



**DANA HALL**  
**SCHOOL**

**Intellect without apology**



Your intelligence. Your ideas. Your perspectives. The things you love to do. The ways you hope to grow. All the big questions you have, which always seem to lead to a million little ones. How you plan to change the world. (Because you will.)

All of that matters at Dana Hall, because you matter at Dana Hall. Bolstered by your classmates, buoyed by your teachers, at home in your community, you'll gain the courage to take bold risks. Unlock every ounce of your potential. And decide for yourself what it means to be you—unequivocally and unapologetically you.

**Be daring.  
Be audacious.  
Be Dana Hall.**



**“Conversations that start in the classrooms continue in the hallways, in the Dining Hall, in club meetings. Students are excited to engage in the life of the mind at Dana Hall. Our curriculum is strong, and our academic culture is incredibly vibrant.”**

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**JESSICA KEIMOWITZ**

DIRECTOR OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

# You + Dana Hall

How to tell if you're a match

## **You love to learn—and you don't want to lose that.**

Our curriculum is far-ranging, and our courses are challenging. While you'll work harder here than you ever have, we're confident that the sparks of joy and excitement you feel when you master new concepts and tackle important questions will shine brighter at Dana Hall than they would anywhere else.

At Dana Hall, we know that when students experience a high level of stress, they don't achieve their best academically. We value your social and emotional needs as well as your intellect, and we work to ensure that you're appropriately challenged in every class without being overwhelmed. Your time will be well spent here—diving deeply into intriguing topics, collaborating on projects addressing real global issues, and building the skills to thrive in college (and beyond).

## **You want to surround yourself with smart, interesting people.**

Dana Hall is the only girls day and boarding school in the Boston area. This is your chance to attend a top school in one of the world's most prolific cultural and intellectual capitals (Wellesley! MIT! Harvard!)—with girls from all corners of the globe. Our students come from states as far away as Georgia and California and regions as varied as Singapore, China, Turkey, and Mexico, bringing with them a wide range of perspectives, traditions, and beliefs. Learning with them will enrich your education. Befriending them will change your life.







**You want to be the one who defines your future.**

In some schools, students feel pressure to define themselves at an early age—as the academic achiever, the star athlete, the artsy kid. Good news: At Dana Hall, you can be any or all of those things (and simultaneously). Here, you have ample opportunity—and unmatched encouragement—to nurture your talents and try new things. Run for student council. Take private guitar lessons. See how your ballet skills transfer to the fencing strip. Embrace intellectual and creative challenges in a broad range of courses, like Mandarin, AP Physics, and Principles of Engineering. Soon, you'll discover that your comfort zone is a lot bigger than you thought—and your interests and abilities even more expansive than you knew.

**You're one part competitive and three parts kind.**

The competition you experience at Dana Hall will be mainly with yourself, as you continuously strive to excel in your academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits—and cheer for your classmates as they do the same. Our students value kindness over cliques, celebrate each other's successes, and lift up those who falter. Free from the social concerns they might encounter in other environments, our students enthusiastically get down to the important business of calculating derivatives, discussing critical themes in *The Hate U Give*, designing the lightboard for the spring musical, and perfecting their stick-handling skills in the hockey rink.



# Girls to the front

Ask bold questions. Pursue solutions that may fail. Take your mind places it's never been. Put your heart into everything you do. Get your hands dirty.

The academic program at Dana Hall is demanding, expansive, enthralling—and one hundred percent all girls. In every classroom, every laboratory, and every studio, girls wield the power—and the power tools. They handle the soldering irons, wire the robots, design the experiments, lead the discussions, and get called on to answer all the questions. It's exciting, empowering, and eye-opening—and it changes everything.

You'll engage unabashedly in class discussions. Become accustomed to taking the reins and advocating for your needs. Enjoy the freedom to make mistakes. Carry yourself with confidence. And learn quickly that your future is truly unlimited.



## Across-the-board excellence

- Top-tier curriculum that includes 16 APs and 12 honors-level courses
- Exciting electives, such as Current Topics in Science, Architecture, and Songwriters' Experience
- Average class size of 12 students
- Exceptional faculty, 83% with advanced degrees



## Conversation and connection

JASMINE, JUNIOR

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Although her proudest Dana Hall moment may be acing her freshman-year physics final, Jasmine is most captivated by her English courses. “My favorite class this year is Conversations in American Literature,” says Jasmine. “Right now, we’re reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, which doesn’t portray women from a modern perspective. We’re analyzing that and putting it into context.” Jasmine’s love of the written word—and the confidence she’s gained as a writer—inspired her to enroll in a journalism class and write for the online school newspaper, *Hallmanac*. “I’ve been able to interview classmates and teachers, and connect even more with the Dana Hall community.”



