

BUXTON



BUXTON  
SCHOOL

— est. 1928 —

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



Buxton does independent school differently and has since it was founded in 1928. Here at Buxton we educate through experience and growth, and we create meaning through creating community. Buxton students live their education and because of this, they are passionate thinkers, learners, and doers. Students leave Buxton ready to take the world by storm...and they do.



BOUNDLESS  
LIVE YOUR  
EDUCATION

BASILICA THE SPLENDOR AND THE SCANDAL: BUILDING ST. PETER'S H. A. SCOTT

DAVA SOBEL THE PLANETS

The Autobiography of Malcolm X

THE POET AS A LIVING BEING

Warbling Vireo EMILY

A Pattern Language Alexander Lohman Silverstein Jacobus F. van der Laan

Jean-Jacques Rousseau Emile Introduction, Translation, and Notes by ALLAN BLOOM BasicBooks

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao Junot Díaz

HUSTON SMITH The World's Religions

DEWEY - EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Jacob De Rooy ECONOMIC LITERACY What Everyone Needs to Know About Money & Markets

JUAN WILLIAMS EYES ON THE PRIZE AMERICA'S CIVIL RIGHTS YEARS, 1954-1965

WAR AND PEACE RICHARD PEYAL

REPASO A Complete Review Workbook for Grammar, Communication, and Culture Glencoe

*CLASSES AT BUXTON  
ARE SMALL, INTIMATE, AND  
DISCUSSION-ORIENTED.*

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**THE BUXTON FACULTY:  
MORE THAN  
JUST YOUR TEACHERS**

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*we think you should*  
**QUESTION????  
EVERYTHING...**

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At Buxton we expect you to be an active thinker and learner. We assume you'll question everything. Why are we reading this book? Why does math matter? What is the purpose of education? We encourage you to ask these questions and we work hard to answer them with you. Sure, this process makes life more complicated and teaching more challenging. But what's the alternative? At Buxton we expect students to think for themselves, and we look forward to hearing what they've got to say.

Classes at Buxton are designed to engage your heart and your mind. Teachers teach what they are passionate about, and you are encouraged to have your own passionate

responses to what you're learning. Conversation, dialogue, even heated debate are encouraged in all Buxton classes. The curriculum, on its surface, is fairly traditional: All students are expected to take four years of English, three years of history, a biological and a physical science, three years of a language, three years of math. But just below that surface lies an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to all subjects; a wide variety of electives in the humanities and sciences; arts courses in subjects ranging from ceramics to painting to drama to music composition; and classes that offer stimulating books, lively conversation, and engaged and engaging teachers.

The teachers at Buxton are highly qualified and deeply committed to their teaching, their students, and the overall life of the school. Many of our teachers have advanced degrees, many have professional and life experiences that inform their work, and all of our art teachers are also working artists. This means that Buxton classes are rich and deep and engaging—especially because the Buxton faculty is given great freedom in designing their courses. Teachers here are committed to their *students*, not to state-mandated tests or some arbitrary curriculum.

Along with teaching in the classroom, faculty members have leadership, administrative, and caretaking responsibilities. This means that students and faculty enjoy an unusually high degree of interaction, camaraderie, and trust. Over the course of the day, you might eat lunch with your French teacher, go on a walk with your history teacher, and sing next to your English teacher during a chorus rehearsal.

As a result, students and faculty at Buxton form bonds that range far beyond the typical classroom interactions you may be used to. We see the development of honest and caring friendships between adults and students not just as a lucky by-product of our program but also as an educational goal in itself. Plus: You can call teachers by their first names!



## INTERESTING, CHALLENGING, AND INSPIRING COLLEGE-PREP COURSES

In addition to our core classes—four levels of English, French, Spanish, and math; lab sciences biology, chemistry, and physics; and American history—Buxton offers a stunning variety of elective courses. Here's a sampling from the last few years:

- Marine Science
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Western Intellectual History
- Modern Chinese History
- Film History
- Economics
- Political Theory
- The Practice of Poetry
- Daily Themes: A Writing Intensive
- Astronomy
- Geology
- Mythology & Religion
- Mathematical Logic and Puzzle Solving
- Indonesian
- The Middle East in the 20th and 21st Centuries
- Ancient Greece & Rome
- Women's Studies
- Civil Rights
- The Jazz Age
- Progressive Education
- The Avant-Garde
- The Noisy Century
- Colonialism
- The Age of Discovery
- ESL

“**I’VE FOUND BUXTON TO BE MUCH MORE INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING THAN MY OTHER SCHOOL** because teachers teach what they’re passionate about instead of having to stick to a rigid curriculum. They can take an idea and explore it to its full extent instead of just going through the motions.” —ROSE

# CURRICULUM *FOR THE* *CURIOUS*

The academic curriculum at Buxton is stimulating and smart. Classes are small and involving. Students are full participants in exploring, experimenting, thinking about, and talking through everything they’re studying, whether it be reconstructing a whale skeleton found on a Cape Cod beach or debating the hot political topics of the day. Buxton students are active learners who take their classes seriously—and are rewarded with a uniquely challenging and rich academic experience.

