



START HERE.



WORCESTER ACADEMY

Middle School

Upper School

Life on the Hilltop.

Worcester Academy has a proud 186 year history — but we are always looking forward. From our modern and hands-on learning model to our focus on personal and professional growth, our eyes are fixed firmly on the future. Here, you'll put your learning into practice and honor your unique strengths and interests; developing your understanding not just through textbooks, but through exploration and investigation.

That's because we believe that the best education is a well-rounded one — one that teaches our students not what to think; but how to think, and encourages them to flex their creative and problem-solving muscles. We are playful artists and grammar enthusiasts. We are American Math Competition finalists, and 20+ athletic championship winners.

From our 71-acre campus overlooking the city of Worcester, our students enjoy a holistic and forward-focused education, connecting with their local community and learning to achieve the honorable in the classroom and throughout their lives.

**Welcome to
Worcester Academy.**

20

Countries represented in the student body

51

Athletic teams across 17 sports

45

Co-curricular clubs (25% are service-oriented)

2

Theaters, 6 historic buildings, a weather station and a robotics club

14

Students in the average class

80+

student cast and crew members in our annual theatre productions

28

different art classes to choose from

1k

pounds of clay fired each year in our industrial-sized kilns



Learning through exploration.

At Worcester Academy, we believe in answering physics questions by constructing working cars, learning about biology by interacting with animals in their natural habitats, and building our teamwork skills by rallying each other to sports victory.

That's because we know that true understanding comes from doing. Our integrated and experiential curriculum challenges students to think outside the box, developing their creativity and teaching them that for every problem, there is a working solution.

Our campus community is a hive of activity, from theater productions to athletics championships to the school newspaper – and our students contribute to their local community through dozens of service learning projects every year. WA students learn by exploring the world outside and the world within, getting to know themselves and their interests better as they develop the skills they need for a bright future.



Our students connect with and contribute to the local community through organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Outward Bound.



Never a dull moment.



With after-school clubs ranging from programming to improv to Ultimate Frisbee, as well as time-honored traditions like our pep rallies and grade-level competitions, Oskee Weekend, Mountain Day, and Halloween on the Hilltop, campus life at Worcester Academy is never boring.

Whether you're playing ping-pong or foosball between classes, or hanging out after school at the Hilltopper Cafe, you'll enjoy plenty of opportunities to relax, have fun, and take a break from your studies.



45 different student clubs means there's something for everyone.

Have an idea for something new? Let's make it a reality! We can't wait to see what you'll add to the mix.



Balancing science with the stage.



Aishwarya “Aisha” Narayanan ’22 transferred to Worcester Academy in ninth grade from a local public school. “My town is a really big town and there are 500 people per grade, and at WA there are 500 in the whole upper school, so I like the individualized attention that provides. When I visited I saw how different it was, and how all of the teachers knew everyone. It was nice seeing the connections that students have with teachers.”



Aisha also loves the control she has over her studies, and the flexible approach WA offers. “They give you a lot of opportunities — it’s not like you have to take this class, and this class, and this class. As you go into sophomore and junior and senior year, you have more freedom to choose your classes. Next year I’m doubling up in chem and physics, just to get ahead in sciences and take more because that’s what I’m interested in. And I like having the opportunity to do that. At WA, if you want to do something academics-wise and challenge yourself, they support you.”

Aisha is heavily involved in the theater program at WA, something she’s participated in since freshman year. “The shows are just so different, and usually have some sort of lesson in them. I like how we don’t just do big name shows like on Broadway – instead we try to connect with people and send a message.”










As far as balancing study and extra-curriculars goes, Aisha explains that this is part of the WA philosophy. “All of my teachers are really understanding. If you’re stressed and have a busy week, they understand that. Especially for me doing theater, I just tell my teachers I have a lot to do right now and I’m going to be at rehearsal until 8 or 9 – could I have more time for this? And they’ll most likely say yes. They just want you to succeed and will do anything to help you.”

“At WA, if you want to do something academics-wise and challenge yourself, they support you.”





















