

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

(5-9)



Rectory  
SCHOOL

Rectory School is an Independent, Coed, Junior Boarding (5-9) and Day School (Early Childhood-9)





# AT RECTORY SCHOOL, WE BELIEVE IN OUR STUDENTS

Rectory's Middle School welcomes students to a vibrant community where understanding your child is our priority. We embrace the uniqueness of every student but also set high expectations, understanding that challenges are growth opportunities. Our faculty is dedicated to cultivating an environment where each student is encouraged to push their boundaries, surpassing their expectations while receiving the support they need to thrive.

At Rectory, we empower students to step outside their comfort zones and explore new horizons. While this journey may include moments of uncertainty or stumbling blocks, it ultimately leads to developing essential life skills.

**The outcome:** Students who understand themselves and the world around them. Students who can speak frankly about their strengths and their weaknesses. Students who aren't just ready for their next school...they are prepared for life.

# ...EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.



## ACADEMICS



# ACADEMICS

The cornerstone of Rectory's school experience, academics equip students with knowledge and skills essential for their intellectual and personal development. Students gain confidence and character, learn to advocate for themselves, and employ strategies that support their individual learning styles.



## NURTURING GROWTH BEYOND ACADEMICS

Rectory provides diverse opportunities alongside core classes to foster academic and social development. These include advisory, electives, enrichment, and health and wellness, complemented by dedicated time for art, music, and athletics. Such offerings empower students to explore their interests, cultivate a well-rounded skill set, and hone essential social skills, preparing them for success in today's diverse and interconnected world.

### ADVISORY

Advisors serve as our students' primary advocates and are the first point of contact for parents. Through frequent in-school meetings, advisors develop strong relationships with their advisees and gain a comprehensive understanding of their students' strengths, support needs, and social-emotional development. By integrating social-emotional learning into their guidance, advisors help students build essential skills such as self-awareness, empathy, and resilience. Best of all, students know they can consult their advisors about all areas of school life, fostering a supportive and holistic educational experience.

### ENRICHMENT

Enrichment is an opportunity tailored to students' unique learning journeys where students practice and learn to advocate for themselves. All students connect one-on-one with a faculty member. This personalized support allows students to address their individual needs, challenges, and interests, ensuring increased self-confidence and academic growth.

### ELECTIVES

Electives provide students with an exploratory experience in a variety of disciplines such as robotics, sports media, aquaponics, yearbook, and debate. We encourage our students to explore their interests and passions through our elective program.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Health and Wellness addresses the topics of healthy habits (technology use, nutrition, relationships, and substances), equity, and responsibility. Students develop self-awareness and personal management skills through goal setting, teamwork, and peer communication exercises. Courses are designed to give students the tools to understand the importance of making decisions that reflect mental, emotional, and physical health and social balance. Coursework integrates current events and social media through reflective discussions with students. We encourage students to make informed decisions about the challenges and choices they face as they develop into young adults.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM:



# A DAY IN THE LIFE

## MEET NOORA

**NOORA HAS BEEN A BOARDING STUDENT AT RECTORY SINCE SIXTH GRADE.** As she enters ninth grade, she anticipates stepping into a leadership role. "I appreciate the opportunities available here that weren't present at my previous school. At Rectory, I can engage in student council, serve as a proctor, and contribute to SHIELD. While all electives are fantastic, I particularly enjoy participating in the community service elective."