# A passion for pedagogy

## Possibility unbound

TARA JENNINGS

If Science Department Head Tara Jennings has one main goal, it's awakening girls to the world of possibilities in the sciences. Her students collect water samples in a nearby stream, visit research labs at Wellesley College, and interact, in person and online, with women working at the forefront of climate science, aquatic biology, forensics, and other STEM-related fields. "We work hard to ensure our students retain their enthusiasm for science, and to break down boundaries to traditionally male-dominated disciplines," says Tara. "I'm encouraged by how many Dana Hall students express interest in pursuing STEM majors in college."

"Pedagogy" is the art and science of teaching—and our faculty is obsessed with it. Striving, always, to perfect their craft, they seek out new curricular approaches at STEM conventions; learn the art of storytelling at Moth StorySLAMs; and discover new ways to cultivate equitable classrooms at Harvard's Project Zero institute. And they're just as passionate about the subjects they teach as they are about teaching them well. Their enthusiasm—for Shakespeare, sculpture, bioethics, Latin—is palpable, inspiring, and indelible.







## Another level

BRIAN COOK

While students at most high schools take world history, Dana Hall students encounter Area Studies. They choose a specific region—such as Africa, East Asia, the Middle East, or Russia—and explore everything from its history, art, food, and folklore to emerging political and economic issues. “Area Studies courses offer college-level depth taught by faculty with true expertise,” says Brian Cook, head of the Social Studies Department. “Students build subject-matter mastery and gain experience evaluating complex issues—such as immigration and human rights—from multiple perspectives. For their final project, they propose creative solutions to those issues, essentially doing the work of regional experts.”

**“In AP Statistics, students work with real data sets—poverty levels, incarceration rates—learning not only the differential calculation of functions, but how these statistics apply in context. Social justice isn’t relegated to humanities; it’s infused into everything we do. We’re committed to preparing women of the world with the capacity and determination to act on what they know.”**

NIA JACOBS, ACADEMIC DEAN





Conference rooms, cozy chairs, and the Dining Hall make the Erisman Student Center the literal and figurative center of campus life and connections.





ERISMAN STUDENT CENTER



## An open forum

ERICA RAMIREZ

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“One of the things that makes Dana Hall unique is the number of avenues students have to share their thoughts, ideas, and experiences,” says Director of Community, Equity, and Inclusion Erica Ramirez. “In every space—classes, clubs, advisory groups—students have the chance to reflect on and solidify their learning.” Erica has been building on this unique aspect of Dana Hall in a number of important ways, including through parent programming. (See sidebar.)

“We want to help parents develop a shared language to talk about difficult issues and current events with their children, and to ensure that everyone in our community feels seen, heard, and respected.”



# Undefine yourself

Society places a lot of expectations around who you ought to be, what you ought to look like, how you ought to act. Dana Hall doesn't. Our community strives to be inclusive, open, joyful, and kind. Come as you are, and become everything you hope to be—proudly and without compromise.

We do expect a few things: your dedication to understanding the world better, knowing yourself more fully—and constantly working to improve both. Engaging in difficult dialogues and confronting our own biases is a hallmark of Dana Hall; working hard to create a more just and equitable world is a hallmark of our students and alumnae.

## Inclusion across the experience

- A **curriculum** that elevates diverse authors, artists, thinkers, and historically marginalized voices
- **Forum**, a once-a-week class led by an adult facilitator where students (respectfully, openly) discuss pretty much everything—from social justice to cyberethics to personal decision-making
- **Affinity groups**—such as those for students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and students of different faiths—that allow for challenging conversations and the affirmation and shaping of personal identities
- Special programming, including the annual **Day of Community Learning**, featuring student- and adult-led presentations and workshops on crucial topics such as the consequences of “fast fashion” and the model minority myth
- **Parent programs** including book groups, on-campus speakers (live streamed or recorded for boarding families), and affinity groups such as the Families of Students of Color Collaborative



## Learning beyond our walls

Intern at the Harvard Art Museum. Get a glimpse into ancient Roman life at the ruins of Pompeii. Visit the Robben Island jail where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. Dana Hall believes in the power of firsthand experience. We bring students to local museums, performance venues, and historical and cultural sites; offer life-changing trips to countries such as Italy, Greece, and South Africa; and participate in a range of internship, community service, and international exchange programs.