Fall



Cross country  
Girls' Field Hockey  
Boys' Football  
Soccer  
Volleyball 

Winter

Basketball  
Swimming  
Boys' Wrestling 
Ice Hockey  
Skiing 

Spring

Baseball  
Softball 
Lacrosse  
Track  
Tennis  
Crew 
Golf 

 = Middle School
 = Upper School



Healthy competition.

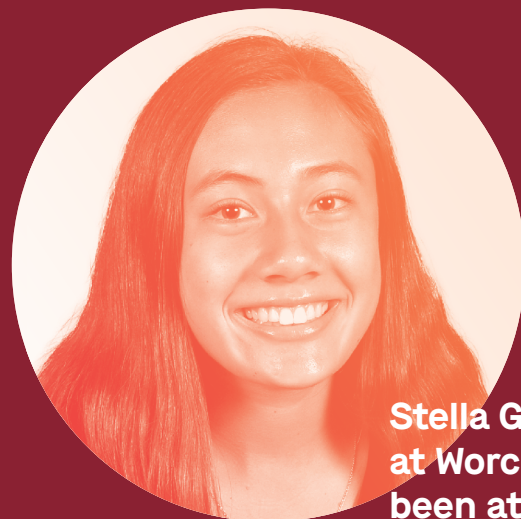
At Worcester Academy, we pride ourselves on the holistic and well-rounded education we provide for our students; and the sense of teamwork, responsibility and camaraderie they share – and this is due in no small part to our renowned athletics program. WA students participate in 17 different team sports with over 50 teams, from football and basketball to swimming, wrestling and ice hockey.

Our student athletes train and play in top-notch facilities, and learn from dedicated and experienced coaches who stoke their passions and support their athletic development. In the last 5 years alone, WA students have won seven high school athletics championships; in baseball, hockey, soccer and basketball.



WA student athletes learn about the value of lifelong health and fitness, and develop essential teamwork skills that serve them on and off the field.

Connecting in & out of the classroom.



Stella Gray is an upper schooler at Worcester Academy, and has been at WA since sixth grade. “I would say my favorite thing about WA is the community. It’s so diverse, especially with the boarding population – I have people in my class from all over the world.”



Stella says time management is one of the most important skills she’s learned during her time at Worcester Academy. Outside of her studies, she works as a student ambassador during school open houses, and she’s a proud member of the girls’ soccer team. “Soccer has been a huge time commitment; I practice every day for 2 hours. But I’ve made my best friends through that team that I’ll stay in touch with after WA. It’s honestly like a second family – we have sleepovers, we help with homework on bus rides, older girls help younger girls, and we have pasta parties every Friday. Our coach does a great job at making sure everyone feels welcome, and brings everyone together.”



She also feels that support and connection in the classroom. “The teachers and students at WA are so amazing. They’re always pushing you to be the best version of yourself, and they’re always willing to help you. I took honors geometry in sophomore year, and our teacher taught in such a different way. Instead of giving us large homework assignments to do at home where we could get stuck, he would send us a video for homework, and we would watch the video of the lesson. Then we would do problems in

class. So it was the opposite; we would learn at home and do homework in class so we could ask questions. It really helped me and prepared me for pre-calc, and I’ve had a great relationship with him since.”

When asked what advice she would give to a new WA student, Stella says, “Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there. I wish I was more involved freshman and sophomore year, even if I was scared to join a club. There are so many unique opportunities and it’s so important to take advantage of them.”



“I would say my favorite thing about WA is the community.”

Getting hands- on.



LIVE

WA Middle Schoolers enjoy an engaging, experiential curriculum alongside the support of a close-knit academic advisory group, to ensure they stay on track and get the most possible out of their learning.

Our middle school programming draws on current events and uses a project-based approach; providing challenge, fun and purpose, and giving our students the critical thinking skills that will serve them through their high school years and beyond.



Grade 6-8 Cultural Awareness for Everyone

Honoring WA's core values of respect, integrity, community, personal growth, and challenge, Cultural Awareness for Everyone (C.A.F.E.) is a course designed to introduce Middle School students to issues of equity and inclusion. Upon completing this course, students will have a greater sense of diversity and privilege, as well as empathy for others.



