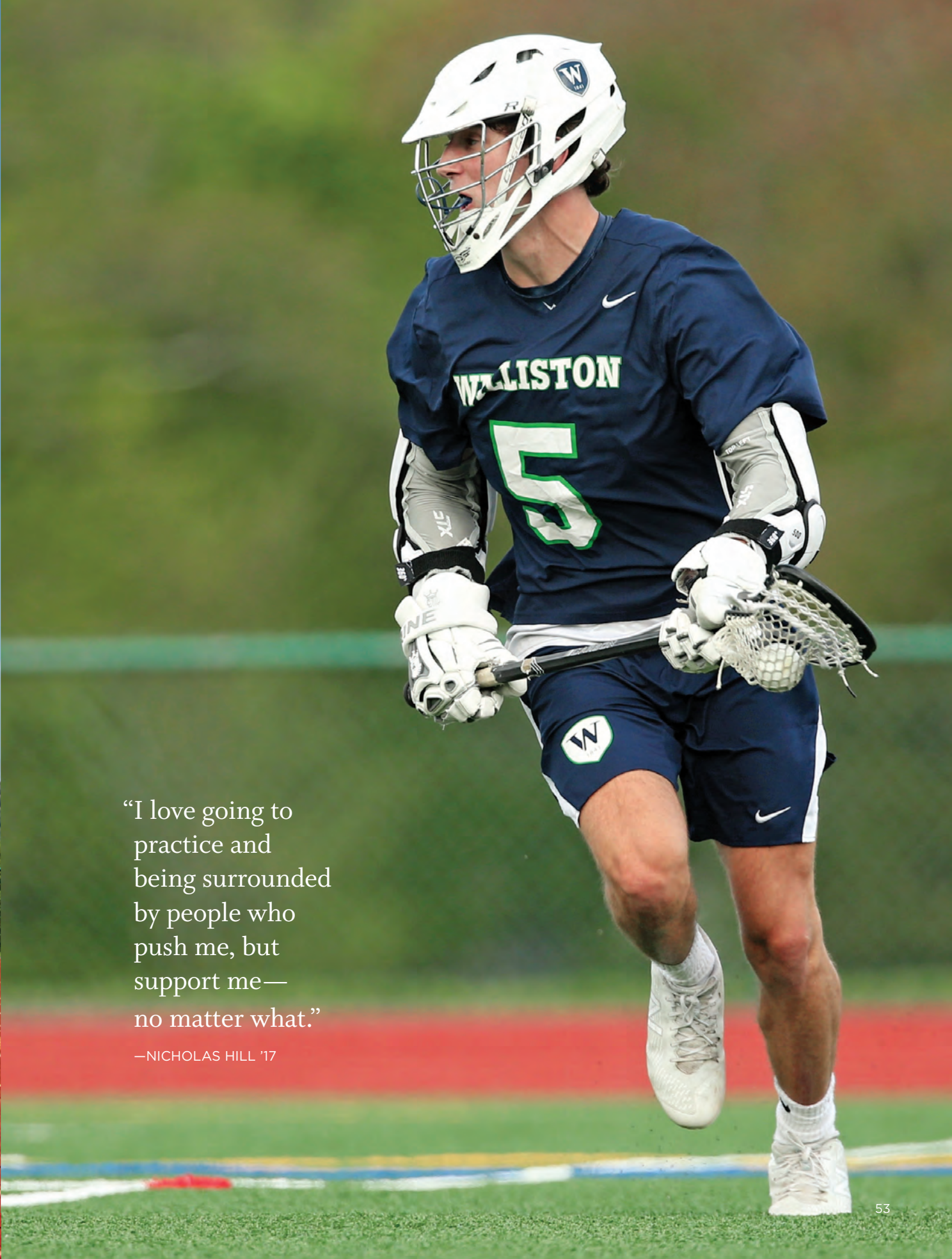
Athletes in school history who have been named All-American, for diving, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, and wrestling, among other sports.







Wildcat to watch! Gabby Thomas '15, an 11-time New England champion while at Williston, shattered numerous school and collegiate track records at Harvard on her way to becoming an eight-time All-American and 25-time All Ivy League athlete. In 2018, she turned pro, becoming the first female sprinter sponsored by New Balance. Keep your eye out for Gabby in the next Olympics!