Over the past ten years, Buxton has either renovated or rebuilt every learning space on campus. We have dedicated physics, chemistry, and biology labs, wired classrooms with breathtaking views of the Berkshire Mountains, a state-of-the-art video-production studio, and dedicated fine-arts, ceramics, and music buildings. Classes are taught around tables, seminar-style, just as you would find on the finest college campuses.

Buxton students have an unusual—and unusually large—array of electives to choose among, starting

as soon as freshman year. Our social-studies curriculum is made up of an eclectic array of classes designed to appeal to students—yet it also ensures that our graduates learn how to synthesize historical documents and do original research. Every semester, English, science, social studies, math, and arts electives are offered, and students pack their schedules with as many courses as they can. What this means is that Buxton graduates are uniquely prepared for college: They take for granted that education should be stimulating and challenging, and they relish the opportunity to learn more, more, more!

Colleges know us. They know that our students are eager, curious, and ready. They comment on the breadth of Buxton students’ exposure to literature and life, and are impressed with how well they balance the demands of college life. One look at our impressive college-acceptance list will tell you how well regarded our students are.



“  
I THINK THAT BUXTON IS  
**CHALLENGING**  
[IN THE BEST WAY]  
AND IT'S A GREAT PLACE  
TO FIGURE YOURSELF OUT  
*and grow.*

---MAX



# ***NOT*** your **TYPICAL** school

## REPORT LETTERS + CONFERENCES

For most of your time at Buxton, you will not be given grades. Instead, three times a year, you will receive written reports from each of your teachers and have a report conference with one of the directors of the school. There, you will read and discuss what your teachers have said alongside your own self-evaluation. We feel that this combination of written and verbal evaluation is more thorough, more subtle, more effective, more humane, and, finally, more educational than letter grades. This way, Buxton teachers are able to give very specific encouragement, advice, and instruction; as a result, you will know precisely how you are doing in your classes and, if necessary, what you need to do to improve. For college admissions purposes, we do generate a graded report card; you will see this for the first time at the end of your junior year. But because our evaluative process is so thorough, you are very unlikely to be surprised by your letter grades.

## HONORS + AP COURSES

Unlike many private and public schools, Buxton does not offer classes that are designated as “honors” level or that are AP-driven, even though we are an academically

rigorous school. There are reasons for this. First of all, many of our upper-level core and elective courses are taught at what would be considered an honors level at most other schools. But we also want those classes to be available to anyone who is interested in and ready for them, whether or not they have been “tracked” to take them. We have also found that most adolescents rise to high expectations if asked; our honors-caliber classes prove that inclusion is good for students, teachers, and classes. As for the Advanced Placement tests, at Buxton we want our teachers to really teach their subjects, responding to their own ongoing discoveries about the topics and to the unique mix of students in their classes. When a teacher is, instead, “teaching to the test,” the course is no longer about the specific aims of the teacher or the specific needs of the students. Both teaching and learning run the risk of becoming rote and uninspired. It is our aim to make education matter to students in profound and life-changing ways; a cookie-cutter class with an externally determined goal makes little sense to us. However, we do allow students to take AP tests if they want to. Individual faculty members can guide you in your study on a tutorial basis if both you and your teachers think the process will be beneficial to you.



## RECENT JUNIOR THESIS TOPICS INCLUDE

- The History and Practice of Ballet
- The Appropriation of Native American Culture by American Summer Camps
- Food Culture and Policy in the U.S.
- Children’s Books: History and Practice
- Street and Graffiti Art
- The History of the Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Cowboys: History and Culture
- The History and Technology of Video Games
- The Aeneid* and *The Walking Dead*: A Comparison
- The Relationship Between Language and Culture

## THE JUNIOR THESIS

An important part of each student’s junior year is the Junior Thesis and Project. The thesis is an opportunity for independent research, creative expression, and learning how to plan and execute long-term projects. Students pick a topic that interests them and choose a faculty advisor to help guide their research, serve as a sounding board, and act as an editor of their written work. Much of the year is spent researching and refining the topic, and the project culminates in a night of presentations. Each student also produces a creative piece to accompany the thesis that is shared with the entire school. These creative projects have ranged from staging original plays, to writing and performing music, to preparing a meal for the entire school.





