



WALNUT HILL
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Facts and Stats

2018-2019 Academic Year

WALNUT HILL SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS is an independent boarding and day high school designed for student artists in grades 9 – 12 and a postgraduate year. Walnut Hill offers unparalleled training in dance; music; theater; visual art; and writing, film & media arts, complemented by a robust and innovative academic curriculum. Students from across the country and around the globe come together to form a dynamic community on our 30-acre scenic campus located 17 miles west of Boston in Natick, Massachusetts. Every aspect of our program promotes our students' growth as bold artists, curious learners, and mindful citizens. Guided by master teachers and supported by peers from a variety of artistic backgrounds, Walnut Hill students graduate prepared to succeed in college and beyond.

Each summer, Walnut Hill welcomes hundreds of talented students for immersive summer programs in dance and theater. Students ages 10-17 work with expert faculty and peers to enhance their skills within a supportive, creative environment.

Learn more at walnuthillarts.org or follow us @WalnutHillArts.

HISTORY

Founded in 1893 by Wellesley College graduates Florence Bigelow and Charlotte Conant, Walnut Hill was at the forefront of education for young women for more than 80 years. As a traditional private boarding school for girls, the arts were recognized as a vibrant part of Walnut Hill's school program. Alumnae include acclaimed Fenway Studio artist and teacher Marion Pooke, class of 1901, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Poet Laureate Elizabeth Bishop, class of 1930. In the 1970s, in response to the changing landscape in education, Walnut Hill became a coeducational school for the arts.

MISSION

The mission of Walnut Hill is to educate talented, accomplished, and intellectually engaged young artists from all over the world. The School does so in a diverse, humane, and ethical community.

LEADERSHIP

Antonio Viva — Head of School
Susanne Carpenter — Assistant Head of School
Nicola Conraths — Director of Artistic Studies
Ben Gregg — Director of Academic Studies

FACULTY and STAFF

Guided by core values of community, growth, excellence, creativity, and respect, Walnut Hill's 48 full-time faculty and 42 part-time staff are dedicated to preparing students to succeed in the arts, in their future studies, and in their adult lives. Most faculty and staff, including academic faculty are practicing artists.

STUDENTS

Affectionately nicknamed Walnuts, there are 285 students at Walnut Hill.

80% of students board; 20% are day students

24 U.S. states and 16 different countries are represented

33% of students are from outside the United States

35% of students are from Massachusetts

18% of domestic students identify as students of color

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT IN ARTS MAJORS

55 Dance

80 Music

65 Theater

65 Visual Art

20 Writing, Film & Media Arts

TUITION and FINANCIAL AID

Tuition \$62,280 boarding; \$47,030 day

Financial Aid Approximately \$3.9 million in financial aid is awarded to about 40% of students, with an average award of \$36,000.

MATRICULATION

Walnut Hill students are admitted to top-ranked colleges, universities, and conservatories. Over 95% of each graduating class matriculates in a four-year degree program. About 75% of Walnut Hill graduates earn either a Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Fine Arts; about 25% earn a Bachelor of Arts.

ANNUAL STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Walnut Hill presents the following student performances and concerts, all open to the public.

The **Theater Department** stages three plays, two musicals, a children's theater production and a student-directed play series.

The **Dance Department** together with Walnut Hill's Community Dance Academy presents *The Nutcracker* in December. Walnut Hill also presents Spring Repertory and New Works performances.

Walnut Hill's **Music Department** is the only high school program in the country linking a major conservatory, New England Conservatory (NEC), with an independent school. Music majors perform regularly both at Walnut Hill and in Boston. Performances include chamber concerts, jazz concerts, voice recitals. In the Spring, Voice students perform a fully staged opera at Walnut Hill.

The **Visual Art Department** holds two major all-department exhibitions on campus. In addition, smaller exhibits are mounted throughout the year, as well as senior shows in the spring, where two or three seniors at a time curate and present their artwork on campus.

The **Writing, Film & Media Arts (WFMA)** program at Walnut Hill offers a number of collaborative performance opportunities throughout the year, several of which are open to the public: New Ink/Rough Cuts, Script to Screen, Black on White, and the Senior Show. This year, WFMA is partnering with The Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN) to present a student film festival (April 4-7, 2019).

PERFORMANCE SPACES and FACILITIES

Jane Oxford Keiter Performing Arts Center houses a 343-seat mainstage theater and 80-seat Riggi Black Box Laboratory Theater; scene shop, costume shop, dressing rooms, and green room.

The Delbridge Family Center for the Arts, is a multi-arts facility that houses a flexible performance space with seating for up to 170, lobby art gallery, dance studio, and offices. The building opens onto a courtyard space that can be used for outdoor events.

Boswell Recital Hall seats 80 people.

Pooke Gallery features artwork by visiting artists, faculty, and students.

Somers Music Center includes 20 soundproof music practice rooms, many of which are outfitted with Steinway pianos.

Dartley Visual Art Center includes a clay studio; kiln room; sculpture, apparel design and painting studios; drawing/printmaking studio; senior studio space; and new media laboratory.

Dance Center includes five studios with sprung floors; one of the larger studios is outfitted with TRX suspension training equipment.

The Writing, Film & Media Arts (WFMA) program occupies a three-story building that includes a black box filming space, classrooms, and a screening room. WFMA students also utilize the **Media Arts Studio** in the Academic and Technology Center, which includes 16 editing stations and a sound suite. Each WFMA student is provided with an Apple laptop and the use of a Canon SLR digital camera.

Academic and Technology Center includes computer and science labs, a media arts studio, a fitness center, two multiuse studios, classrooms, and faculty offices.

ALUMNI

Here's a snapshot of successful Walnuts . . .

- **Elizabeth Bishop '03**, American poet
- **Susan Paresky '64**, Senior Vice President for Development, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston
- **Judith Hoag '81**, Television actress (*Nashville*)

- **Christian Finnegan '91**, Actor and stand-up comic based in New York City
- **Sara Newkirk Simon '95**, Partner at William Morris representing Usher, Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars, and others
- **Dr. Jennifer Caudle '95**, Physician, on-air health expert, author
- **Jack McCollough '97**, Founder and Owner of high-fashion brand Proenza Schouler
- **Matan Chorev '01**, U.S. Department of State
- **Zac Young '01**, Executive Pastry Chef for all David Burke restaurants
- **Ashley Blanchet '05**, Three-time Broadway performer (*Memphis*, *ANNIE*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*)
- **Briga Heelan '05**, Television actress (*Ground Floor*)
- **Joe Walsh '06**, Principal with San Francisco Ballet
- **Samantha Hankey '11**, Metropolitan Opera
- **Laura Love '10**, Runway and fashion model for brands including Vera Wang, Anthropologie, and *Vogue*
- **George Li '13**, Pianist, silver medalist at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition

MEMBERSHIP

National Association of Independent Schools
 Association of Independent Schools in New England
 The Association of Boarding Schools
 Art Schools Network

ACCREDITATION

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

CONTACT

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