## EXAMPLE OF NOORA'S 8TH GRADE DAY AT RECTORY

Today 

- 6:45 AM: RISING BELL  wakey wakey!
- 7:30 AM: BREAKFAST  Eggs, bacon, and fruit!
- 8:00 AM: ADVISORY  
- 8:15 AM: G PERIOD SPANISH I  Trabajando en mi árbol genealógico!
- 9:15 AM: A PERIOD PHYSICAL SCIENCE 
- 10:15 AM: BREAK  Catching up with my friends at the Seaward Pavilion.
- 10:30 AM: B PERIOD WORLD DRUMMING ELECTIVE  I was a leader in this class and I got to play the Djembe, which is a really big drum! I've been able to explore my passion for drumming!
- 11:30 AM: C PERIOD SMALL GROUP  This is one of my best classes! I'm with a group of very deep thinkers.
- 12:30 PM: LUNCH  Pulled pork sandwiches...YUM!
- 1:00 PM: D PERIOD EARLY GLOBAL STUDIES 
- 2:00 PM: ORCHESTRA  I enjoy soccer—I'm right wing. My coach made it fun and I was able to improve my game and I'm really fast!
- 3:00 PM: SPORTS, GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER  I just did a project on Septimius Severus. I'm also learning how to manage my time—this is a lot of work but I can get it done because of my time management skills.
- 4:30 PM: DORM  Time to shower and get ready for dinner.
- 6:00 PM: DINNER  Chicken stir-fry & brownies...THE BEST!
- 6:30 PM: EVENING STUDY HALL 
- 8:00 PM: DORM  Chilling with my friends and catching up on Insta!
- 9:45 PM: TECH COLLECTION 
- 10:00 PM: LIGHTS OUT  Goodnight! Zzz

Working on my descriptive essay of the house in *There Will Come Soft Rains* for English. I wrote a description of the family who used to live in the house!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: NOORA EARNED A 100% ON HER ESSAY!)



NOORA!



JACK!












## MEET JACK

JACK HAS BEEN A DAY STUDENT  
AT RECTORY SINCE SIXTH GRADE.

### EXAMPLE OF JACK'S 7TH GRADE DAY AT RECTORY

Today

- ✓ 8:00 AM: ASSEMBLY  Taiko Drumming and start my Instrument Research
- ✓ 8:15 AM: E PERIOD MUSIC 
- ✓ 9:15: SPRING MUSICAL ELECTIVE  This is my first time participating in the Spring musical and I'm in the ensemble! I'm memorizing my lines and enjoying trying new things!
- ✓ 10:15: BREAK  Playing pickleball with my friends on the outside courts!
- ✓ 10:30 AM: F PERIOD: HISTORY  I'm working on my Decades Project!
- ✓ 11:30 AM: LUNCH  Sausage and peppers Stromboli with marinara on the side!
- ✓ 12:30 PM: G SPANISH IA  comic strip
- ✓ 1:00 PM: A PERIOD PRE-ALGEBRA  If we are traveling for 5 hours at 20 miles an hour, using the formula  $y=mx$ , how far have we travelled?
- ✓ 2:00 PM: B PERIOD EARTH SCIENCE  There are six layers in soil: organic, topsoil, subsoil, leaching, partially weathered rock, and rock.
- ✓ 3:00 PM: SPORTS  varsity Tennis
- ✓ 4:30 PM: DORM  because it's FUN FRIDAY!
- ✓ 6:00 PM: DINNER  Cookout with my boarding friends!
- ✓ 6:30 PM: FUN FRIDAY ACTIVITY 
- ✓ 8:00 PM: PICK UP  my parents will pick me up at the Groom Dining Hall!

# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



## LEARNING SERVICES

**ACROSS OUR SMITH LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS, STUDENTS RECEIVE TAILORED SUPPORT WHILE FULLY ENGAGING IN OUR RIGOROUS ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.**

At Rectory, our Learning Services go beyond academics to empower students with essential life skills. From organization and study techniques to self-advocacy and self-awareness, we foster a supportive environment where every learner can thrive. Our primary goal is to help students understand their unique learning styles and actively participate in their educational journey, preparing them not only for secondary school but for success in all

aspects of life. Both individual and small group methods of instruction are available, ensuring that each student receives personalized attention and support. Whether it's executive functioning skills, ADHD support, dyslexia, specialized learning, SSAT preparation, individualized enrichment, or English Language Learning (ELL), we provide comprehensive resources to meet the diverse needs of our students and propel them toward a bright future.



## ACCELERATED MATH PROGRAM

Our math program offers classes from the fundamentals of math through Algebra and extends to Pre-Calculus. Our students develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving strategies, while critical-thinking skills are developed and reinforced through problem-solving exercises. Students are challenged and have opportunities to take accelerated courses, which focus on understanding the “why,” and solving real-life problems.