SOUND RECORDING



GENDER STUDIES



CARIBBEAN NATURE,  
HISTORY & CULTURE



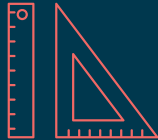
NATURE WRITING



STAGE DIRECTION



MATERIALS CLASS:  
WOODWORKING, METAL SHOP,  
AND AUTO MECHANICS



ARCHITECTURE



SOCIOLOGICAL  
LINGUISTICS



CHOREOGRAPHY  
WORKSHOP



WORKING HISTORY  
OF PHOTOGRAPHY



NEO-COLONIALISM



### WINTER STUDY ELECTIVES

During the winter term, Buxton offers an array of **intensive six-week classes** to further enrich students' educational experience. These courses emphasize integrated learning, hands-on experience, and team-teaching. Listed on this page are just some of the winter-study electives taught in the past few years.



GUITAR WORKSHOP



TWENTIETH-CENTURY ART IN  
THEORY AND PRACTICE



HISTORY OF  
LANGUAGE



## COLLEGE PLACEMENT & GUIDANCE

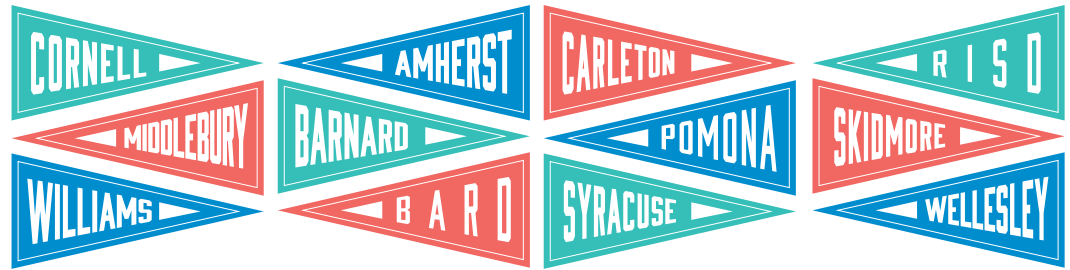
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College advising is one of the best things we do. We bring a level of thoughtfulness, doggedness, and hands-on help to the process that is rare—and incredibly valuable.

Almost any faculty member can be your college advisor. Students pick an advisor during their junior year, and work closely with their chosen teacher throughout the college process. You and your advisor will meet frequently to discuss your preferences and possibilities, the merits and downsides of different colleges and universities, and the strengths and weaknesses of both your prospective schools and you as a prospective college student. This intimate process helps you hone your thinking about the future, about what helps you thrive and grow, and about what kind of environment would be best for your college years. Working in consultation with the faculty as a whole, your college advisor will help you generate a list of appropriate colleges, and he or she will also guide you through the application process. Throughout, we strive to form a productive partnership among the school, the parents, and the students to help make the best possible college match.





# NOT TO TOOT OUR OWN HORN BUT...



We are proud of our college-placement record.

The Buxton approach works. In spite of our renegade stance toward the Honors and AP tracks, our college-placement record is excellent. Colleges are quick to see that Buxton students are cut from a different cloth, that they are active thinkers, committed community members, and thoughtful citizens. At Buxton, the high school experience is not just the means to an end; rather, it has an integrity all its own. The natural outcome of this approach is distinctive, independent-minded students who not only get into good colleges, but thrive there. In recent years, our students have been admitted to or attended the following colleges and universities:

Agnes Scott College  
Alfred University  
Amherst College  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Bennington College  
Berklee College of Music  
Brooklyn College  
Bryant University  
Carleton College  
Case Western University  
Clark University  
Colby-Sawyer College  
College of the Atlantic  
College of Wooster  
Corcoran College of Art  
Cornell University  
Dalhousie University – Canada  
Earlham College  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Emory University  
Eugene Lang College

Evergreen State College  
Farleigh Dickinson University  
Gettysburg College  
Glasgow School of Art  
Goucher College  
Guilford College  
Hampshire College  
Haverford College  
Indiana University  
Ithaca College  
Johnson & Wales College  
Lewis & Clark College  
Macalester College  
Manhattanville College  
McDaniel College  
Middlebury College  
Mount Holyoke College  
Northeastern University  
Oberlin College  
Occidental College  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College

Pratt Institute of Art  
Reed College  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Roosevelt University  
Rutgers University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
School of Visual Arts  
Scripps College  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Illinois University  
St. John's College  
St. Lawrence University  
Suffolk University  
SUNY Albany  
SUNY Binghamton  
SUNY Buffalo

SUNY Geneseo  
SUNY Purchase  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
Trent University – Canada  
Tulane University  
Tyler School of Art  
University of the Arts  
University of CA – Santa Cruz  
University of Hartford  
University of Michigan  
University of the Netherlands  
University of the Pacific  
University of Vermont  
Vassar College  
Warren Wilson College  
Wellesley College  
Wells College  
Wesleyan University  
Wheaton College  
Whittier College  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



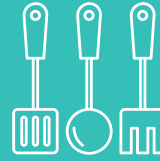
### SPRING THING

Near the end of the year, Buxton has an all-school picnic followed by a dance with a live jazz band.