“I love going to practice and being surrounded by people who push me, but support me—no matter what.”

—NICHOLAS HILL '17



# Fields of Dreams



**GALBRAITH FIELDS**  
A bird's-eye view of the school's main sports complex.

## SABINA CAIN FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

This facility houses two hoops courts, four squash courts, a fitness center, and a wrestling room. It's staffed by a full-time strength coach and two certified trainers.



## BABCOCK POOL

The six-lane Wilmot S. Babcock pool is home to the boys and girls swimming and water polo teams; it's the pool of many champions.



## LOSSONE RINK

The school's fully enclosed ice hockey rink has state-of-the-art boards and glass. It's home to the boys and girls hockey teams and also offers recreational skating.



## SAWYER FIELD AT BERUBE STADIUM

Our primary synthetic turf field is used for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey. The lights allow for showcase evening games before crowds of cheering Wildcats.







# Big Fun on Campus



## WHAT'S THERE TO DO AROUND HERE?

The school's Pioneer Valley location gives students many weekend options, both on and off campus. We sponsor dances, concerts, comedy performances, and movies; lead hiking and ski trips; and organize outings to Five College events. Day students spend as much weekend time on campus as they like.







“Once I got to campus I was greeted by so many welcoming, friendly faces, and I immediately felt like living here was going to be an amazing experience.”

—KATE QUIMBY '19



# Food for Thought

At Residential Life Dinners, held three times each trimester, students dine with their dormmates, and dress for the occasion.



Food and conversation naturally bring people together. At Birch Dining Commons, students, faculty, and staff members exchange ideas and relax over good food in a sun-filled hall that looks out on the school pond. Tables of varying sizes make it possible for a whole team to gather, or for two friends to have a private chat. The menu accommodates all tastes—vegetarian or carnivore, adventurous or traditional—with offerings that are both healthy and delicious.

**EGG-ZACTLY WHAT YOU WANT** Students decide how they want their eggs prepared at the dining hall's always-popular egg station. Other make-your-own options: pasta, pizza, tacos, and panini.



## SAVE ROOM FOR FUN

Special events call for special foods. Williston's many outdoor gatherings feature barbecue and picnic fare. The dining commons mixes things up with Willy World international dinners, where on Africa Night, we served up stewed chicken, plantains, and, for dessert, Nigerian puff puff.





# Home Away From Home

“I love the way the girls all live together so joyfully.”

—NANCY KANG '17

Each of Williston's seven single-gender dorms has its own feeling, from the charm of Memorial Hall to the comforts of John Wright to the Victorian-goes-green vibe of the trio of dorms that frame our new residential quad (see page 66). On-site dorm parents lead a residential program that helps students adjust to dorm life and develop good study habits. Having roommates delivers built-in friends for life.

## A SAMPLING OF WILLISTON DORMS



**Emily McFadon Vincent House** is the third and newest of the Residential Quad's sibling dorms, completed in 2020. Home to 40 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade girls, it is the first building named for an alumna of the Northampton School for Girls.

**John Hazen White House**, completed in 2018 and now housing 40 9th- and 10th-grade boys, is modeled on 194 Main Street, with the same green features and contemporary floor plan, and a deep front porch where students and faculty gather.

**194 Main Street**, built in 2008 on what is now the residential quad, houses 9th- and 10th-grade girls in a restored 1880 Victorian connected to two modern buildings featuring geothermal heating and cooling and built to LEED energy standards.



**Memorial Hall**, divided into Mem East for girls and Mem West for boys, houses 36 students (and three faculty families) in each wing. Located on the Main Quad, its front yard is a popular hangout spot on spring evenings.

**John Wright House**, with its spacious common room and popular pool table, is home to 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade boys. Set beside the chapel, it's on the new Residential Quad.

**Ford Hall**, our largest boys' dorm, houses 52 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-graders (and five faculty families) in a historic building on the Main Quad, making it convenient to the library, Campus Center, and Birch Dining Commons.