Grade 6 Arts Cafe

Twice a year, students have the chance to put their Visual and Performing Arts skills into practice by creating large-scale themed family and community events. Each Arts Cafe includes theatre and musical performances with sets designed and constructed by the students, and a meal hosted, cooked, and served by the sixth grade class.



Grade 7 Nature's Classroom Trip

WA seventh graders start their school year with a three-day, two-night trip to Nature's Classroom in Wakefield, Rhode Island; to integrate with new students just joining the WA community, build confidence and independence, and learn about the marine habitats of the New England coastline.

LEARN

Beyond the classroom walls.



Grade 8 S.T.O.R.Y. Talks

Every May, our eighth graders write, rehearse, and perform TED-inspired “Spreading the Truth of Real Youth” (S.T.O.R.Y.) talks from the Warner Theater stage, after spending the year exploring, analyzing, and learning from other authors and using what they learned to craft their own powerful stories.



“The learning style at WA is not traditional. We have a lot of conversations, and all the teachers are very helpful. I like asking lots of questions in class and making sure I understand everything.”

— Nick Nebelung, Middle Schooler

Our Middle School curriculum includes a number of immersive excursions, allowing students to engage with and contribute to their community in unique ways and cultivate the six skills of lifelong learners: communication, creative and critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, collaboration, cultural competency, and global connection.

Extracurricular learning

Club offerings change from year to year based on faculty expertise and student interest, and students are welcome to propose new clubs if they’re aligned with WA’s mission and core values and there is a faculty member available. In past years, students have created clubs in Strength Training, Anime, Ultimate Frisbee, Knitting, Dungeons and Dragons, Open Art Studio, A Cappella, Ukelele, and Chess; to name but a few.



New York Trips

Worcester Academy has a special relationship with the city of New York.

In the sixth grade, our students take a day trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Central Park, before creating their own works of art for “The MET at WA.” In seventh grade, our students go on an overnight trip and visit the 9/11 Memorial, The American Museum of Natural History, and other sites that expand on our American Studies and STEM curriculums. Finally, in eighth grade, our Middle Schoolers embark on the Outward Bound course, an iconic rite of passage at WA. During this four-day excursion, students work with community organizations in the city’s five boroughs, experiencing New York in all its rich diversity as they explore neighborhoods, meet residents and reflect on how they can make an impact in their own communities. The Outward Bound trip is an integral opportunity for students to live out the school’s motto of Achieving the Honorable, deepening their understanding of and connection to diverse communities and urban environments.

Learning for life.



Our Upper School curriculum is substantive and hands-on, preparing students for further education and deepening students' understanding by connecting what they learn in the classroom with how they can apply it in the real world.

Through project-based learning, study abroad and service opportunities, and a supportive academic community, our upper school students develop the innovative thinking, strong work ethic and sense of purpose that will guide their learning for life.

Each year, our students Achieve the Honorable by logging tens of thousands of community service hours (around 20,000 annually!), and expand their horizons in places like Denmark, Italy, and China.

Every Upper School student completes each year at WA with a Graduation Project in which they plan, develop, and deliver a presentation in an area of their choice; further developing their time management and independent learning skills and allowing them to dive in to subjects they're passionate about.



Upper school students can choose from a myriad of electives, from Detective Fiction to Forensic Science to Costume Design.



21

Honors
Courses

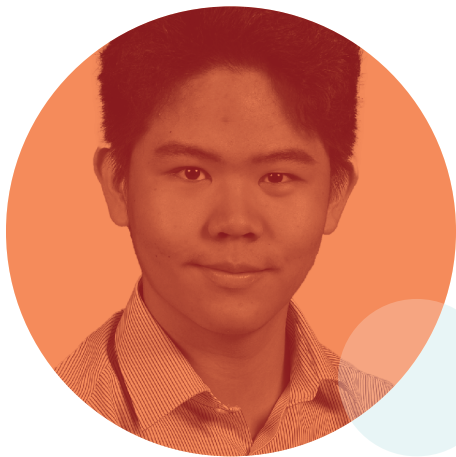
21

Advanced
Placement
Courses

4

Post-Advanced
Placement
Courses

Getting outside your comfort zone.