## HONORS COURSES

Rectory offers 9th-grade honors courses in English and physics. These courses provide additional opportunities for students who consistently demonstrate high academic achievement. With an added emphasis on mathematics and writing, more group work, and less teacher support, students in these advanced classes are gaining the knowledge and resources they need to succeed in all of their high school subjects.

### MEET JACKSON



**JACKSON STARTED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM (CARE). HE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF RECTORY'S LEARNING SERVICES PROGRAM SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. AS HE ENTERS HIS NINTH-GRADE YEAR AT RECTORY, HE HAS OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF DYSLLEXIA AND IS NOW READING ABOVE GRADE LEVEL.**

First grade was tough. I struggled to keep up with my classmates because I couldn't understand books the way my classmates did. I was diagnosed with dyslexia in the second grade. It was tough to accept—I felt like I wasn't the same as everyone else, like everyone was above me; it was definitely a shot to take. When I was paired with my learning specialist in second grade, it felt like a step in the right direction. We clicked immediately. That connection helped me start making progress. We continued working during the summer program, and I caught up with my classmates in reading.

Transitioning from Rectory's Individualized Instructional Program (IIP) to small group this year felt like a natural progression. I focused on my time management and organizational skills. I've done so well that I no longer need the extra support from the Learning Services Program.

I've come a long way. Graduating from the Learning Services Program was a big deal for me. It showed how much progress I've made. Today, I'm not just keeping up; I'm surpassing expectations. I'm reading comfortably above my grade level. None of this would have been possible without the support of my teachers and the learning specialists who helped me every step of the way. I've come a long way and am so glad about it.

# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

## TWO-YEAR GLOBAL STUDIES

Students in grades 8 and 9 study history, civics and government, and geography through a global lens. Exploring the interaction between and among history, the social sciences, and the humanities, students learn to apply their knowledge and understanding as responsible global citizens.

## BIGELOW HONORS PROGRAM

Students who demonstrate exceptional achievement across all disciplines are invited to join this academic honors program as Bigelow Scholars. Participation allows students to advance their development in critical thinking, problem-solving, design thinking, creativity, evaluation, communication, resilience in learning, self-advocacy, and empathy. They can access specific courses such as global journeys, business entrepreneurship, French, Latin, Chinese, and more.





## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Students embark on a journey of self-discovery and leadership at Rectory School through our dynamic Student Development and Leadership program. Students explore important topics like personal accountability, responsible technology use, and overcoming challenges with engaging guest speakers. In grade breakouts, they tackle problems and engage in discussions aimed at honing essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and empathy. Our program encourages critical thinking, collaboration, and the cultivation of confidence and a positive mindset, empowering students to become the competent and trustworthy leaders of tomorrow.

## MAY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM

Rectory's signature May Experiential Learning Program (MELP) provides alternative learning through creativity and problem-solving. A myriad of different programs take place during one week of the spring term and offer students an opportunity to explore creative, hands-on learning outside of the classroom. Community service forms part of each MELP experience; students volunteer at charter schools, food pantries, soup kitchens, and participate in beach cleanups.



## GREAT MELP ADVENTURES HAVE INCLUDED: WESTWARD BOUND!

**SUNDAY:** GETTING AN EARLY START TO THE WEEK AS WE TRAVEL TO UTAH AND CHECK INTO THE HOTEL.

**MONDAY:** RENTING OUR E-BIKES IN ST. GEORGE TO EXPLORE SNOW CANYON STATE PARK BEFORE EXPLORING THE FRONTIER MUSEUM.

**TUESDAY:** BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK: HIKING TO INSPIRATION POINT AND THEN JOINING A RANGER-LED GEOLOGY PROGRAM AT SUNSET POINT!

**WEDNESDAY:** HORSEBACK RIDE THROUGH ZION NATIONAL PARK BEFORE HIKING EMERALD POOLS, KAYENTA TRAIL, AND RIVERSIDE WALK.

**THURSDAY:** UTV CANYON RIDE TO RAPPEL INTO THE SLOT CANYONS, LUNCHING AT CORAL PINK SAND DUNES STATE PARK, THEN OFF TO SAND BOARDING AND SAND SLEDDING.