## FIVE FUN THINGS YOU'LL LOVE ABOUT DORM LIFE AT WILLISTON

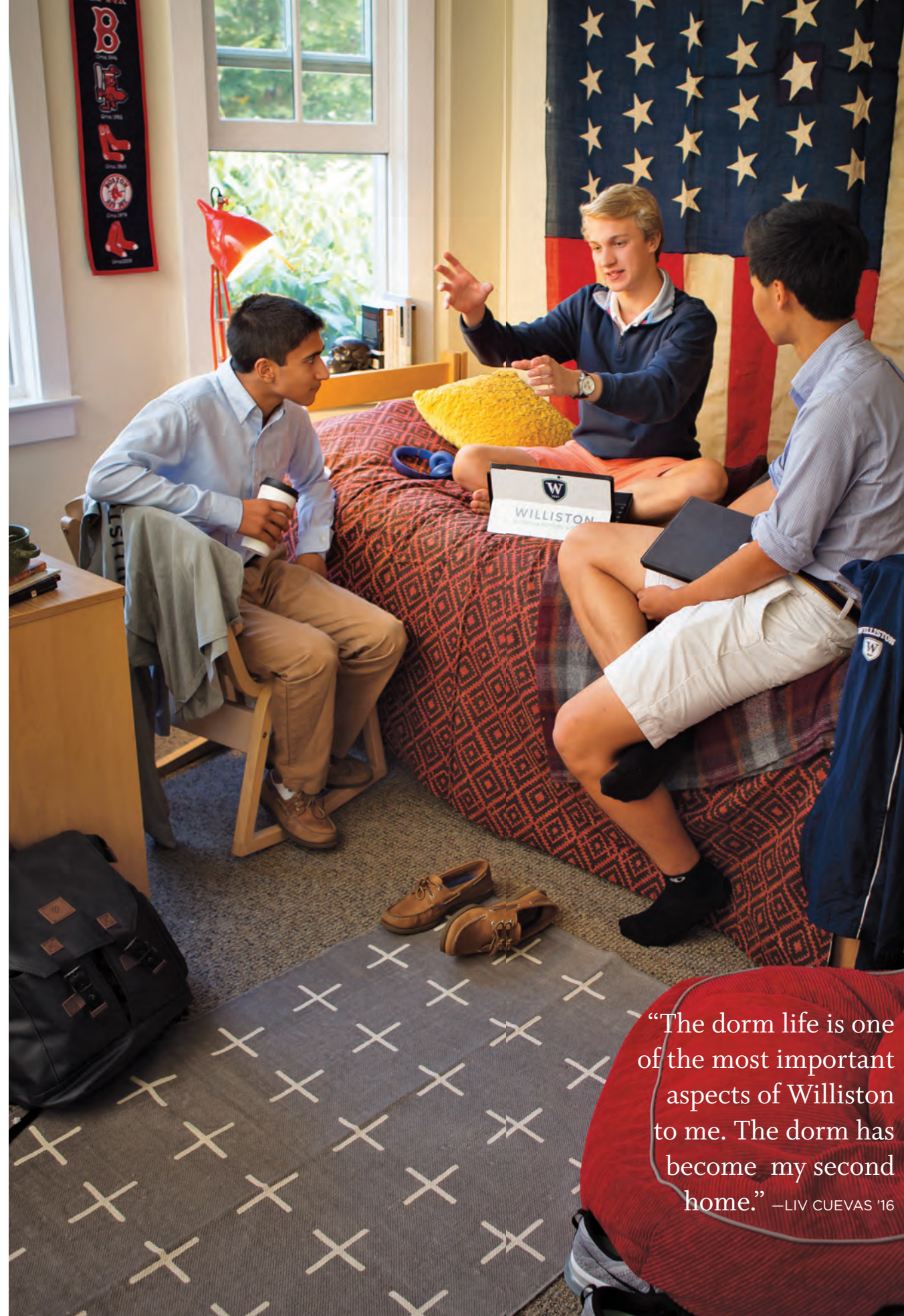
**1. An instant social life, with studymates, classmates, and teammates.** Imagine living in a house with a bunch of your best friends. Our boarders often describe their dormmates as being their support network.