Alan Wang came to Worcester Academy all the way from Beijing, China. When he arrived and started to settle in, he was faced with the added challenge of building on his English language skills; so he spent most of his first few weeks with other international students. He soon realized that in order to get the most out of his WA experience, he would have to expand his connections and step outside his comfort zone.

"I realized that there's a bigger world in WA than the boarding community, and I began to participate in clubs and sports. I joined JV basketball my freshman year, I met a lot of great friends through that and learned about language and basketball techniques. The domestic students are so welcoming. They are very curious about our stories too as international students, which is great."

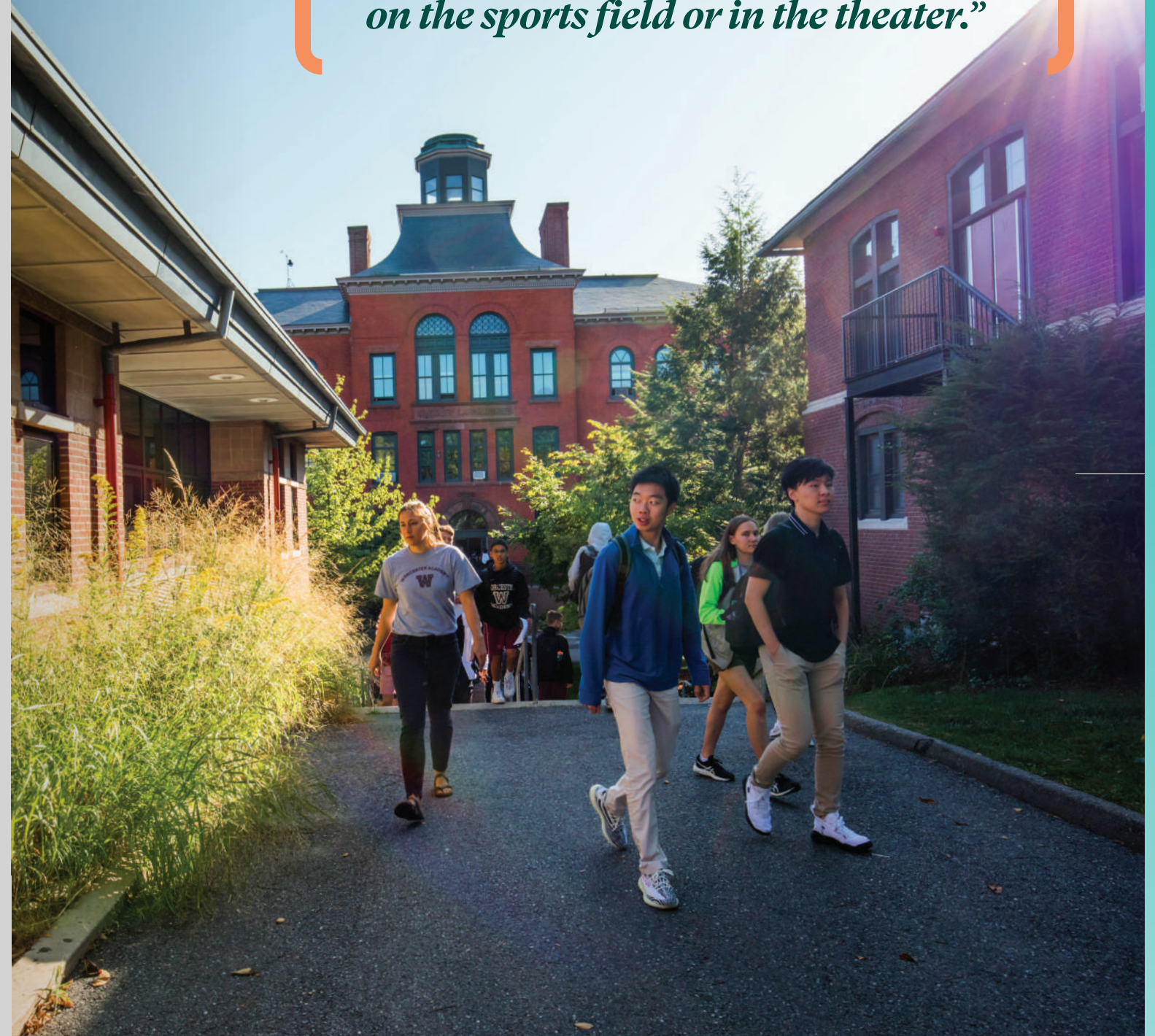
Alan became more and more involved in the WA community, and now serves on the international board of monitors; a part of the student committee. "My role is to organize activities that tie together domestic and international students. One of the most exciting things I've been a part of is the international assembly that's held yearly. We basically put together people from different countries to perform on the stage, and give the stage to the international students. We have martial arts, singing, even K-pop dancing."