Organized by students, Spring Thing is like prom done Buxton-style: low-key, high spirits, totally inclusive, and really fun.

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### KITCHEN CREW

On Saturdays, the students take over the kitchen! It's a chance for people to share recipes, learn kitchen skills, and make their favorite foods. Yum.

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### WORK PROGRAM

Twice a week, students break up into crews and do the important maintenance and upkeep of the school. That's also when we do theatre tech and other long-term projects. Crews range from chopping wood to sorting mail—and everything in between.

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### SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER

Students and faculty dress up for Sunday dinner. There are tablecloths and candles on the table, and a student "blessing" before the meal. Afterwards, there is a Senior Service: every week a different senior addresses the school in any way he or she chooses. Services are as varied as the students, but always heartfelt.

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### GARDENING PROGRAM

Buxton has a robust farm-to-table program. We learn biology and ecology from our gardens; we eat from them too! Our greenhouse and chicken coop are always hopping. Also: apple cider from our own trees in the fall.

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### DANCE & DRUM PROGRAM

We are famous for our West African, Caribbean, and Balinese dance and percussion programs, which are known for being at or beyond the college-level. Classes are taught by pros, and our students perform both at school and at festivals and programs throughout our area.

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WE ARE **DIFFERENT**

SPIRITED  
DIVERSE  
THINKERS  
CREATIVE  
FUN

CURIOUS  
CONFIDENT  
EXCITED  
EXPLORERS  
UNIQUE



## GRADUATION SPEECHES

Our graduation ceremony is unique. Every graduating senior gives a speech—and they are honest, funny, moving, sad, personal, political, amazing.

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## FAMILY-STYLE MEALS

We sit down together for lunch and dinner—to eat, to talk, to laugh, to hang out. Students take turns setting and clearing the tables, and the meal is truly shared by the whole community. The announcements that follow are the key to school-wide communication.

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## ROOM CHANGE

Buxton students pack up their bags and change rooms (and roommates!) three times a year.

Getting to live in so many configurations with so many other students is key to Buxton's inclusive, non-cliquey social atmosphere.

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## THE YEARBOOK

The whole senior class makes the yearbook together, creating something that is truly *theirs*. Buxton yearbooks are unlike any you've ever seen—and that's a good thing.

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## MOUNTAIN DAY

Shhh! It's a secret! Every fall, the seniors surprise the rest of the school by organizing Mountain Day without anyone knowing what day it will be. Classes start and then—surprise!—the seniors run through and the fun (and the hike) begins!

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## ALL-SCHOOL MEETINGS

Although we're all together for lunch and dinner each day, we also have all-school meetings about once a month to talk about the school.

The format varies (sometimes we meet in advisory groups, sometimes in a Quaker-style format), but the sense of intentional togetherness stays the same.

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# AND PROUD OF IT.

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## THE BUXTON URBAN INTENSIVE

Every year, the entire school goes on an investigative trip to a North American city—and every fourth year or so, we travel internationally!

Kids break into interest groups and research a topic related to the city we're visiting. The Intensive is organized by students and is one of the educational and experiential highlights of the year.

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## REC COMMITTEE

On Friday nights, an elected group of students plans some kind of fun, goofy, surprising, ridiculous, cool activity for the rest of the school. Ask a Buxton student about Senior Bears—one of the most popular Rec Committees of the year.

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## MARINE BIOLOGY TRIP

Students in this science elective go to Cape Cod every spring to work with research scientists and do some hands-on learning.

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## FACULTY ADVISORS

Every student has a faculty advisor to meet with, hang out with, and sometimes get coffee with.

Advisors are mentors and friends—and they're an essential part of the Buxton experience.

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EXPLORE

DISCOVER  
YOURSELF

ADVENTURE



*I HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY  
AFFECTED AND INFORMED BY  
THOSE AROUND ME.*

—MELODIE



## RECENT DESTINATIONS

### U.S. Cities:

Philadelphia

Chicago

Detroit

Atlanta

New Orleans

El Paso

Washington, D.C.