**2. Amazing dorm parents who plan fun events and mentor you.** Williston's dorm parents help guide you with decisions, involve you in dorm traditions, and are there to listen when you need to talk.

**3. Common spaces to hang out in.** Comfy couches, mini kitchens, pool tables—our dorms are designed around places to chill and study with your friends.

**4. A crash course in life skills.** As one senior put it, "Living what is essentially a college lifestyle has made me more responsible and reliable."

**5. Friends for life.** There's an undeniable bond that grows among people who live and work together. It's a connection that many of our alumni say never goes away.



"The dorm life is one of the most important aspects of Williston to me. The dorm has become my second home." —LIV CUEVAS '16





# Our New Quad

## A SECOND CAMPUS CENTER

Located across Park Street from the main campus, the new Residential Quad is a safe and vibrant student neighborhood. The creation of more indoor and outdoor socializing space has enhanced the quality of life for everyone in the school community.

## UNCOMMON COMMON ROOMS

Each of the quad's new dorms has an atrium-like common room set in the building's center, surrounded by student rooms. Common rooms are large enough to hold all of the dorm's residents for meetings or special events, and the arrangement of comfortable couches and sitting areas allows for a mix of everyday uses: Students can be working on homework while others are playing a video game or discussing an assignment.

## SMALL THINGS THAT ADD UP

Design features in each of the dorms reflect the school's deep understanding of what boarding students (and faculty) need to make residential life memorable. A shared door and entrance hallway join the student and faculty housing, for example, simplifying pizza deliveries. The large basements are outfitted with game rooms complete with pool tables, foosball, and Ping-Pong, so students can unwind or take a quick study break. And while faculty living areas are physically separate from the main living space, the two are connected by an office that provides convenient access and easy interaction between students and dorm parents.

## GREEN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

Williston's newly completed Residential Quad includes three state-of-the-art energy-efficient dorms—Emily McFadon Vincent House, John Hazen White House, and 194 Main Street—surrounding a grassy courtyard. That inviting central green space serves as a popular socializing spot for boarding students, while some 350 feet underground, a network of geothermal wells uses the earth's constant 58-degree temperature to keep the dorms warm in winter and cool in summer—no fossil fuels required.

## THE RESIDENTIAL QUAD BY THE NUMBERS

60

Percent of students who live in the quad's four dormitories

0

Amount of fossil fuel used by the heating systems

192

Square feet per dorm room

14

Faculty families living in the four dorms

60K

Square feet of green space in the quad

"When you come back from classes, you'll see some of the dorm parents' kids riding bikes and scooters outside. It definitely feels like a little neighborhood." —BENNING JOHNSON '22





“There will always be people right beside you, ready to help guide and support you through any situation.” —FINLAY MACDONALD '20





# The Heart of Campus

The Reed Campus Center is Williston's social hub, a place to meet friends for a game of Ping-Pong, rehearse for a dance concert, work in the photography lab, or stop at the Stu-Bop for an ECB (that's egg, cheese, and bacon on a bagel). Reed also houses the Grubbs Gallery, featuring exhibits by students and artists from the Pioneer Valley and around the country, and hosts numerous lectures, performances, and special events.



What's that glorious sound? Perhaps the Widdigers practicing their latest a cappella number.



Creativity finds a home in the first-floor visual arts studio.



The Dodge Room is a spectacular setting for concerts, lectures, and special events.



Students get loose before a class in the dance studio.



What have Williston's artists been up to? See their latest works at the Grubbs Gallery.



Catch up on homework, get an afternoon snack, and play a quick game of Ping-Pong at the Stu-Bop snack bar.



Lay down some beats in the Digital Music Lab or borrow a camera from the Photo Lab.





Springtime at Williston means Willy Gras, which means seniors racing in canoes on Williston Pond and standing room only at the prime viewing spot: Parents' Bridge!



# Only at Williston

Traditions? Yeah, we've got a few! Here are eight that every Wildcat loves (for more, check out @willistonns on Instagram).