# Where girls—literally—rule

Edit the Dana Hall School yearbook. Lead an affinity group or start your own club. Run for co-president of your class. Serve as a peer educator. Co-captain the volleyball team. Curate an art exhibition.

Dana Hall students stand at center stage and help run everything behind the scenes. And we mean everything—from the actual behind-the-scenes at the school plays (including stage managing, art directing, and designing and running the lightboards) to school-wide decisions like which community service projects to prioritize. In fact, the Dana Hall greenhouse runs on solar power because of a student proposal. Our students are valued, given a surprising degree of agency, and learn how to effect change in the ways that matter to them most.

## Boarding program: Fast facts

- Dana Hall is the only girls boarding school in the Boston area.
- Our 135 boarding students come from regions as diverse as Texas, California, Iraq, Nigeria, and South Korea.
- Approximately 32 faculty and staff live on campus along with their families.
- Boston is just 12 miles (19 kilometers) from campus and easily accessible by rail. In just 30 minutes, you can be enjoying an exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art, noshing on dim sum in Chinatown, or hanging out with friends on Boston Common—the oldest city park in the U.S.
- A five-minute walk from campus, Wellesley's town center offers excellent food choices (frozen desserts, baked goods, pizza, Thai food, tea, and coffee), retail shops, pharmacies, and more.
- Weekend activities for day and boarding students have included movie nights, poetry slams, faculty-led trips to Mount Sunapee and Six Flags, and Party with a Purpose—a co-ed dance marathon that raises money for a local nonprofit.



At Dana Hall, we take our work seriously, but not ourselves. You'll experience that firsthand through traditions like Revels and Step Sing and the anything-goes-variety-show Cabaret. Traditions are a fun way to connect with your peers, and a link to past and future Dana Hall students.