Alan is also involved in athletics and arts co-curriculars at WA. "I'm on the varsity cross-country team, and I'm involved in the orchestra. I'm also involved in the gender sexuality alliance club, which is a supportive plan for LGBTQ students and their allies. We talk about what the school is doing well, what we can improve, and just learn about LGBTQ history and advocate for social justice." As if that wasn't enough, Alan also participates in the model UN debating club, the politics club, and "Afternoon Tunes," in which WA students teach younger school students from the local community how to play instruments.

"The sense of community is getting stronger and stronger every year. I get really excited to see my peers achieving the honorable, whether it's on the sports field or in the theater. My advice to new students is to join clubs and get outside your comfort zone. The reason I'm in the place I am today is because I was brave enough to talk to people and get to know people. WA students are so supportive of each other, and that's wonderful."



"The sense of community is getting stronger and stronger every year. I get really excited to see my peers achieving the honorable, whether it's on the sports field or in the theater."





Our Student Proctors and Live-In Dorm Parents

are always there to show you the ropes and help you settle into residential life.

Learn where you live.

Worcester Academy is home to a vibrant community of residential students from towns and cities throughout the U.S. and across the globe, with 35% of upper school students choosing to live on campus as either 5-day or 7-day boarders.

As a residential student, you'll enjoy countless opportunities to connect with the WA community and make yourself at home, from sit-down "dorm family" meals to monthly Dorm Cup challenge events. What's more, our central location means you'll have access to all the arts, culture, and connection the city of Worcester (and nearby Boston) have to offer.

For recent high school graduates from other schools, Worcester Academy offers a one-year postgraduate program, designed for students who feel they would benefit from an extra year of secondary education to further grow their academic or athletic skills before college.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a foundational necessity and integral to the broader focus on the culture of WA. Equity and inclusion must be woven into the business of the Academy as a priority driver in decision making, as we reinforce a sense of belonging for all and build forward from our successes to rework and invent new pathways for teaching and learning, and create sustainable learning environments in whatever capacity necessary given the ever-changing landscape. In addition to our growing multicultural and anti-racist curriculum, and a plethora of DEI-focused programming, we also have affinity groups, the celebration of heritage and nationally observed celebration months that provide spaces for learning and connection, as well as space for students to explore their identities, ideologies, and passions.

From faculty to family.

Deb is a Worcester native, so she was delighted when her oldest son made the decision to attend WA. “We left it up to him to decide where he wanted to go. The sense of community at WA hit him every time he visited, and he felt the most at home and the most sense of family here. So the decision was his, and we were really happy with that.”

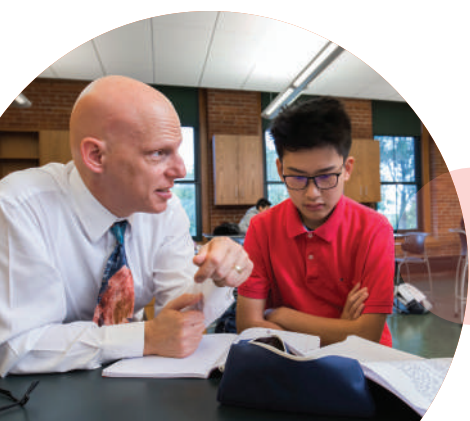
She says one of the things she values most about Worcester Academy is the unique style of teaching. “It’s been an amazing opportunity for my son to recognize where he can develop more, because the teachers really push him; and yet they do it in a way that develops him as a whole person. The way they’ve taught him is anything but standard – it’s creative, and personal.”

