

SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

OVERVIEW

Located amid the lakes and mountains of central New Hampshire, Holderness School is a traditional co-ed independent secondary school, serving grades 9-12. Holderness strives to create a balance in fostering the resources of the mind, body, and spirit: the mind through a challenging college preparatory curriculum, the body through outdoor activities and required interscholastic athletics, and the spirit through school and community service, ongoing anti-racism work, and affiliation with the Episcopal Church. Holderness remains, by choice, a small school where everyone plays an important role, and where students and faculty maintain close personal relationships.

HOLDERNESS AT A GLANCE

- **Enrollment:** 303 students
- **Grades:** 9-12
- **Boarding/Day Distribution:** 262 boarding/41 day
- **Geographic Distribution:** Students hail from 25 states and 11 countries, including Australia, Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- **Teaching Faculty:** 50
- **Student/Faculty Ratio:** 6:1
- **Average Class Size:** 10
- **Faculty Average Years of Experience:** 16
- **Faculty Tenure at Holderness >10 years:** 36%
- **Faculty Holding Advanced Degrees:** 68%

ACADEMIC STATEMENT

At Holderness School, we are guided by an academic mission which seeks to develop students who:

- Can articulate and understand *how* they learn as well as what they learn
- Find a sustaining fuel in learning and not simply in earning good grades
- Recognize that effective learning happens both inside and outside the classroom
- Embrace the premise that all learning starts with asking good questions
- Exhibit a growth mindset in all things
- Are defined by curiosity, resilience, compassion and a sense of humor
- Actively work to build an equitable and inclusive culture in their community

ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

Spring 2020: Holderness quickly shifted to distance learning after spring break in March 2020. Students learned both synchronously and asynchronously. **There was no change to our grading system.**

2020-2021 Academic Year: Students received in-person instruction from the start of the school year through Thanksgiving break, then completed the final two weeks of the semester via distance learning. Instruction was in-person throughout the spring semester. Courses ran Monday-Friday with new healthiness, social justice, service, and other grade-specific programming on Saturdays. Any students who were not able to join us for in-person instruction were accommodated with a similar and equally rigorous distance learning program, enhanced by improved technology infrastructure across campus.

There was no change to our grading system.

Fall 2021-Present: We have been able to return to our regular pre-Covid schedule with full in-person instruction, family style meals, and chapels.

There continues to be no change to our grading system.

COLLEGE OFFICE CONTACTS

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ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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JOB PROGRAM AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students at Holderness play an active role in the daily management of the school. In a unique balloting system, student leaders are elected by all members of the community (including adults) on the basis of dependability, initiative, fairness, and empathy. Every student at Holderness participates daily in the Job Program, serving in myriad support capacities and learning important lessons of individual responsibility.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Each March, the school begins its two-week period of Special Programs. Students, grouped by graduating class, engage in activities that address lessons of mind, body, and spirit through hands-on experience:

- **PROJECT OUTREACH:** Leadership begins by knowing how to serve others, so in March, the ninth graders travel to Massachusetts where they stay at Christ Church United in Downtown Lowell and work with a variety of non-profit organizations.
- **ARTWARD BOUND:** Artward Bound is a nationally-recognized program during which we invite working artists from all over the country to work closely with and perform alongside our tenth-grade students and faculty.
- **OUT BACK:** In March, the junior class disperses into the White Mountains for a ten-day hike, three days of which are spent alone. Generations of Holderness students have discovered endurance, resilience, and self-confidence through Out Back.
- **SENIOR CAPSTONE:** In this year-long course, students practice research and presentation skills with guidance from a class advisor and mentoring from adults with expertise within the student's field of interest. In March, they embark on self-designed, hands-on learning opportunities and in May present their theses to the school community.

CURRICULUM

All courses are advanced/college preparatory, seeking to prepare students for success at the highest levels in college. Honors courses are offered in Chemistry, Physics, Algebra 2, and Precalculus.

Many new courses have been added for the 2022-23 academic year; here are a few highlights:

Adv. English Seminar: The Lit. of Sports: This course uses the lens of sports to look at literature, writing, and a series of larger philosophical questions about what it means to be a human being in our contemporary world.

The Politics and Technology of Food: In this course students will consider politics, technology, and the environmental impact behind the food we eat. Students will investigate salt (how it transforms dishes and how it was one of the world's first global commodities), fats (nutritional impact and social constructs of body image), and the global food market (availability of foods not grown in the local climate and environmental impact).