**FRIDAY:** AFTER AN AMAZING ADVENTURE, WE'RE ON OUR WAY BACK TO RECTORY!



# THE ARTS



## ARTISTIC EXPLORATION IN PERFORMING ARTS AND STUDIO ARTS

Rectory's diverse art programs offer invaluable opportunities for creative expression and personal growth. Imagination and innovation, fostered by immersion in the arts, spill into the classroom and enhance our students' academic skill development.

### PERFORMING ARTS

We believe students don't know what they will enjoy until they give it a try. Because of this, all students are required to enroll in a performing arts class each year. As students progress through the grade levels we offer a more comprehensive range of performing arts choice.

### STUDIO ARTS

Creative expression in studio arts provides opportunities for self-expression and learning to work independently on projects. Through studio arts, students build confidence, develop their passions, and connect hands-on creativity with practical knowledge and learning. They experience personal growth and discover new ways to express themselves.

# THE ARTS



# ATHLETICS

## BUILDING SKILLS, CONFIDENCE, AND CAMARADERIE

Students experience the thrill of competition and the camaraderie of teamwork with Rectory's dynamic athletics program! More than just a way to stay fit, our athletics instill lifelong determination, self-confidence, and sportsmanship values. While inter-school competition is a key component, our focus remains on individual success, skill development, and the joy of playing as a team. With multiple levels of sports available, students can find their perfect match regardless of age or experience. Whether joining a highly competitive varsity team or honing fundamental skills in developmental teams, every student can grow, succeed, and thrive. With mandatory participation in all three seasons, Rectory ensures that every student can find their place on the field, court, or track, where they can flourish and reach their full athletic potential.





# STUDENT LIFE

A group of five diverse students, three boys and two girls, are smiling and looking up at the camera. They are wearing school uniforms: blue and light blue polo shirts, and a green polo shirt. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

## RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Experience a world of opportunities at Rectory School! If you're seeking more than what local schools can offer—whether it's academic support or enrichment, a wider variety of arts, or athletics—we provide the perfect environment for your child to flourish.





# BUILDING **RELATIONSHIPS** AND LONG-LASTING **FRIENDSHIPS**

At Rectory School, students thrive in a supportive and challenging environment that fosters self-awareness, confidence, and a passion for learning. Rectory School provides a home away from home for both boarding and day students, ensuring that each individual's needs are met and encouraging them to contribute their unique talents to the Rectory family.



# STUDENT LIFE

## WHY BOARDING AT RECTORY?

Our boarding environment provides a supportive “home away from home,” where dormitory parents offer guidance and support throughout the middle school years. Faculty-student connections are formed naturally, creating a nurturing atmosphere filled with academic growth, delicious meals, athletic pursuits, and enjoyable activities. Parents and dormitory parents work hand-in-hand to ensure a positive residential experience for our boarding students, making Rectory the ideal place to thrive and grow.

## WEEKENDS AT RECTORY

Weekends at Rectory School are filled with fun activities and opportunities for relaxation. Students eagerly sign up for weekend trips and events, choosing from a variety of options including structured athletic contests like Basketball Tournaments and World Cup Soccer matches, as well as individualized fitness activities such as gym games, hiking, and mountain biking. Additionally, weekends include Sunday morning study hall and dorm activities to foster a warm and homely atmosphere for all students. With a range of activities both on and off campus, students have the chance to suggest and participate in activities they’re passionate about, ensuring an enjoyable junior boarding school experience for everyone.





# WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

## ON-CAMPUS ADVENTURES:

- EXPERIENCE THE ADRENALINE RUSH OF BASKETBALL, DODGEBALL, AND CAPTURE THE CHICKEN IN CALHOUN GYM!
- JOIN FACULTY VS. STUDENT SOCCER GAMES, CARNIVALS, OUTDOOR MOVIES, AND HUMANS VS. ZOMBIES TAG BATTLES ON RECTORY'S OUTDOOR FIELDS.
- CONQUER HEIGHTS AND PUSH YOUR LIMITS ON OUR HIGH ROPES COURSE, OR TAKE ON EXCITING CHALLENGES CLOSE TO THE GROUND ON OUR LOW ROPES COURSE.
- ENGAGE IN FRIENDLY COMPETITION WITH PICKLEBALL, 4-SQUARE, OR OUTDOOR BASKETBALL AT THE SEAWARD PAVILION.
- UNLEASH YOUR INNER STAR WITH KARAOKE, MUSIC PRACTICE, MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT CHALLENGES, OR MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE SCRIPPS AUDITORIUM AT THE P.Y. & KINMAY TANG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.
- CHILL OUT WITH MOVIES, SPORTS GAMES, OR BOARD GAMES IN THE WOLF DEN STUDENT LOUNGE.
- LET YOUR CREATIVITY SOAR WITH ARTS & CRAFTS, ECO-BRICK BUILDING, AND OPEN ART PROJECTS AT THE COLLINS ART BARN.
- DIVE INTO A WORLD OF IMAGINATION WITH QUIET READING AND BOARD GAMES IN THE PEACEFUL HETTINGER LIBRARY.
- GET HANDS-ON WITH SLIME MAKING, BAKING, GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFTING, AND COOKIE DECORATING IN THE GEORGE GROOM DINING HALL.
- DON'T MISS OUT ON UNFORGETTABLE SEASONAL EVENTS LIKE THE HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA AND THE MASQUERADE DINNER DANCE.

## DORM BONDING ACTIVITIES:

- STRENGTHEN DORM CAMARADERIE WITH FACULTY-HOSTED DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHTS, FOSTERING CONNECTIONS OVER MEALS AND MOVIES.
- BOND OVER CLASSIC AND MODERN BOARD GAMES, SPARKING LAUGHTER AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION AMONG DORM MATES.
- UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY DURING CRAFT NIGHT, WHERE YOU CAN EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH VARIOUS ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS ALONGSIDE FELLOW RESIDENTS.
- GATHER AROUND THE FIRE PIT FOR COZY EVENINGS OF MAKING S'MORES, SHARING STORIES, AND FORGING LASTING FRIENDSHIPS UNDER THE STARRY SKY.

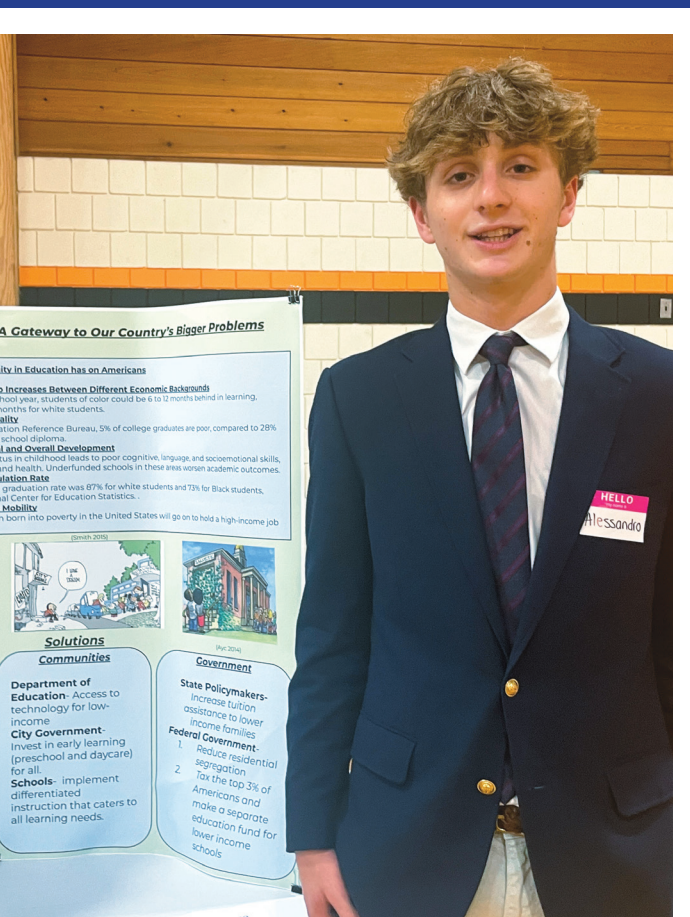
## OFF-CAMPUS EXCURSIONS:

- EMBARK ON EXCITING OFF-CAMPUS EXCURSIONS WITH VISITS TO AQUARIUMS, MUSEUMS, AND MOVIE THEATERS.
- CHEER ON YOUR FAVORITE COLLEGE TEAMS WITH OUTINGS TO COLLEGE ATHLETICS GAMES.
- TAKE A BREAK FROM ROUTINE WITH TRAMPOLINE PARK, BOWLING, AND MINI-GOLF OUTINGS.
- HIT THE SLOPES AND EMBRACE THE THRILL OF SKIING, CARVING THROUGH FRESH POWDER AND CREATING UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES.



# READY FOR LIFE

PREPARING STRONG LEADERS AND  
CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS FOR 9TH-GRADE,  
GRADUATION, AND BEYOND.



**THE NINTH-GRADE YEAR** instills the attributes critical for success at the secondary level: leadership, confidence, and perseverance. Leadership and service opportunities, such as dorm proctor, athletic team captain, or running for student council, enable our 9th graders to examine who they are and what they can accomplish as young adults, while a rigorous and dynamic curriculum prepares them for secondary schools that are among the most recognized in the nation.

**THE NINTH-GRADE CAPSTONE PROJECT** provides an opportunity for our students to explore and consider solutions to issues that are present in today's society. Ninth graders work with their history, English, science, and related arts teachers who provide guidance throughout the process of selecting a topic, researching, writing an essay, interviewing an expert, and presenting their informational poster. Culminating with the Capstone Fair, faculty, students, and outside visitors are invited to view and discuss these projects with the students.



## SECONDARY SCHOOL ADVISING

Rectory students matriculate at a wide variety of secondary schools. Students attend both independent (boarding and day) and public secondary schools. No matter which high school environment is right for the student and family, Rectory supports the search process, and students find they are well prepared academically and socially for their secondary school experience.



### RECENT SECONDARY SCHOOL MATRICULATION INCLUDES:

ASHEVILLE SCHOOL  
AVON OLD FARMS  
BERKSHIRE SCHOOL  
BLAIR ACADEMY  
BROOKS SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF WESTON  
CATE SCHOOL  
CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL  
CONCORD ACADEMY  
CULVER ACADEMIES  
CUSHING ACADEMY  
DEERFIELD ACADEMY  
DUBLIN SCHOOL  
EAGLE HILL SCHOOL  
EPISCOPAL HIGH SCHOOL  
ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL  
FREDERICK GUNN SCHOOL  
GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY  
HILL SCHOOL  
HOPKINS SCHOOL  
HOTCHKISS SCHOOL  
HUN SCHOOL OF PRINCETON  
KENT SCHOOL  
KENTS HILL SCHOOL  
KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY  
LAWRENCE ACADEMY  
LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL  
LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL  
MARIANAPOLIS PREP SCHOOL  
MASTERS SCHOOL  
MCCALLIE SCHOOL  
MERCERSBURG ACADEMY  
MIDDLESEX SCHOOL  
MILLBROOK SCHOOL  
MILTON ACADEMY  
NEW HAMPTON SCHOOL  
NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL  
PHILLIPS ACADEMY ANDOVER  
POMFRET SCHOOL  
PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL  
PROCTOR ACADEMY  
SALISBURY SCHOOL  
SOUTH KENT SCHOOL  
ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, RI  
ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL  
ST. MARK'S SCHOOL  
STEVENSON SCHOOL  
SUFFIELD ACADEMY  
TABOR ACADEMY  
TAFT SCHOOL  
WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY  
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL  
WESTTOWN SCHOOL  
WILBRAHAM & MONSON ACADEMY  
WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL  
WOODSTOCK ACADEMY  
WORCESTER ACADEMY

# RECTORY SCHOOL

**RECTORY STUDENTS ARE  
PREPARED FOR LIFE.**



***rectoryschool.org***

528 Pomfret Street  
Pomfret, CT 06258  
(860) 928-1328  
admissions@rectoryschool.org

*Rectory School complies with all applicable civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristics in any of its educational programs or activities, including employment.*