One of the reasons for this, Deb says, is because of the diversity and shared values of the WA community. “Diversity is a huge part of WA; meeting international students and having the opportunity to travel. And the community connection means that students learn to become comfortable with all walks of life, and how to embrace and welcome that. Growing up, my parents were big on helping the community, and at WA they have great community partnerships, so it’s a great match.”

“The way WA cared for him and for our family was really remarkable.”

However, things haven’t always been smooth sailing for the Floyd family. In his sophomore year, Deb’s oldest son was diagnosed with cancer, after he scheduled a checkup following a cancer awareness and education event at WA. He is healthy now, and Deb looks back on that time with equal parts relief and gratitude. “It was obviously a very emotional and overwhelming year, but it was a year that I felt immense gratitude knowing that every step of the way, the school embraced him. I took solace in knowing that his coaches, his teachers, his advisors... they all loved him like I did. And there’s no replacing that. The way WA cared for him and for our family was really remarkable.”

Now that her oldest is leaving for college, Deb has come full circle; with her daughter Kiely currently enrolled in upper school at WA and her youngest son considering attending. “We didn’t plan on WA, but we’re so grateful; and so glad we’ve had the opportunity for our children to grow from the way they lead there. It’s just a blessing.”



You can practically see your future from here.



From the comfort and natural beauty of our campus, Worcester Academy students enjoy easy access to all the adventure and opportunity the city has to offer, including 65+ arts and cultural destinations (such as the heralded Worcester Art Museum), 60+ city parks, 22 nearby ski trails, and 20 daily trains to nearby Boston.

We are high on a hill overlooking the city of Worcester, New England's second largest. But we are not an island. Our students live and learn with a view of our namesake city, along with all the connection and learning opportunities it offers.

Our culture-rich location combined with our modern, hands-on curriculum means our students connect with the surrounding community in ways that enhance their skills and expand their understanding, giving them a unique perspective that perfectly prepares them for whatever the future holds.



WA & WooSox

One such example is our new partnership with Worcester's minor league baseball team, the Worcester Red Sox, or "WooSox."



Our WA student baseball team will play one game every year at the expansive, newly-constructed Polar Park stadium in downtown Worcester, as well as being able to use the state-of-the-art facility for athletic training and workshops.

Community connection.



Open Gates

Our Open Gates program, now entering its second decade, was created with the aim of weaving the cultural, academic, and civic richness of the Worcester community into day-to-day life at Worcester Academy. The idea behind the program is to "open the gates" to intriguing and timely ideas, thinkers, and issues; especially those with particular relevance to WA and the broader community. Open Gates events have included poetry slams, industry guest speakers, independent film screenings, discussions on climate change and other environmental issues, Latin dance classes, and photography exhibitions. Events often feature talented WA alums, and they are always free and open to the public.

Worcester Academy is inextricably tied to its namesake city; and that's the way we like it. Every year, we think of new ways to give our students the advantage of our central location, expanding their learning experiences and teaching them the meaning of community engagement and connection.



OPEN

Our school motto encompasses
all of our core values – Honor,
Respect, Community, Personal
Growth, and Challenge.

Coined by Daniel Webster Abercrombie, our
Principal from 1882 until 1918, the phrase
“Achieve the Honorable” was designed not simply
to motivate students, but to demonstrate the
academic rigor and strength of character of WA’s
students and faculty to Hilltoppers and the public
alike. Today, it serves as the guiding philosophy
behind everything we do; and it’s the phrase
every member of the WA community is expected
to live up to every day.

ACHIEVE
THE
HONORABLE.



Worcester Academy®
81 Providence Street
Worcester, MA 01604
508-754-5302
worcesteracademy.org