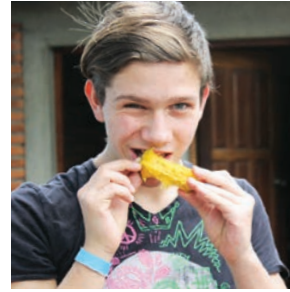
### International:

Toronto, Canada

Puerto Rico

Havana, Cuba

Nicaragua



## *the buxton urban intensive*

# WANDER MONDEE

# DELIBERATELY

A major—and unusual—component of our curriculum is the annual Urban Intensive. Every year, the entire Buxton community visits a major North American city for a week of exploring, learning, experiencing, investigating, and understanding. We try to go to Washington, D.C. at least once in a student's time at Buxton, and we also strive to take an international trip every four years. Students and faculty form study groups several weeks before the trip and research the topics they will focus on during the trip itself. These topics can range from homelessness to public transportation to civil liberties to local politics to current events, depending on the city to be visited and the interests of the groups.

Students arrange interviews and appointments with people in the city who are experts on the group's topic, setting up a week's worth of experiences that will help their group understand all it can about a particular subject. A committee of students also handles all the major logistical requirements of the trip, including bargaining for hotel rooms and rates, arranging for restaurant or delivery meals, investigating public transportation, and keeping track of the budget. On top of all this, the students prepare and bring theatrical and/or musical pieces to perform for the residents of the city we are visiting. The Urban Intensive is an enormous undertaking; it also has enormous

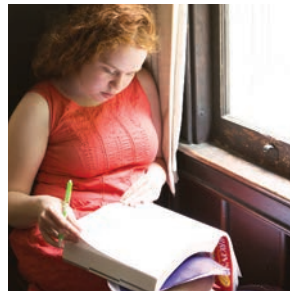
educational and real-life impact. Through the Intensive, you will come to see that you have the power to make important things happen, whether it be arranging to feed an entire school while on the road or getting an appointment with a major political figure. The trip allows you to experience the real world in real ways, to have interactions that are unscripted and improvisational, but also purposeful and enlightening. The investigative aspect of the study groups allows students and teachers alike to explore fascinating, complicated, and thorny issues firsthand. The group presentations during the post-trip period encourage synthesis and explanation of those issues.

## THE ALCHEMY OF SMALL

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There is no question that Buxton is a small school—we keep it that way on purpose, and we're proud of its size. While it may take some time to adjust to the *idea* of a small school, it won't take long for you to adjust to the experience. Because of our emphasis on tolerance and diversity, students here feel accepted and welcome right away. And with our emphasis on community, Buxton students get to know a broad range of people very well. At a larger school, your circle of close friends might include 10 to 20 people (if that many). Here, your circle of friends will include most of the student body. When you look at it that way, Buxton isn't so small after all.



# OUR *intentionally small* COMMUNITY +

Buxton is an intentionally small school, with 90-plus students and 20-plus faculty members. We believe that students thrive when they are known well by those around them, that they grow through intimate and thoughtful contact with the adults in their lives, and that they can best forge meaningful relationships when living closely in a small but diverse group of people.

Part of what makes our small size so powerful is our deliberate commitment to diversity of every kind: gender, race, background, talents, abilities, personalities, and nationalities. We welcome students from all over the country and the world, and our international students are mainstreamed into everything we do. This diversity enriches the intimate Buxton experience, as people get to know each other across what are traditionally lines of separation.

Though “community” has become an overused word in education, this idea—and ideal—is at the heart of the Buxton experience. Through both daily chores and twice-weekly Work Program, students come to care for their physical surroundings and for the hard, collective work that goes into maintaining them. Students occupy leadership positions of all kinds, from running Work Program to helping supervise the dorms to planning all-school meetings. And because most of the faculty live on campus, students’ and teachers’ lives are interwoven and connected throughout the day and the week, whether it be through our family-style meals, wake-up or bed-check, Friday night Recreation Committee, raking leaves together during Work Program, or going out to the local coffeehouse to chat.





## 120 ACRES

Situated on 120 acres of woods, fields, and rolling hills, the Buxton campus is rural, simple, and beautiful. Breathing at every turn, there is no better place to call "home."

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## FINE ARTS BUILDING

Includes light-filled studio and gallery space, several state-of-the-art darkrooms, and facilities for digital photography and video production.

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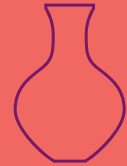


## CLASSROOM BUILDING

Dedicated physics, chemistry, and biology labs, as well as a computer lab and classrooms equipped with up-to-date audio-visual equipment and Internet access.

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## CERAMICS STUDIO

A large new space for our popular ceramics program along with a separate building for a sophisticated new kiln.

