



Admissions Process

APPLICATION FORM AND FEE

1. Please complete the application form and send it to the school along with the appropriate fee: \$60 for U.S. residents and \$120 for international applicants. If the application fee presents a challenge to your family, please contact our office to request a fee waiver, and we will gladly extend one. **Deadline: February 1 for domestic applicants and January 1 for international applicants.**

INTERVIEW

2. During your online interview and virtual tour, you will meet with a member of the admissions committee, explore our building, and get a sense of what sets us apart. Please note that at least one parent/guardian should join you. To schedule, please call Assistant Director of Admissions Natasha Matthews at 857-505-1274 or email admissions@commschool.org. **Deadline: February 1.**

DAY VISIT

3. After your interview, and once you apply, you will spend a day at Commonwealth—touring the school and attending classes and our daily all-school meeting with a student host. You will also complete two assessments (instead of admission essays you would write on your own) that become part of your application. To schedule, please call Assistant Director of Admissions Natasha Matthews at 857-505-1274 or email admissions@commschool.org. **Deadline: February 1.**

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

4. Please submit your transcript from your current school. You should request it by giving the transcript release form (included in this application) to your principal or guidance counselor. **Deadline: February 1.**

5. We require three recommendations (included in this application) from your current school: one from a math teacher, one from an English teacher, and one from a head of school, principal, guidance counselor, or placement counselor. **Deadline: February 1.**

6. We strongly encourage students to submit either Secondary School Admissions Test (SSAT) or Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) scores, as they provide the admissions committee with a standard metric among applicants. **Deadline: February 1.**

While students who do not submit SSAT or ISEE scores will not be disadvantaged in the application process, we urge you to reach out to us if you have concerns about accessing a test or submitting scores. Students who do not submit SSAT or ISEE results should share the results of any other standardized tests—MCAS, ERB, or MAP—they may have taken during middle school.

Commonwealth's SSAT code is 2542, and our ISEE code is 220222.

Unless they attend a school in which English is the primary language of instruction, international applicants should plan to take the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as well.

7. Please submit an essay that you have written this school year and that meets the following requirements:

- It should come from an English, history, or social studies class.
- It can be either a draft or the final version.
- While it does not have to be graded, it should include some kind of teacher feedback in the form of a completed rubric, comments, etc.
- If it's not possible to submit an essay from this school year, please select a piece of writing from the second semester of last school year.

Deadline: February 1.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

We hope that cost will not be a factor as you consider Commonwealth. Since the founding of the school, through a strong commitment to financial aid, we have been dedicated to increasing access to a Commonwealth education and welcoming as many qualified students as possible.

For the 2021-22 academic year:

- Tuition and fees are \$50,483.
- Commonwealth granted over \$1.5 million in financial aid.
- The average financial aid grant is \$34,740.
- Families with financial aid grants paid between \$1,000 and \$48,300 towards the cost of tuition and fees.
- 30% of our students have financial aid grants.
- Commonwealth extended over \$13,000 in additional technology grants. The program includes families whose financial aid grants amount to more than 50% of tuition and fees. Through these dedicated technology grants, they can elect to purchase a MacBook Pro laptop, printer, and software at a reduced cost. On average, participants paid \$320 for this package.
- Commonwealth will offer discounted standardized testing, tutoring support, and public transportation, and will extend additional grants for summer programs and school-sponsored international trips (if conditions allow).

Like many independent schools, Commonwealth employs School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) to assess whether a family is eligible for financial aid and at what level. The SSS formula takes into account a family's income, assets, and debts. To apply for financial aid, families should complete and submit a Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) online at solutionsbysss.com and upload the requested documents by the appropriate deadlines. Please note that Commonwealth's SSS school code is 2542.

Financial Aid Deadlines:

February 1 - Deadline to complete the PFS and to submit your 2020 federal tax return with all schedules, W-2s, and 1099s.

February 15 - Deadline to submit copies of your 2021 federal tax return with all schedules, W-2s, and 1099s.

March 10 - Commonwealth informs families of financial aid decisions along with admission decisions.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Submit your application form and fee.
- Interview.
- Visit for the day.
- Take the SSAT or ISEE and send your scores to Commonwealth.
- Submit an essay that you have written this school year.
- Request a transcript from your current school.
- Request three recommendations from your current school.
- Supply all financial aid application materials (if applicable).



Application for Admission

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First name	Middle name	Last name	Suffix	Preferred first name
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Student's email	Cell phone
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Gender	Date of birth	Place of birth
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Citizenship	Ethnicity (optional)	Language(s) spoken at home
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Current grade	Applying for grade	Year of entry
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Name and address of current school

List any other schools you have attended:

School name	Dates attended
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School name	Dates attended
-------------	----------------

School name	Dates attended
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Continue list on additional page if necessary.