## SINGING THE SAMMY SONG

Belted out at sporting events, rallies, alumni gatherings, or any other time Wildcats are moved by an abundance of school spirit, Williston's "Stand-up Song" was written by Paul "Pitt" Johnson '05 (that's 1905!). Long may we cherish Williston!



## PAINTING THE LION

Leopards may not be able to change their spots, but Williston's bronze lion has no trouble showing off a new color (with a little help from stealthy painters). Last we saw, he was sporting a coat of pink to help the girls hockey team celebrate its Pink in the Rink event.



## WELCOME DAYS

The second assembly of the year offers a rainbow of Willy Wear, with each grade abandoning the dress code to don a class color. The assembly features presentations from class presidents and team captains, and a round of the Sammy Song.



## HOLIDAY BANQUET

At the end of this annual party, students retire to the Head of School's house for dessert and songs around the piano. Everyone heads home for break full of holiday spirit.



## ACTIVITIES ON THE POND

Nestled in the heart of campus, Williston Pond is an all-season center of fun. In winter, it's an outdoor skating rink, hosting informal games of pond hockey. In warmer weather, it's the scene of Willy Gras canoe races. And throughout the year, it's a laboratory for scientific field investigations.



## WILLY GRAS

Our annual celebration of spring pulls out all the stops with zany contests, fun foods, music, giant water slides, motorized shark-wrangling, and more.



## RINGING THE VICTORY BELL

For whom does the bell toll? Victorious Wildcats, of course. After every athletic triumph, the winning team gathers round and strikes the bell to share the news. Expect to hear it pealing—loudly and often!



## ARTS WALK

At the end of each trimester, the Reed Campus Center comes alive for Arts Walk, a night when the walls are lined with art, the galleries are filled with shows, the air is filled with song, and everyone strolls and soaks up the creativity of classmates.



# A Vibrant Small Town

Williston's location in the eclectic arts town of Easthampton places it just a short walk from a host of appealing restaurants and bakeries (26 at last count), renovated mill buildings-turned-studios, bookstores, a rail-trail bicycle path, and more. A 10-minute drive or bus ride takes you to the vibrant college town of Northampton, home to Smith College and dozens of additional restaurants and shops. Still more culture can be found in the surrounding Pioneer Valley, which offers a rare confluence of academics, history, and stunning natural beauty.



Owned by Williston alumni and parents, Tandem offers bagels and more in a repurposed train station on campus.



# THE PIONEER VALLEY

VS.

# EVERY- WHERE

## HOME TO 5 COLLEGES

AMHERST, HAMPSHIRE, SMITH, AND MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGES,  
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

300+ RESTAURANTS, ICE CREAM  
SHOPS, AND OTHER EATERIES  
WITHIN A 20-MILE RADIUS

110 NEARBY ARTS GALLERIES,  
MUSEUMS, MUSIC VENUES,  
AND BOOKSTORES

LONG HISTORY OF  
LITERARY RESIDENTS

INCLUDING EMILY DICKINSON, ROBERT FROST, AND DR. SEUSS,  
TO NAME JUST A FEW!

500+ MILES OF EASILY  
ACCESSIBLE HIKING AND  
BIKING TRAILS

And did we mention? Easthampton's drinking water was  
voted the best tasting in America. We're just saying!