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# NOT-SO-SMALL CAMPUS



## MUSIC BUILDING

A new building that boasts both practice and teaching areas, the music building is always busy with students composing on computers and keyboards, practicing flute or jamming with a jazz ensemble.

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES LAB

Housed in one of the most historically interesting buildings on campus, the Lab is where students can go for extra help, learning strategies, tutoring and support.

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## DORMS

Girls and boys live separately at Buxton: the boys in the Barn, the girls in either the Main House or the Gate House. Because students live in idiosyncratic old buildings, dorm rooms tend to be quirky and distinct (with long-standing and creative nicknames!).

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## THEATRE

To support our robust drama and dance programs, Buxton has a fully equipped theatre nestled in the south end of our campus. Complete with a green room and costume shop, a full array of lighting instruments, and a versatile rehearsal and playing space, the theatre is an important campus hub.

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*I WOULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED MYSELF BEING CAPABLE  
OF DOING SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS WITHOUT BEING IN THIS  
SMALL, LOVING, AND INSPIRING COMMUNITY.*

---SHIRLEY



MASS MoCA

WILLIAMS  
COLLEGE  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

Williams

THE  
CLARK

BENNINGTON

# WILLIAMSTOWN

One of the great advantages of going to Buxton is that you get the beauty, safety, and appeal of a small town while reaping the benefits of being in a very sophisticated and culturally rich part of the country.



## WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Williams College is central to the town—and strategically important to Buxton. Through our relationship with Williams, Buxton can offer intellectual and cultural riches that other schools our size cannot.

- Our top students can take classes at Williams (for Buxton and college credit—and for free!) to further their studies and meet their interests.
- We are able to take students to lectures, performances and events.
- We have access to their comprehensive libraries and some other facilities.

## WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

The Williams College Museum of Art is considered one of the best college art museums in the country. It is right downtown, and students frequently visit its exhibits when they are off campus.

## THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE

The Clark Art Institute, a world-renowned art museum, is right in our backyard. Students can walk there and enter this sought-after tourist destination for free on most days, and we also have access to their extensive library.

## MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is a major contemporary art museum with a robust performing arts schedule. Right next door in North Adams, Buxton classes go there often to check out the permanent and temporary collections. Buxton students also compete in an annual invitational art show at MASS MoCA, and our artists have taken the top prizes many years in a row.

## IMAGES CINEMA

Images Cinema is one of the oldest continually operating independent movies theatres in the country. This 100-year-old institution brings the latest in independent and art-house movies as well as hosting the annual Williamstown Film Festival.

## BENNINGTON COLLEGE

We are also only 30 minutes away from Bennington College, another excellent liberal-arts college with an especially strong arts program. Our students attend dance performances, art shows, lectures, and other events at Bennington. We sometimes even play them in soccer!

## THE BERKSHIRES

The Berkshires receive three million visitors each year because of the natural beauty, the spectacular fall leaves, the museums and performing-arts offerings, and the breadth of available outdoor activities. Buxton is nestled in the heart of the Berkshires and has a beautiful, unspoiled campus with mountain views and gorgeous seasons.

## AND MORE...

In addition, we are close to a host of cultural and academic riches in the nearby Pioneer Valley, home to the Five Colleges: Amherst, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, and UMass-Amherst.



“  
THE PEOPLE WHO  
MAKE UP BUXTON HAVE  
A KNACK FOR  
**ACCEPTING**  
PEOPLE FOR  
*who they are.*

...DAVID



# 24 HOURS AT BUXTON



## morning



### WAKE UP!

Time to get ready for classes!



### CHECK IN WITH THE NURSE

Need to let her know that my sore throat is all gone...



### BREAKFAST

Maybe there's still time to grab a McBuxton sandwich.



### CLASSES BEGIN

Time for algebra...or is it English first period today?



### MORNING SNACKS

Please let it be fresh hot-pretzel day!



### CLASSES RESUME

Time to head to the chemistry lab to do some experiments!



## afternoon



### SET TABLES FOR LUNCH

Students take turns waiting tables for lunch. In good weather, the rest of us play four-square on the patio outside.



### LUNCH

Everyone sits down for a family-style meal, followed by all-school announcements.



### AFTER-LUNCH FACULTY MEETING



### AFTERNOON CLASSES BEGIN

I'm ready for my physics test! At least, I think so...



### CLASSES END



### AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Soccer practice—or is it skiing today? Or African drumming?



## evening



### DINNER

Followed by more announcements.



### STUDY HALL OR ARTS ACTIVITY

If it's Tuesday, it must be creative writing—or should I go to figure drawing at Williams College instead?



### STUDY HALL IS OVER

Time for an evening snack at the Main House. I think I'll grab a bite and head down to the theatre for Open Mic night.