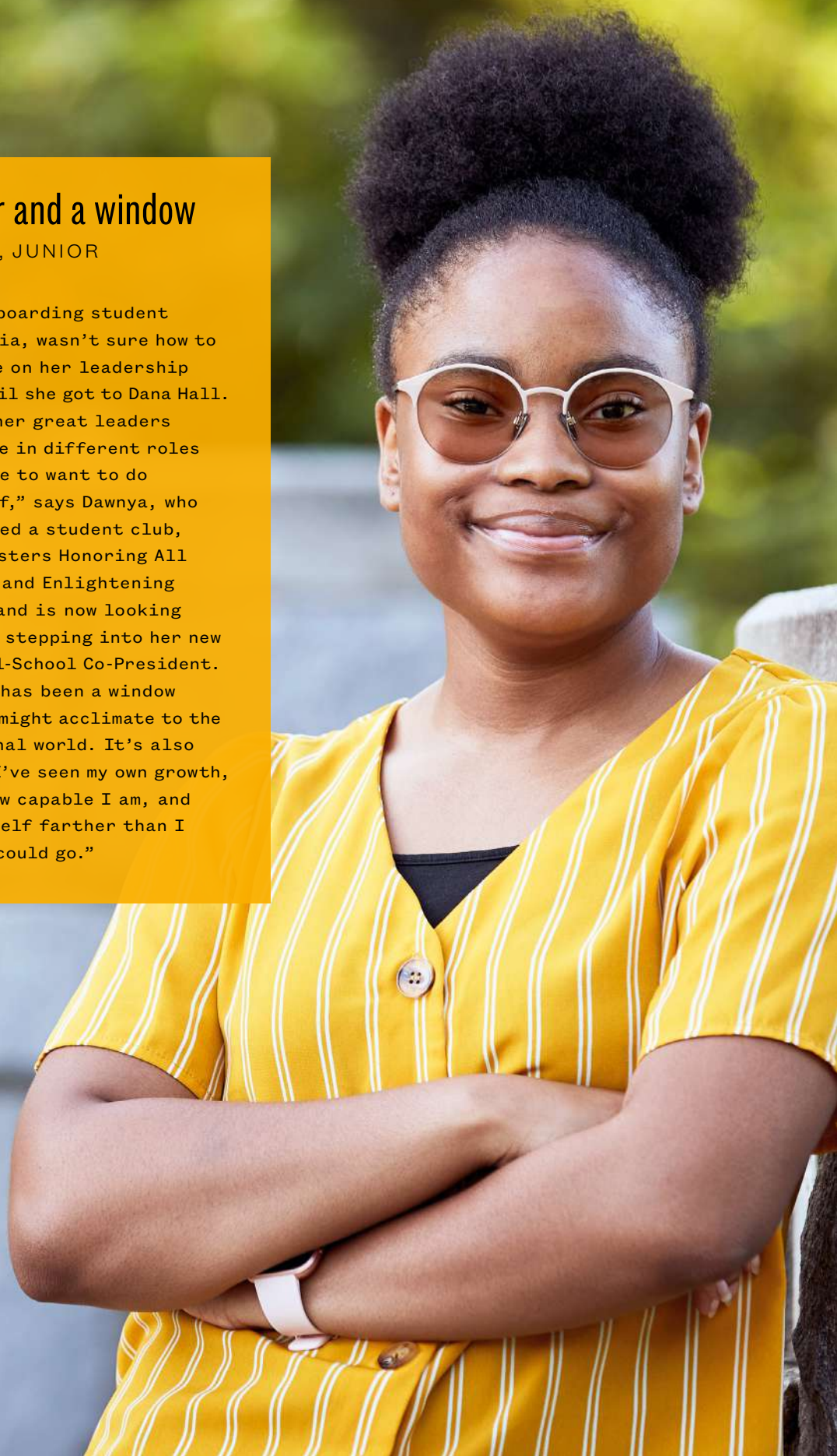


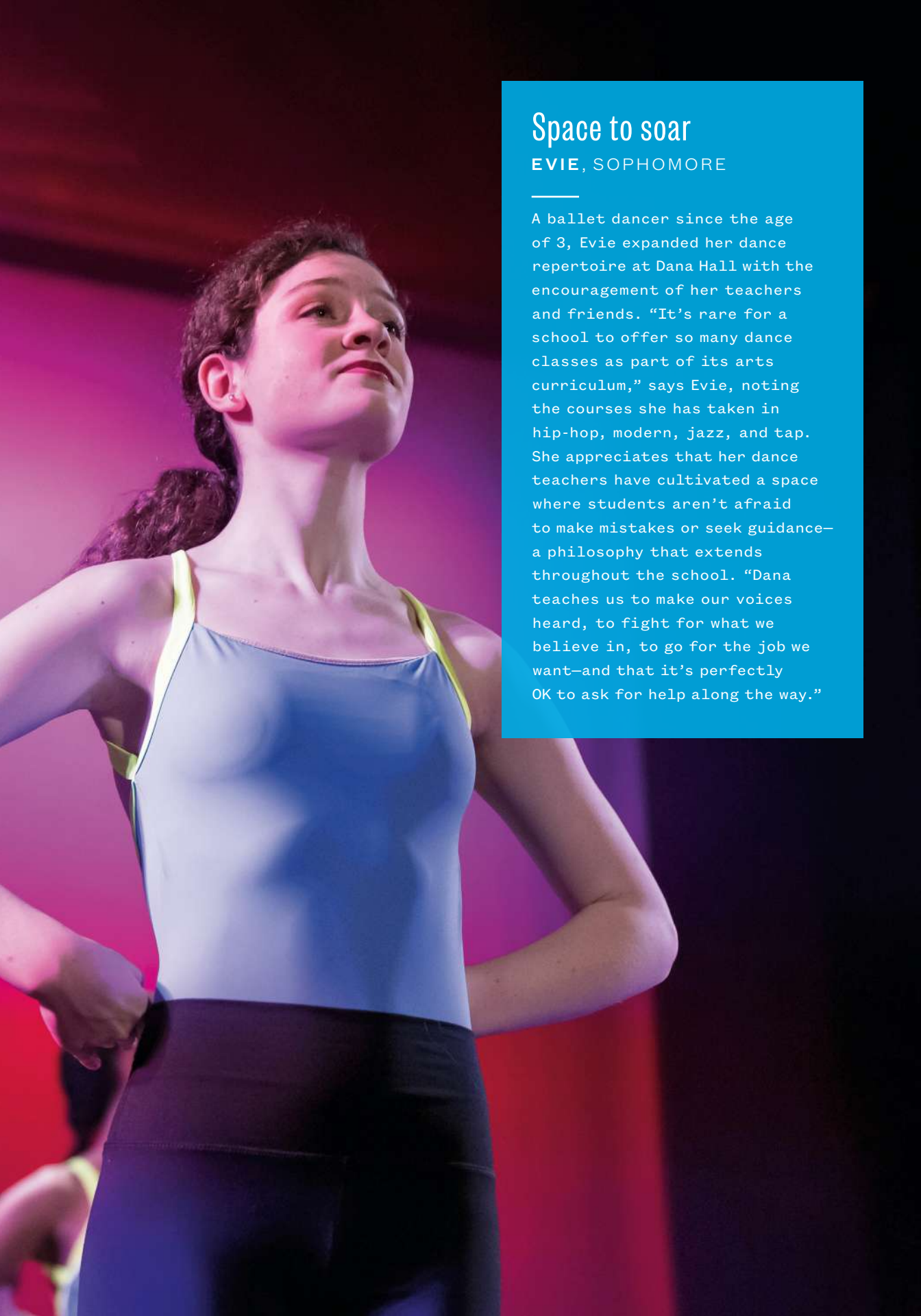
## A mirror and a window

DAWNYA, JUNIOR

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Dawnya, a boarding student from Georgia, wasn't sure how to capitalize on her leadership skills until she got to Dana Hall. "Seeing other great leaders take charge in different roles inspired me to want to do that myself," says Dawnya, who recently led a student club, SHADES (Sisters Honoring All Diasporas and Enlightening Society), and is now looking forward to stepping into her new role as All-School Co-President. "Dana Hall has been a window into how I might acclimate to the professional world. It's also a mirror. I've seen my own growth, learned how capable I am, and pushed myself farther than I thought I could go."





## Space to soar

EVIE, SOPHOMORE

A ballet dancer since the age of 3, Evie expanded her dance repertoire at Dana Hall with the encouragement of her teachers and friends. “It’s rare for a school to offer so many dance classes as part of its arts curriculum,” says Evie, noting the courses she has taken in hip-hop, modern, jazz, and tap. She appreciates that her dance teachers have cultivated a space where students aren’t afraid to make mistakes or seek guidance—a philosophy that extends throughout the school. “Dana teaches us to make our voices heard, to fight for what we believe in, to go for the job we want—and that it’s perfectly OK to ask for help along the way.”



# Exponential potential



Compete for our top-placing Debate Team. Audition for Chamber Singers. Tutor children at a nearby elementary school. Give campus tours to future students. Run cross country in the fall. Play softball in the spring. The activities you can engage in at Dana Hall are virtually limitless. (Which means your future can be, too.)