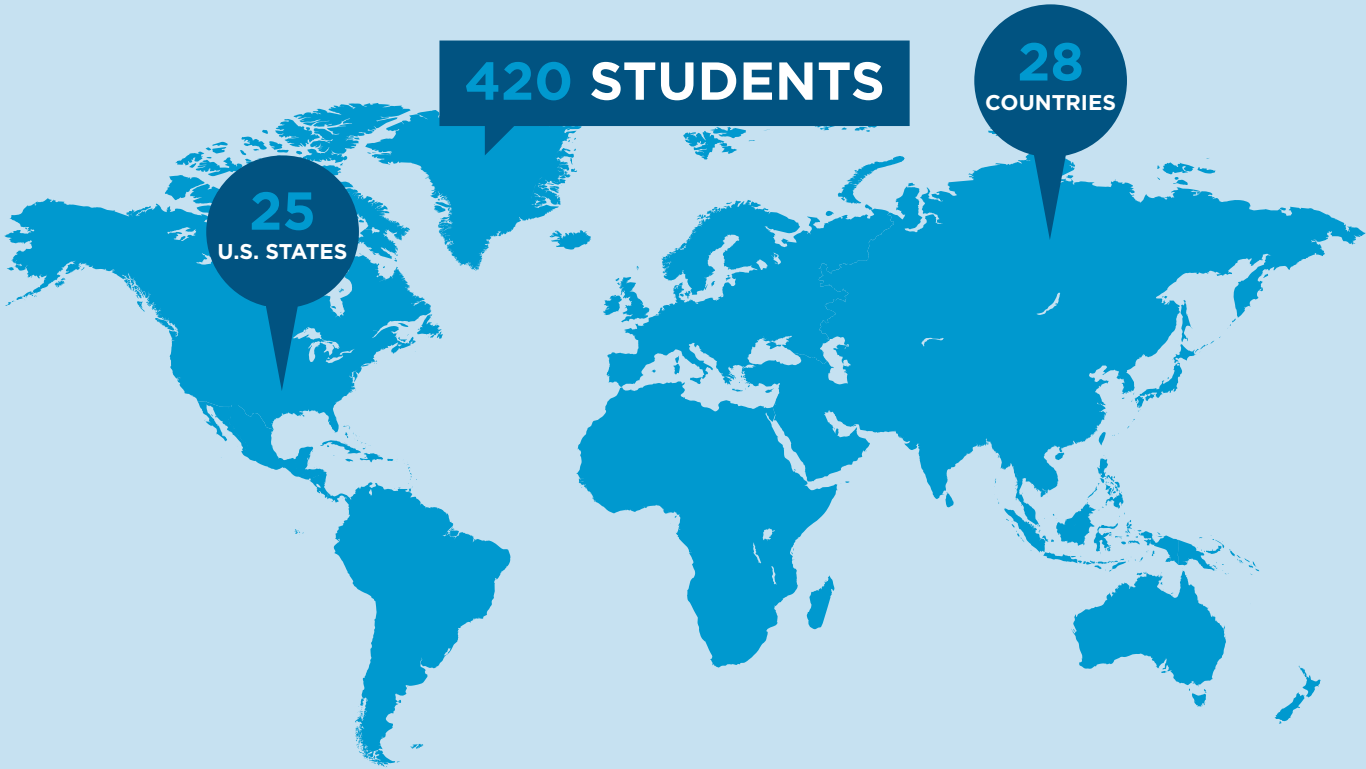
“Williston students are supportive and enthusiastic people who make time to care for their friends in and out of the classroom.” —JJ CELENTANO '16





# The WilliList

## ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



A boarding school for grades 9 to PG, **WILLISTON** inspires students to live with purpose, passion, and integrity.



55:45  
male-to-female  
student ratio



70% boarding  
population,  
30% day



99% of our students  
go on to attend a  
four-year college

## ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

92  
Number of faculty

75  
Percent that hold  
advanced degrees

12  
Students in each  
class, on average

85  
Percent who live  
on campus

100  
Percent who serve  
as coaches, advisors,  
or club leaders

## OUR AP AND HONORS CLASSES

### ENGLISH

AP English Language 11  
AP English Literature 12  
Honors Williston Scholars English  
Honors Writers' Workshop

### HISTORY AND GLOBAL STUDIES

AP Comparative Government  
AP European History  
AP Macroeconomics  
AP Microeconomics  
AP United States Government  
and Politics  
AP United States History  
AP World History  
Honors Williston Scholars  
History and Global Studies

### LANGUAGE

AP Chinese Language:  
Culture and Literacy  
Honors Chinese IV  
Honors French II  
Honors French III  
Honors French V  
AP French Language  
Honors Latin II  
Honors Latin III  
Honors Latin IV  
AP Latin  
Honors Spanish II  
Honors Spanish III  
Honors Spanish V  
AP Spanish Language  
Honors Williston Scholars  
Language