### BED-CHECK

Everyone back to the dorms.



### TIME TO DO MY WORK JOB

This week I'm vacuuming the second-floor hallway.



### THE DORM QUIETS DOWN

A few more minutes of homework and then I'll crash.



## EXAMPLES OF WORK PROGRAM CREWS

Splitting wood  
Tractoring  
Raking leaves  
Mowing  
Picking apples  
Making apple cider  
Gardening  
Cleaning  
Costumes for theatre  
Baking  
Recycling  
Composting  
Helping in the library  
Shoveling & sanding  
Tour guide

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# WORK HARD...

**Buxton students take pride in the fact that they care for the school themselves. Not only do you learn new (and useful) skills, you feel real ownership of the place; not only do you get the personal satisfaction of a job well done, you learn to respect the work that others around you are doing as well.**

Fundamental to a Buxton education is the belief that you learn by doing. The philosophy of learning by doing informs our interactive classes, our shared community life, our rich arts program, and the annual Urban Intensive. But nowhere is that idea more explicit than in the working life of the school. Buxton students take care of themselves and their surroundings literally and frequently. By design, the school has no maintenance staff to clean bathrooms, mow lawns, or weed the gardens. Students take care of all that and more: They chop the wood that heats the buildings, rake leaves in fall, shovel snow in winter, and garden in spring. They help in the kitchen and the office, at the theatre, and in the library. This is not busywork; rather, it is

the real, honest work that needs to be done to keep the school functioning. Once here, you will soon see the effects of your efforts and take pride in your contributions. Not only will you acquire valuable skills along the way, you will also gain a visceral sense of responsibility and accomplishment.

## WORK PROGRAM

This student-and-faculty-run program is at the center of the Buxton work experience. Twice a week, the school forms into crews that take on a variety of valuable tasks to maintain and enhance the school. You are given a high degree of responsibility and autonomy during Work Program because we have seen that students consistently rise to the challenges of the work set before

them. You will also have the opportunity to suggest new crews or projects or to engage in seasonal activities like making apple cider in the fall or building a stone wall in the spring.

## WORK JOBS

Every day, you will have a small chore to do to keep your environs pleasant and livable, just as you might empty the dishwasher or walk the dog at home. We call these chores "work jobs." You might be asked to straighten up a classroom or take out the trash; work jobs are simple tasks that, when done by 90 people, add up to a lot of day-to-day maintenance.

# PLAY HARDER...

**SPORTS @ BUXTON** emphasize teamwork, physical fitness, and fun. Anyone can be on any team—the important thing is to take part. Our campus is an outdoor- and fitness-lover’s dream: we have two beautiful soccer fields that overlook the famous Berkshire Mountains; our 120-acre campus includes trails for running, biking, and cross-country skiing; and we are only minutes away from one of the best ski resorts in the Berkshires.

## SOCCER

During the fall term, Buxton encourages all students to join our girls’ and boys’ soccer teams. These teams are inclusive and encouraging. Daily practices foster a sense of camaraderie and mutual admiration, and our membership in the River Valley Athletic League allows us to compete with other small schools in our area.

## BASKETBALL

Buxton fields a co-ed team in this sport, which practices three times/week during the busy winter term. As with soccer, we compete with other schools our size—and have a lot of fun along the way!

## ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Ultimate is our main spring sport. The soccer fields are the perfect locales for spirited and fast-paced Frisbee action. This co-ed sport is a Buxton favorite.

## SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Buxton is a short drive away from Jiminy Peak, a destination ski resort in western Massachusetts. We take students to the mountain three times a week during the winter term. Lessons are available and equipment can be rented if necessary.

## FITNESS & FUN

Every day, Buxton students and faculty run, bike, hike, and walk on the trails in our woods or along the lanes of Williamstown. The great outdoors is certainly that in the Berkshires, and we encourage and support our students in taking advantage of our beautiful, rural locale. Buxton also offers other opportunities for fitness year-round through yoga, weight-lifting, horseback riding, and our thriving drum and dance program.



## WEEKENDS @ BUXTON

At Buxton, the weekends are considered just as important as the weekdays. On Friday nights, the student “Recreation Committee” cooks up an activity for the whole school. On Saturday mornings, we have our long Work Program session. All day Saturday, student volunteers cook for the rest of the school so the kitchen staff can have the day off. At Sunday dinner, we dress up for a formal meal followed by a candlelit “senior service” outside. There are also dance and drum classes, rehearsals, and field trips that occur on weekends. But more importantly, with time and energy at your disposal, you have the freedom to create fun, meaningful moments with other students and faculty. It’s an opportunity to stage an impromptu concert, put together a new ‘zine, or inspire each other to make a movie or organize a dance. In this way we come to know each other better and find inner resources we might not otherwise know we had.