## Artistic endeavors

From designing earthquake-proof buildings to competing in poetry competitions, Dana Hall students have endless opportunities to express themselves and explore their creativity. You can:

- Take instrument or voice lessons, learn music theory and composition, or join a percussion group or jazz combo through our School of Music
- Write, produce, or star in a full-scale drama or musical, such as *The Laramie Project* or *Chicago*, with boys from Roxbury Latin and Belmont Hill schools
- Choose from three levels of ballet, modern, and jazz as well as beginning and intermediate/advanced hip-hop and tap
- Enjoy a wide variety of visual arts courses, ranging from Photography and Ceramics to AP Art History and AP Studio Art

Every year, dozens of Dana Hall students receive an award or honorable mention from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program—the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S.



# Venturing out pays off

KEIRA, SOPHOMORE

Keira comes from a family of hockey players. Not one for ice skating, Keira decided to seek uncharted (and unfrozen) waters as a swimmer. Venturing out has paid off: In her sophomore season, Keira set a school record in the 100-meter breaststroke and received a number of accolades—including Eastern Independent League MVP and Swimmer of the Year. “The coaches always know how to get me ready for a big race or relay, to get me in the mindset to win,” says Keira. “Everyone on the team is supportive, and so is the entire community at Dana Hall. Sports are an important part of the experience here.”



“Athletes achieve their best with the right coaches. For every team, we hire coaches who are the right fit in terms of knowledge, experience, and their ability to engage and motivate youth players.”