### MATHEMATICS

AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC and  
Multivariable Calculus  
AP Computer Science  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Statistics  
Honors Geometry  
Honors Algebra II  
Honors Precalculus  
Honors Discrete Mathematics  
Honors Williston Scholars  
Mathematics

### SCIENCE

AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics I  
AP Physics II  
AP Physics C  
AP Psychology  
Honors Williston  
Scholars Science  
Honors Chemistry  
Honors Physics  
Honors Biology

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

AP Music Theory  
AP Studio Art  
Honors Williston  
Scholars Visual Arts  
Honors Williston Scholars  
Performing Arts

IN 2019-20, 209 STUDENTS TOOK 456 AP EXAMS

26 AP Scholars  
17 AP Scholars with Honor  
22 AP with Distinction  
11 National AP Scholars





## OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES

7 LARGE AND SMALL DORMS

CAMPUS CENTER

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

COSTUME SHOP

5 ART STUDIOS

PHOTO LAB

MUSIC STUDIO

4 PERFORMANCE SPACES

ART GALLERY

6-LANE POOL

ICE RINK

4 SQUASH COURTS

12 TENNIS COURTS

WRITING CENTER

8-LANE TRACK

## ABOUT OUR CAMPUS



6

STATE-OF-THE-ART PLAYING FIELDS

7

LARGE AND SMALL DORMS

125  
ACRES OF  
CAMPUS

1841  
YEAR SCHOOL  
WAS FOUNDED

In 2019-20, our campus had **20** guest speakers, **45** events and socials, **27** performances, and a whole lot of ringing of the victory bell.

## 8 THINGS TO DO ON YOUR WILLISTON VISIT

You're in the area—go ahead, live like a Wildcat!

### WATCH THE WILDCATS

Wednesday and Saturday afternoons bring out our athletic side, so check out one of our 65 interscholastic teams in action.

### SKATE AROUND OUR RINK

Sure, this ice is hallowed ground for our hockey teams, but guests can enjoy it as well during public skating sessions.

### TAKE IN A SHOW AT THE WILLISTON THEATER

Our 250-seat performance space is home to Performing Arts classes and the stage for student shows, such as the Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*.

### BROWSE THE ART IN THE REED CAMPUS CENTER

The impressive work of our visual arts students gets a place of honor in the Campus Center halls.

### GRAB A COFFEE AT TANDEM

Opened by a group of Williston alums and parents in 2013, this bagel shop on the edge of campus is housed in an old railroad depot.

### TRY A SLICE AT ANTONIO'S

Or maybe you shouldn't. Because with options like spicy chicken quesadilla and pesto tortellini, you may not want to eat pizza anywhere else again.

### PERUSE THE WILLISTONIAN IN CLAPP LIBRARY

Grab one of the many comfy chairs in this popular study space and settle in with the latest issue of our student newspaper, the oldest of its kind in the country.

### HIKE UP MT. TOM

From this landmark peak, get a spectacular view of Williston and the Pioneer Valley.

## GUESS WHO'S COMING TO CAMPUS?

Williston hosts noteworthy speakers and guests throughout the school year. Past visitors have included:

**RICHARD RUSSO**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls*

**TRACY KIDDER P'92**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Soul of a New Machine*

**PHILIP CAPUTO**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Rumor of War*

**WALLY LAMB**, author of *She's Come Undone*

**ANITA SHREVE P'06, '07**, author of *The Pilot's Wife*

**JENNIFER DUBOIS '02**, author of *Cartwheel* and *The Spectators*

**ANNE FADIMAN**, essayist and reporter

**IAN CHENEY**, Emmy-nominated and Peabody-winning filmmaker

**DAVID MARANISS**, *Washington Post* editor and author

**JODI PICOUULT**, author of *My Sister's Keeper*

**SCOTT BARROW**, award-winning photographer

**ROOMFUL OF TEETH**, Grammy-winning musical group

**COLUM MCCANN**, National Book Award-winning author of *Let the Great World Spin*

**ANN DOWD '74**, Emmy Award-winning actress

**NIC STONE**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dear Martin*

**KIEL JOHNSON**, award-winning LA-based multi-media artist and speaker



## ABOUT OUR ATHLETICS

### TEAM SPORTS OFFERED

#### FALL TEAMS:

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Field Hockey (Girls)
- Football (Boys)
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Water Polo