Optional: Attach a recent photograph.

FAMILY INFORMATION

Household 1 (applicant's primary residence):

Address

City State ZIP / Postal code Country Main phone

Parent/Guardian 1:

Prefix First name Middle name Last name Suffix

Relationship to applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify): _____

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Parent/Guardian 2:

Prefix First name Middle name Last name Suffix

Relationship to applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify): _____

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Household 2 (if applicable):

Address

City State ZIP / Postal code Country Main phone

Parent/Guardian 3:

Prefix First name Middle name Last name Suffix

Relationship to applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify): _____

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Parent/Guardian 4:

Prefix First name Middle name Last name Suffix

Relationship to Applicant:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Guardian Other (please specify): _____

Email Cell phone Business phone

Employer and job title

Siblings:

First name	Age	Current school or college
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First name	Age	Current school or college
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First name	Age	Current school or college
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First name	Age	Current school or college
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APPLICATIONS

The applicant should complete this section.

1. What interests you about Commonwealth School? (Attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.)

2. To which other schools are you applying?

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

The applicant should complete this section.

1. Please describe the extracurricular activities and sports you participate in at and outside of school and your level of involvement in each one. Feel free to share information about your hobbies and interests as well. (Attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.)

2. Of your activities and interests, which one means the most to you and why? (Attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.)

FINANCIAL AID

Check this box if you would like information on financial aid. *Please note that your family will not be considered for financial aid unless you complete the required steps and submit the requested materials by the appropriate deadlines. In the case of separated or divorced parents, we require financial aid applications from both parents.*

SIGNATURES

Signature of applicant

Date

Signature of parent/guardian

Date

The application fee is \$60 for U.S. residents and \$120 for international applicants. To request a fee waiver, please contact Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Carrie Healy at 617-266-7525 or chealy@commschool.org.



Recommendation Form for Principal or Counselor

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your head of school, principal, guidance counselor, or placement counselor.

Name of Applicant: _____ Applying for Grade: _____

Recommender's Name: _____ Position: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

To the Principal or Counselor:

We appreciate your cooperation and candor in completing this form. It provides one way of getting to know the student and is reviewed with the full awareness that students are constantly changing and developing. Please note that we place particular value on your observations of academic ability, motivation, classroom behavior, and your descriptive comments in each area. This evaluation will remain confidential and will not become part of the student's permanent record. Your insights will be used solely to help inform a thoughtful admission decision which will result in the best placement for each applicant.

In addition to submitting the School Report Form, please also send the following as requested by the applicant's family:

- Quarter or mid-year grades for Current Academic Year (2021-22)
- Comprehensive transcript from Previous Academic Year (2020-21)
- Attendance record
- Discipline record, if applicable
- Standardized testing (e.g. MCAS, ERBs), if available
- School Profile, if available

On behalf of Commonwealth's admissions committee, thank you for taking the time to think and write about this applicant.

School Report Form

How well do you know the student academically? _____

As a person? _____

School serves grades: _____ to _____ Number of students in the entire school: _____

In what month does your school year begin? _____ End? _____

Please explain your school's grade system. What is the passing mark? _____ Honors mark? _____

Does your school rank? Yes No Is your rank? Approximate Exact

How many students are in the entire grade? _____ This candidate ranks: _____ out of _____
_____ other students share this rank.

If your school does not rank, approximately where does the applicant's academic performance place him/her in relation to his/her peers?

Top Fifth Second Fifth Third Fifth Fourth Fifth Bottom Fifth

Does your school use a block scheduling system? Yes No

If the student attended your school in the 2020-21 academic year, did they attend (select all that apply)?

Remotely In-Person Hybrid

Are students placed in sections according to ability? Yes No

If yes, please tell us in which level the applicant is placed for each subject.

Please indicate the number of days the student has been absent, tardy, or dismissed early each year while at your school. Does the applicant have an unusual number of absences/tardies from school? If yes, please explain.

If the student is not, or has not been, in good academic standing, please explain.

Should we be aware of any factors that have influenced the applicant's progress?

If the family has indicated they wish the applicant to repeat a grade, please assess in your school's judgment the appropriateness of this both academically and socially for this student.

Has the student ever been dismissed, suspended, placed on probation, or received other serious disciplinary sanctions? Yes No

If yes, please provide a full explanation.

Has the student withdrawn from school voluntarily for an extended period of time? Yes No

If yes, please provide a full explanation.

Please select the values that represent your evaluation of the student in comparison to other students in his or her age group with whom you have worked. If you have no fair basis for judgment, do not hesitate to say so.