## REC COMMITTEE

One of the most coveted leadership roles at Buxton is to be in charge of “Rec Committee.” Short for “Recreation Committee,” this group of students takes charge of generating an all-school activity every Friday night. These activities range from the ridiculous to the sublime and include everything in between. One Friday might be Skit Night, with students and faculty together acting out absurd situations or engaging in improv games. Next week might be an all-campus game of Capture the Flag or Bears. Or there might be a talent show, an outing to the local bowling alley, or a makeshift luau. Whatever the activity, whether silly or serious, the value of these Friday nights is that we are making exciting things happen together.



CREATIVITY  
ART AT  
BUXTON  
OUR  
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# ART IS ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH + IS, THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL TO EDUCATION.

At Buxton, we pursue art as a way of pursuing ourselves. If you are someone who already identifies yourself as an artist, you will quickly find that your talents are valued and nurtured by our visual arts, photography, ceramics, writing, theatre, music, and dance programs. But even if you have shied away from the arts in the past, we strongly believe it is beneficial to challenge yourself creatively while at Buxton, whether it be through joining the chorus, working on sets for the Urban Intensive Play, or attending figure-drawing sessions. As an experienced practitioner or as a beginner, making art will enrich your life and your mind and, therefore, your education.

## ART IN THE CURRICULUM

We encourage every student to take some sort of arts class to round out his or her educational experience. For some students, these arts classes are the most important periods of the day; for others, they may be a sneak peek into a previously unknown world. Either way, these classes are

considered valuable and essential; you receive credit and report letters for arts classes, just as you would for an academic class. Offerings are available in a variety of disciplines, with opportunities for all students. Choices include (but are not limited to) classes in music theory and composition, drama, ceramics, photography, video production, and studio art.

Studio art is very popular at Buxton. We offer undirected and directed classes; in both, students are free to explore ways of expressing themselves on paper, on canvas, or through sculpture and ceramics; instructors can be as directive or as hands-off as is appropriate to the work, the student, or the situation.

## ART IN EVERYDAY LIFE

In addition to arts classes, we have a wide variety of arts activities that are vital to the life of the school. Rehearsals for our three seasonal plays are held two nights a week, plus there are once- or twice-a-week

meetings of the chorus, the orchestra, small musical ensembles, creative writing, and figure-drawing groups. In addition, African, Caribbean, and Balinese percussion and dance classes meet in the afternoons and on the weekends throughout most of the year. These activities not only stretch us all creatively, they serve as community builders and definers.



## THE ARTS FESTIVALS @ BUXTON

Twice a year, the Buxton community invites family members, friends, and alumni to the campus to experience the vitality and accomplishments of our arts programs. Right before the Thanksgiving break and again in late May, we host a weekend of performances and art shows, visiting and sharing. These weekends not only allow us to show the "outside world" all we've done, but they also allow us to see each other in new and inspiring ways.

“When I'm in the art room and I don't know what to do, I LOOK AROUND AND SEE SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE DOING AMAZING ART THAT I'M INSPIRED.”

...GISELLE



  
 THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT  
 EVERY PART OF BUXTON THAT I  
 LIKE...BUT WHAT I  
 LIKE MOST  
 ARE  
*the people.*

---ALEX



# VISIT

*To set up a tour of our campus:*

**CALL 413-458-3919 OR EMAIL**  
**ADMISSIONS@BUXTONSCHOOL.ORG**

# APPLY

*To apply online:*

**WWW.BUXTONSCHOOL.ORG**

## VISITING

Just as we see education as a lived experience, we feel that spending time at Buxton is essential to understanding it. This book can only approximate what it's really like to talk to students, walk the paths, see the teachers in action, and get a good sense of this extraordinary, intimate community. In fact, we feel this way so strongly that we invite all applicants to visit campus—otherwise, how are you to know if Buxton is right for you? Once here, both you and your parents will have a chance to talk to current students, take a tour, and have an interview with a teacher. International students (or domestic students who live at a great distance) may not be able to get to Williamstown for a visit; in that case, we can set up a video interview that will allow us to get to know you—and you to get to know us!—that much better.

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## APPLYING

You can apply to Buxton either before or after your visit to the campus. We accept online applications through Gateway to Prep Schools and SSAT's Standard Application Online (SAO), as well as others. In addition to the application and fee, we will need transcripts from your current school and two letters of recommendation from adults who know you well (at least one should be a current or recent teacher). If you are an international student, one letter of recommendation should be from an English teacher or someone who can evaluate your written and spoken proficiency in the English language.

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**BUXTON  
SCHOOL**

— est. 1928 —

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