BECKY KIMBALL  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS,  
HEALTH, AND WELLNESS



## Athletics highlights

- **Knowledgeable and effective coaches**, many who have competed at the college or professional level
- **Winning teams**—including volleyball, swimming, and tennis—which have all recently won consecutive Eastern Independent League championships
- **Exceptional facilities**, including a 34-foot-high climbing wall; six-lane swimming pool with full observation deck; ice hockey rink; separate studios for fencing, dance, and spinning; tennis courts; squash courts; suspended indoor track; two basketball/volleyball courts; softball fields; turf and grass fields; and fitness center with state-of-the-art treadmills, elliptical trainers, rowing machines, and more
- **A top equestrian program** that includes five dedicated instructors, a barn for 45 horses, 12 turnout paddocks, two indoor arenas, an outdoor arena, and an internship program open to all
- **Fitness classes** for all levels including strength training, rock climbing, spinning, sports performance, lifeguarding, tai chi, yoga, and Pilates



## Interscholastic sports

### Fall

Cross country  
Equestrian  
Field hockey  
Soccer  
Volleyball

### Winter

Basketball  
Equestrian  
Fencing  
Ice hockey  
Squash  
Swimming

### Spring

Equestrian  
Lacrosse  
Softball  
Tennis

## Riding high

RACHAEL, JUNIOR

“I like to prove people wrong,” says Rachael of her decision to get back on her horse after being bucked off during her first riding lesson. An accomplished rider who has competed in the Youth Olympics, Rachael came to Dana Hall from her home country of Jamaica for our top-tier academics and the chance to take her riding skills to the next level. “My coach, Sarah Summers, knows me better than I know myself,” says Rachael, who, along with her horse, Cersei, recently placed second at a high-profile competition in China, where they competed against riders from all over the world.







Social Studies coursework comes alive when students take spring break trips and visit historic sites like the Temple of Poseidon in Greece.

The Senior Projects Program presents an opportunity to pursue an off-campus internship, like shadowing a doctor at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.





# Endless engagement

From clubs to internships to international exchange programs, Dana Hall students have unmatched opportunities to engage intellectually, creatively, and compassionately. Here are just a few ways to enrich your life, and impact your surroundings, at Dana Hall.

- **Express your creative side** by drawing or writing for *Mirage*, Dana Hall's literary magazine.
- **Hone your negotiation skills** as a delegate on our nationally ranked Model United Nations team.
- **Advance women's rights** through the Girl Up Club, a sister program to the Girl Up Club at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.
- **Protect the planet** as part of the Green Team, which runs our community garden and started our bike share program.
- **Brainstorm new product ideas** as a member of the Entrepreneurship Club.
- **Be an ally** by joining BRIDGE, Dana Hall's gay/straight/bisexual/transgender alliance group.
- **Learn beyond campus** through faculty-led spring break trips to places such as Greece, Italy, and South Africa.
- **Expand your world** by spending a semester at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington, D.C. or the High Mountain Institute in Colorado; participating in an exchange program in Australia, Spain, or Japan; or studying abroad for a year in China, France, Spain, or Italy.
- **Prepare for your future** through an internship in Boston at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the Massachusetts State House, or Fidelity Investments.

During class retreats, sophomores kick off their yearlong focus on community service by volunteering at Sharing the Harvest Community Farm in South Dartmouth, Mass.