	One of the top few this year	Excellent - Top 10% this year	Above average	Average	Below average	No basis for judgement
Academic Potential						
Academic Achievement						
Intellectual Curiosity						
Effort/Determination						
Ability to Work Independently						
Ability to Work Collaboratively						
Organization						
Creativity						
Willingness to Take Intellectual Risks						
Concern for Others						
Honesty/Integrity						
Self-esteem						
Maturity (relative to age)						
Responsibility						
Respect Accorded by Peers						
Respect Accorded by Faculty						
Overall Evaluation as a Person						
Overall Evaluation as a Student						

If the student is relatively weak or strong in any areas listed above, please elaborate.

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

Please comment on this student's academic motivation, academic skills, intellectual curiosity, character, citizenship, and contributions to your community.

Please add any additional information that will give us a more complete picture of the student.

Please share any relevant information about the family-student relationship and/or the family-school relationship.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to complete this evaluation. Your reflections are an important part of the student's application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Recommendation Form for English Teacher

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your current English teacher.

Name of Applicant: _____ Applying for Grade: _____

Recommender's Name: _____ Position: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

To the Teacher:

We appreciate your cooperation and candor in completing this form. It provides one way of getting to know the student and is reviewed with the full awareness that students are constantly changing and developing. Please note that we place particular value on your observations of academic ability, motivation, classroom behavior, and your descriptive comments in each area. **This evaluation will remain confidential and will not become part of the student's permanent record.** Your insights will be used solely to help inform a thoughtful admission decision which will result in the best placement for each applicant.

How long have you known the student? _____

Number of students in class: _____

Is the student on a block schedule? Yes No

Course Description

Course Title: _____

Course Level: Standard Advanced/Honors N/A

If course is leveled, please briefly explain how English is sectioned in this grade:

Please list the topics covered in this course and authors/works used:

What would be the next course recommended for this student? _____

Candidate Evaluation

How accurately does the student read and understand what they have read? Please also comment on their abstract and analytical thinking skills.

How well does the student write in comparison with other students whom you have taught? Please be specific about areas of strength and weakness.

How well does the student accept advice or criticism?

Where do you see the most room for growth for this student?

Please evaluate the candidate in relation to other students of the same age/grade you have taught. Please mark the appropriate box for each item below. If you have no fair basis for judgment, do not hesitate to say so.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION	One of the top few this year	Excellent - Top 10% this year	Above average	Average	Below average	No basis for judgement
Academic Potential						
Academic Achievement						
Intellectual Curiosity						
Imagination/ Creativity						
Ability to Work Independently						
Ability to Work Collaboratively						
Willingness to Take Intellectual Risks						
Reading Comprehension						
Clarity of Writing Style						
Oral Expression						
Effort/Persistence						
Ability to Hand in Work on Time						
Study Habits						
Overall Evaluation as a Student						

CHARACTER & PERSONALITY TRAITS	One of the top few this year	Excellent - Top 10% this year	Above average	Average	Below average	No basis for judgement
Sense of Integrity and Responsibility						
Respect and Concern for Others						
Social Relationships with Peers						
Leadership Ability						
Response to Advice or Criticism						
Self-Confidence						
Sense of Humor						
Self-Control						
Interaction with Teachers/Adults						

CHARACTER SKILLS	Demonstrating	Developing	Emerging	No basis to evaluate
Initiative				
Intellectual Engagement				
Open Mindedness				
Resilience				
Self-Control				
Social Awareness				
Teamwork				

If the student is relatively weak or strong in any areas listed above, please elaborate.

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

To the best of your knowledge, if the student handed in a paper late, it would probably be because the student:

- procrastinates strives for perfection of expression lost the rough draft has lots of activities
- does not apply; student's work is never late other (please explain): _____

Which words best describe the student's thinking:

- independent creative imitative other (please explain): _____

Please comment on this student's character, citizenship, and contributions to your community.

I recommend this student:

- enthusiastically strongly fairly strongly without enthusiasm not recommended

If recommending this candidate "fairly strongly" or lower, please provide an explanation.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to complete this evaluation. Your reflections are an important part of the student's application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Recommendation Form for Math Teacher

To the Student:

Please fill in the information directly below. Give this form and a stamped envelope addressed to Commonwealth School to your current math teacher.

Name of Applicant: _____ Applying for Grade: _____

Recommender's Name: _____ Position: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

To the Teacher:

We appreciate your cooperation and candor in completing this form. It provides one way of getting to know the student and is reviewed with the full awareness that students are constantly changing and developing. Please note that we place particular value on your observations of academic ability, motivation, classroom behavior, and your descriptive comments in each area. **This evaluation will remain confidential and will not become part of the student's permanent record.** Your insights will be used solely to help inform a thoughtful admission decision which will result in the best placement for each applicant.