#### WINTER TEAMS

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Hockey
- Girls Hockey
- Boys Skiing
- Girls Skiing
- Boys Squash
- Girls Squash
- Boys Swimming
- Girls Swimming
- Wrestling

#### SPRING TEAMS

- Baseball (Boys)
- Boys Golf
- Girls Golf
- Boys Lacrosse
- Girls Lacrosse
- Softball (Girls)
- Boys Tennis
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Track And Field
- Girls Track And Field
- Boys Ultimate Frisbee
- Girls Ultimate Frisbee
- Girls Water Polo



Teams in NEPSAC championships in last five years

All-American athletes in school history

Students in 2020 who signed letters of intent to play sports at D-I, D-II, and D-III schools

### SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Our student-athletes are recruited to play at both NESCAC colleges and at universities with larger athletic programs. Recent examples include: Bowdoin College | Boston College | Bucknell University | Colby College | Columbia University | Connecticut College | Cornell University | Georgetown University | Harvard University | Lehigh University | Middlebury College | Princeton University | Providence College | Tufts University | University of Notre Dame | University of Virginia | West Point

### A SAMPLING OF OUR STUDENT CLUBS

Black Student Union  
Boys to Men  
Chinese Martial Arts Club  
Choir  
Community Service Club  
Coding Club  
Creative Writing Club  
Dance Club  
Designer's Club  
DoSomething Club  
Film Club  
Fishing Club  
Girls Support Girls  
Gold Key  
Grillin' 'n' Chillin'  
GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance)  
Instrumental Esemble  
Investment Club  
*Janus* (literary magazine)  
Jewish Club  
LatinX Club  
*The Log* (yearbook)  
Math Team  
Mountain Bike Club  
Multicultural Student Union  
Outdoor Adventures Club  
Photography  
Ping Pong/Table Tennis Club  
Spikeball Club  
Sustainability Club  
WildestCats  
Williston Democrats  
Williston Entrepreneur Club  
*The Willistonian* (student newspaper)

34  
Number of student clubs

### TO COLLEGE AND BEYOND

161  
Early-decision and early-action offers last year

429  
Offers of admission last year

33  
Students accepted to Ivy League schools in the last five years

134  
Students accepted to NESCAC schools in the last five years

99  
Percentage of students who attend a four-year college

### A SAMPLING OF COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2016-2020

Babson College (6)  
Bates College (7)  
Bentley University (13)  
Berklee College of Music (4)  
Boston College (6)  
Boston University (17)  
Bowdoin College (5)  
Brown University  
Bucknell University (4)  
Colby College (5)  
Columbia University (3)  
Connecticut College (13)  
Cornell University (6)  
Dartmouth College (2)  
Elon University (7)  
Georgetown University (3)  
Gettysburg College (5)  
Hamilton College (5)  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (4)  
Ithaca College (4)  
Kenyon College (6)  
Lafayette College  
Lehigh University (4)  
Middlebury College (9)  
New York University (11)  
Northeastern University (15)  
Pomona College (3)  
Princeton University (2)  
Providence College (8)  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)  
Sacred Heart (8)  
Skidmore College (9)  
Smith College (2)  
Stanford University  
St. Lawrence University (6)  
Syracuse University (10)  
Trinity College (8)  
Tufts University (5)  
Tulane University (5)  
Union College (9)  
United States Military Academy (2)  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst (17)  
University of Pennsylvania (5)  
University of Southern California (4)  
University of Vermont (3)  
Wesleyan University (4)  
Williams College (4)  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (4)  
Yale University (3)





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# THE WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

Set in Western Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, an area defined by its natural beauty, prestigious colleges and universities, and rich intellectual and cultural history, Williston offers a holistic education that integrates academics, athletics, and community life with uncommon opportunities to promote high achievement for all of its students.

We want you to experience this kind of education.

**Call. Email. Visit. Like. Follow.**

Williston Northampton School

Admission Office

T: 413-529-3241 | E: [admission@williston.com](mailto:admission@williston.com)



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