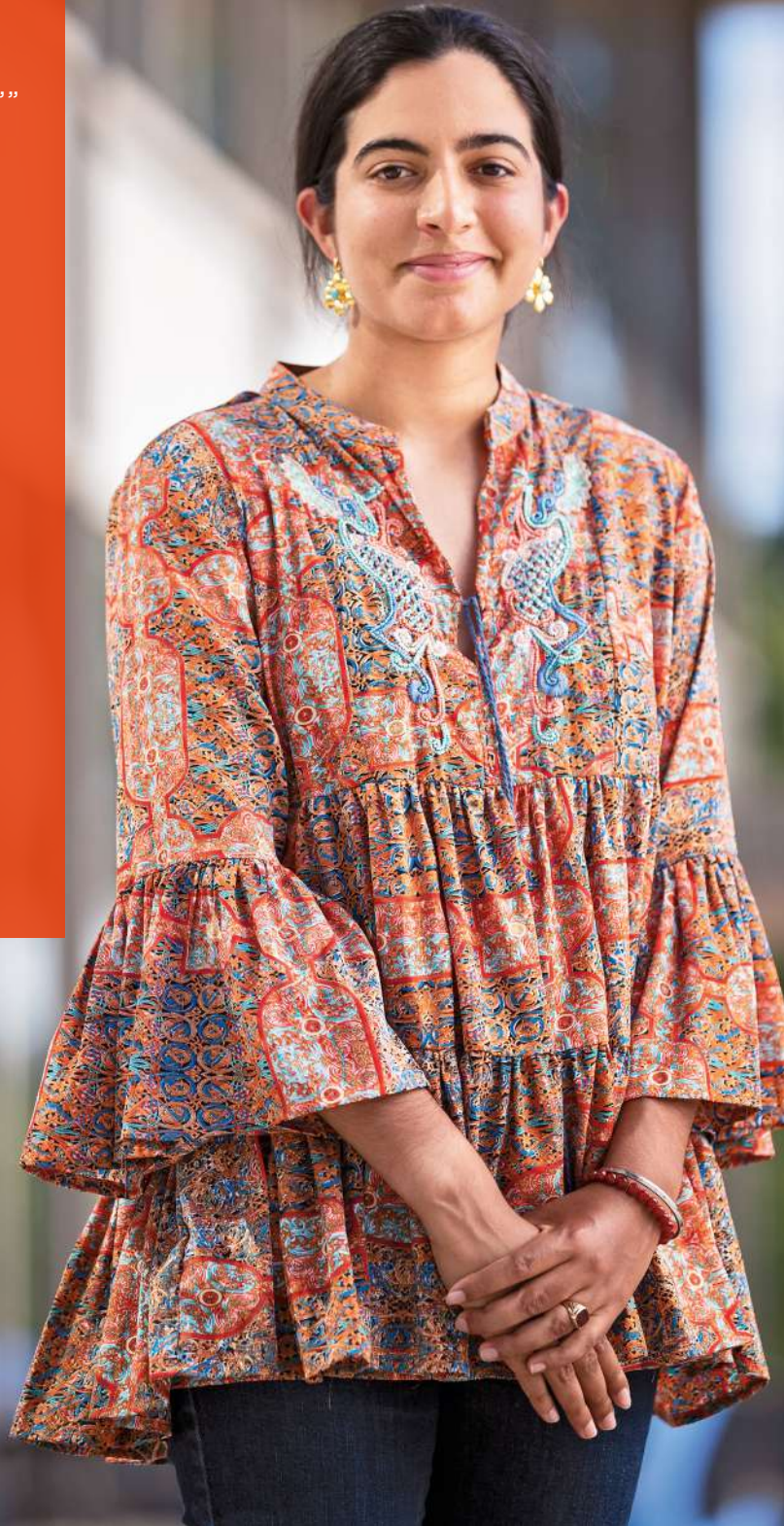


## Digging deeper

JACKIE HAYRE-PEREZ

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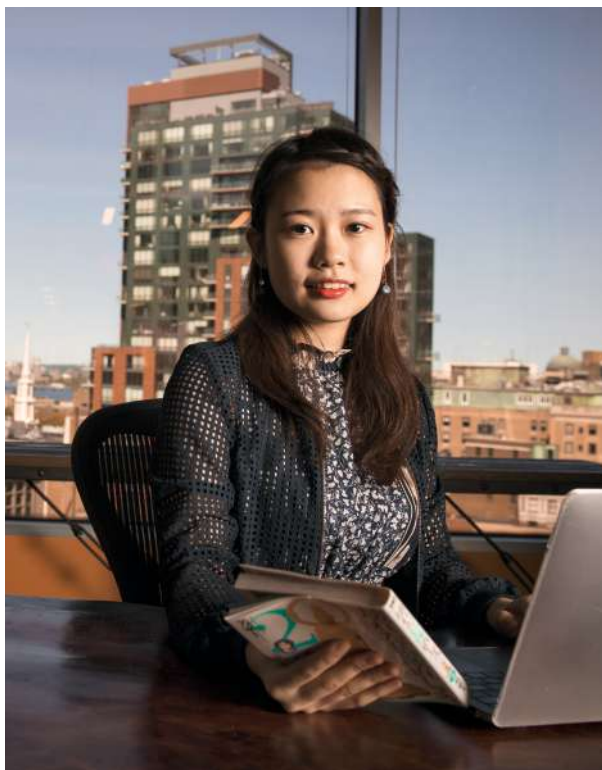
“To make it meaningful, not just informative, you must go deeper,” says Jackie Hayre-Perez ’17, echoing the advice her Dana Hall history teacher gave her during a writing workshop, where they discussed her paper on human rights perspectives in Saudi Arabia. “That lesson changed the way I write, and the way I think. I use it in everything I do.” Now a double major in political science and religious studies at Yale University, Jackie credits Dana Hall with giving her a strong sense of direction—and of self. “I had generous teachers and brilliant, supportive friends,” says Jackie. “And through activities like photography, fencing, horseback riding, and Model UN, I became a more involved and productive member of my community.”