How long have you known the student? _____

Number of students in class: _____

Is the student on a block schedule? Yes No

Applicant's Mathematical Background

The courses listed below suggest a sequence typical of the math curriculum in many secondary schools. Please check all those courses, or list others, which the student will have completed by the end of the current year.

Have not reached topics in Algebra

Pre-Algebra

Basic Algebra (does not include extensive study of rational expressions, irrational numbers, and quadratic equations)

First Year Algebra (a thorough course which includes quadratics)

Geometry

Second Year Algebra (not including trigonometry)

Second Year Algebra (includes numerical trigonometry through the laws of sine and cosine)

Pre-Calculus (including analytical trigonometry)

Calculus (an introduction)

Calculus (Advanced Placement AB)

Calculus (Advanced Placement BC)

Other (please explain): _____

If your school does not follow this sequence, please share your curriculum:

What would be the next course recommended for this student? _____

Course Level: Standard Advanced/Honors N/A

Course Description

Text Title: _____ Text Author: _____ Text Published Year: _____

Course Title: _____

Course Level: Standard Advanced/Honors N/A

If course is leveled, please briefly explain how math is sectioned in this grade:

Please list the topics covered in this course and texts used:

Candidate Evaluation

Describe the applicant's ability in problem solving and in dealing with abstract concepts.

How well does the student accept advice or criticism?

Where do you see the most room for growth for this student?

Please evaluate the candidate in relation to other students of the same age/grade you have taught. Please mark the appropriate box for each item below. If you have no fair basis for judgment, do not hesitate to say so.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION	One of the top few this year	Excellent - Top 10% this year	Above average	Average	Below average	No basis for judgment
Knowledge of the Basic Skills						
Accuracy in the Use of Basic Skills						
Problem Solving Ability						
Reasoning Ability						
Arithmetic skills without the use of calculators						
Comfort level with unfamiliar problems						
Understanding of and Appreciation for the Underlying Ideas and Concepts						
Willingness to Accept the Challenge of the More Difficult Problems and Exercises						
Command of Mathematics When Compared to Other Students Whom You have taught						
Academic Potential						
Academic Achievement						
Intellectual Curiosity						
Imagination/Creativity						
Ability to Work Independently						
Ability to Work Collaboratively						
Willingness to Take Intellectual Risks						
Effort/Persistence						
Ability to Hand in Work on Time						
Study Habits						
Overall Evaluation as a Student						

CHARACTER & PERSONALITY TRAITS	One of the top few this year	Excellent - Top 10% this year	Above average	Average	Below average	No basis for judgement
Sense of Integrity and Responsibility						
Respect and Concern for Others						
Social Relationships with Peers						
Leadership Ability						
Response to Advice or Criticism						
Self-Confidence						
Sense of Humor						
Self-Control						
Interaction with Teachers/Adults						

CHARACTER SKILLS	Demonstrating	Developing	Emerging	No basis to evaluate
Initiative				
Intellectual Engagement				
Open Mindedness				
Resilience				
Self-Control				
Social Awareness				
Teamwork				

If the student is relatively weak or strong in any areas listed above, please elaborate.

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

To the best of your knowledge, if the student missed a problem, it would have been caused by:

lack of effort problem too difficult misreading a problem carelessness

rarely an issue with this student other (please explain): _____

Please comment on this student's character, citizenship, and contributions to your community.

I recommend this student:

enthusiastically strongly fairly strongly without enthusiasm not recommended

If recommending this candidate "fairly strongly" or lower, please provide an explanation.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to complete this evaluation. Your reflections are an important part of the student's application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Transcript Release

To the Student: Please fill out this form with a parent/guardian and submit it to your current school.

I authorize (*school name*): _____

to release to Commonwealth School the transcript, test scores, and teacher recommendations for
(*applicant name*): _____, who is now in _____th grade.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

To the School:

The student named on this form is an applicant for admission to Commonwealth School. Please submit the following school records using one of the two methods below:

- Quarter or mid-year grades for Current Academic Year (2021-22)
- Comprehensive transcripts from Previous Academic Year (2020-21)
- Attendance record
- Discipline record, if applicable
- Standardized testing (e.g. MCAS, ERBs), if available
- School Profile, if available

Method 1 - Upload Via Your Free Ravenna School Account:

Materials may be submitted as electronic files and uploaded through Ravenna. If your school does not already have a Ravenna account, email ravenna-customer@communitybrands.com to set up a complimentary school repository account. Once your account is created, you can upload student records, and Commonwealth School will receive the files through the Ravenna system.

Method 2 - Mail Hard Copy or Email PDF:

If your school chooses not to use the Ravenna repository method, you may mail or scan and email the requested materials directly to Commonwealth School, along with a copy of this form. If you choose to submit paper documents, please do not use staples.

Attn: Admissions
Commonwealth School
151 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02116

admissions@commschool.org