Adv. English Seminar: Playwriting: In this advanced writing elective, students will acquire and develop skills for dramatic storytelling through the writing of monologues, scenes, and short plays. Instruction will focus on the craft basics: structure, plot, character, conflict, setting, dialogue, and formatting.

AP COURSES (18) INCLUDE:

- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Statistics
- Biology
- Environmental Science
- Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- Physics C: Mechanics
- Computer Science
- Comparative Government and Politics
- European History
- Economics
- US/European History: Advanced History of the West
- French Language and Culture
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Spanish Literature and Culture
- Art and Design (2D, 3D, and Drawing)

GPA AND CLASS RANK

Holderness does not report GPA on transcripts or rank its students.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT RESULTS: ALL STUDENTS, 2020-22

| COURSE | # TAKING EXAM | % SCORING 3+ |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2-D Art and Design | 6 | 100% |
| Biology | 30 | 73% |
| Calculus AB | 65 | 57% |
| Calculus BC | 43 | 67% |
| Chemistry | 3 | 33% |
| Comparative Government | 39 | 79% |
| Computer Science A | 26 | 77% |
| Drawing | 2 | 100% |
| English Language | 139 | 65% |
| English Literature | 52 | 73% |
| Environmental Science | 87 | 45% |
| European History | 104 | 50% |
| French Language and Culture | 12 | 83% |
| Human Geography | 1 | 100% |
| Macroeconomics | 62 | 34% |
| Microeconomics | 37 | 35% |
| Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism | 12 | 75% |
| Physics C: Mechanics | 41 | 76% |
| Psychology | 2 | 100% |
| Spanish Language | 19 | 74% |
| Spanish Literature | 3 | 67% |
| Statistics | 28 | 82% |
| US History | 50 | 68% |
| TOTAL | 863 | 61% |

COLLEGE DESTINATIONS, CLASSES OF 2020-22

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Adrian College | Emmanuel College | Regis College |
| American University | Endicott College | University of Rhode Island |
| The American University of Paris | Fairfield University | University of Richmond |
| Babson College | Flagler College | Saint Joseph's College of Maine |
| Bard College | University of Florida | Saint Michael's College |
| Bates College | Fordham University | Skidmore College |
| Bentley University | Gettysburg College | Smith College |
| Boston College | Gordon College | University of South Carolina |
| Boston University | Hamilton College | University of Southern California |
| Bowdoin College | Harvey Mudd College | Southern Methodist University |
| Brandeis University | Hobart William Smith Colleges | St Bonaventure University |
| Brown University | College of the Holy Cross | St. Lawrence University |
| Bryant University | CUNY Hunter College | The College of Saint Scholastica |
| Bryn Mawr College | Johns Hopkins University | Stanford University |
| Bucknell University | Johnson & Wales University - Providence | Stockholm School of Economics |
| University of California - Davis | University of Kansas | Stonehill College |
| University of California - Irvine | Keene State College | Suffolk University |
| University of California - Los Angeles | Lehigh University | Swarthmore College |
| University of California - San Diego | Loyola University New Orleans | Syracuse University |
| University of California - Santa Barbara | Marist College | Texas Christian University |
| Case Western Reserve University | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | The University of Texas at Austin |
| Castleton University | University of Massachusetts - Amherst | Trinity College |
| Clark University | University of Massachusetts - Lowell | Tufts University |
| Clarkson University | McGill University | Tulane University |
| Clemson University | Merrimack College | United States Naval Academy |
| Colby College | University of Michigan | University of Utah |
| University of Colorado Boulder | Middlebury College | Vanderbilt University |
| Colorado College | Montana State University | Vassar College |
| Colorado School of Mines | University of New England | University of Vermont |
| Connecticut College | University of New Hampshire | Villanova University |
| Cornell University | New York University | Virginia Military Institute |
| Dartmouth College | Northeastern University | University of Washington |
| University of Delaware | Northwestern University | Wentworth Institute of Technology |
| Denison University | Paul Smith's College | Westminster College |
| University of Denver | Pepperdine University | Wheaton College |
| Dickinson College | University of Pittsburgh | Whitman College |
| Elon University | Plymouth State University | William & Mary |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach | Providence College | Williams College |
| | Reed College | University of Wisconsin |



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