# Where do Dana Hall students go?

All Dana Hall graduates enroll in a four-year college or university, many at the world's top ranked—such as Columbia, UPenn, RPI, Smith, and UC Berkeley, to name a few recent examples. We prepare every student to thrive in her ideal college and choose a path that matches her talents and aspirations. From earning an advanced degree in neuroscience at Oxford to establishing a nonprofit that supports women's education in developing countries, Dana Hall alumnae set ambitious goals and lead fulfilling, consequential lives.

But more than where they attend and what they achieve, we're proud of who our students become—strong, fierce young women ready to make their mark on the world. Our graduates leave Dana Hall with the ability to think—*really* think. To clearly articulate what they know and how they know it. Assess their own mastery and where they need to improve. Understand diverse perspectives and live up to their own ideals. Grab hold of their futures firmly, and pivot when the world requires.



## How do they get there?

Our teachers and college counselors care deeply about what comes next for Dana Hall students. Beginning in ninth grade, advisors discuss with students the importance of class choices and good grades when it comes to college admissions. We offer programs to help parents understand the college admissions landscape, and we are there for students at every step of the way—helping them assess their personal goals and needs, prepare for interviews, ask the right questions during college visits, and make smart choices on application essays, art portfolios, music and theater auditions, and athletic highlight reels. For more about our college counseling program, visit [DANAHALL.ORG/ACADEMICS/COLLEGE-COUNSELING](https://danahall.org/academics/college-counseling).

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# Affording Dana Hall

Dana Hall is committed to an inclusive, equitable future—and we believe that future begins with the community we cultivate here. We seek to enroll a diverse class of bright, enthusiastic students regardless of socioeconomic status. We are equally committed to ensuring that every student benefits from the full scope of what Dana Hall has to offer.

- Over \$4.5 million in financial aid is awarded to more than 25% of our students each year
- We offer financial assistance to qualified students for purchases such as books, iPads, and train tickets home for the holidays
- Our endowed travel fund enables students to benefit from life-changing global experiences including spring break trips
- Learn more at [DANA HALL.ORG/ADMISSION/TUITION--FINANCIAL-AID](https://danahall.org/admission/tuition--financial-aid)



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## Connect with us

The best way to get to know Dana Hall is to visit campus, sit down for an interview, and meet our amazing students, faculty, and staff. The second-best way is to connect with us virtually. Go to [DANAHALL.ORG/ADMISSION/VISIT-DANA](https://DANAHALL.ORG/ADMISSION/VISIT-DANA) for the latest information on campus tours and interviews.

You can also visit us here:



[DANAHALLSCHOOL](https://www.facebook.com/danahallschool)



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#AudaciouslyHerself

## Apply

Our application process is comprehensive; we want to know who you are and what makes you tick, and to share with you how Dana Hall can support your academic and extracurricular aspirations. The process is easy to follow, and we're here to help any time you have a question. Head to [DANAHALL.ORG/ADMISSION/HOW-TO-APPLY](https://DANAHALL.ORG/ADMISSION/HOW-TO-APPLY) for everything you need to know to complete your application. Reach out to us at 781-489-1331 or [admission@danahall.org](mailto:admission@danahall.org).









**DANA HALL:**  
Fast facts

# 1881

the year  
**DANA HALL**  
was founded

## 465

GIRLS in  
grades 5-12

## 355

GIRLS in  
Upper School

# 12

STUDENTS  
in the  
average  
class

## 135

BOARDING  
STUDENTS

from

## 11

STATES and

## 13

COUNTRIES/  
REGIONS

# 6:1

STUDENT-TO-  
FACULTY RATIO

## 83%

of faculty/staff hold  
ADVANCED  
DEGREES

**16** APs and **12** HONORS-LEVEL  
courses offered each year

**30+** Upper School  
ARTS COURSES

**1:1** iPad  
program

# 13

interscholastic  
athletic teams

# 34'

high  
climbing  
wall  
in the  
Shipleigh  
Center

## 30-ISH

CLUBS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS

ELECTED/SELECTED  
leadership positions

# 90

**55-** ACRE  
campus  
12 miles outside  
Boston

**100%** OF GRADUATES  
enroll in four-year  
colleges/universities







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