

Residential Life NEWSLETTER

What Do Our Seniors Have to Say

Favorite Things To Do at WA

"I love making friends here because everyone is so friendly to me. I also enjoy the events that our dorm parents made for us."

"The Boston Trip because I had the chance to explore a different city and make new friends and memories."

"International Dinner because I like to try new dishes and food from different countries."

"Soccer Season"

"I think that sports programs here are an opportunity especially for international students to meet new people, socialize, make experiences and practice an amazing sport"

"Math Team!"



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One Thing You Loved About Your Time at WA

"This year I got to express and really pursue my passion. I was so happy about it thanks to my friends and people who helped me."

"Making many new friends and improving my language skills."

"I loved the friendships I had, the sport that I did and mostly the school"

"I have made friends with wonderful people and had the opportunity to study with wonderful teachers and advisors."

"The time I spent with my friends and dorm parents."

"Everything!, I enjoyed every single moment and I have my best memories here. I met new wonderful people, improved my English, learned from my mistakes, made new experiences, and went out of my comfort zone. I loved the 'dorm life' and sharing my culture with people from all over the world and learning from them."

One Piece of Advice for New Students

"Try to play the most sports as possible"

"Math team!"

"Be confident."

"Just chat with everyone you meet and join in on all the fun events happening around campus. <3"

"Just be yourself, don't get nervous to look for new things. You will have a good international year here when you come and you will feel like it is home."

"Enjoy your time here and do as much activities as you can because it is the best way to get in touch with the American culture and create great relationships with other people"



Boston

In April, our residential students took an unforgettable trip to Boston, where they explored the city's rich history, cutting-edge innovation, and exciting attractions. The adventure began with a visit to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where students explored the campus and toured the MIT Museum, sparking curiosity and inspiration with its exhibits on science, technology, and design.



We then traveled back in time by walking the historic Freedom Trail, from Bunker Hill to downtown Boston. Along the way, students took in key landmarks that brought America's past to life including the USS Constitution and Paul Revere's House.

We also visited the Museum of Illusions, where students enjoyed mind-bending exhibits and interactive installations that made for great laughs and even better photos.

Saturday was a day of free exploration and choice. Some students took in breathtaking views from the View Boston Observatory at Prudential Tower, while others relaxed in the Boston Public Garden, shopped along the bustling Newbury Street, toured the iconic TD Garden, or enjoyed the energy of Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall.

Back at the hotel, students spent quality time together unwinding in the pool, relaxing in the weight room, and sharing meals and stories from their day. It was a weekend full of learning, bonding, and creating lifelong memories in one of America's most iconic cities.



Where We've Been

Star Wars Orchestra



Our residential students attended a performance at the Collins Center for the Arts, University of Maine. They watched *Star Wars: A New Hope* in Concert, featuring the Bangor Symphony Orchestra playing John Williams' score.

The students were captivated by the live orchestra accompanying the film, adding a new layer to the experience. Afterward, they had dinner and discussed their favorite scenes and characters. Whether long-time fans or first-timers, it was a memorable night.



Polar Treat

Our senior students recently enjoyed a delightful outing to Polar Treat, Celebrating its 75th year in operation, Polar Treat is a community favorite, known for a variety of treats, from soft-serve cones to hearty lobster rolls and fried seafood baskets. The updated outdoor seating area provided a perfect spot to relax and enjoy one last outing with our seniors. The visit offered a memorable way to mark the end of their high school journey, creating lasting memories in a local spot.



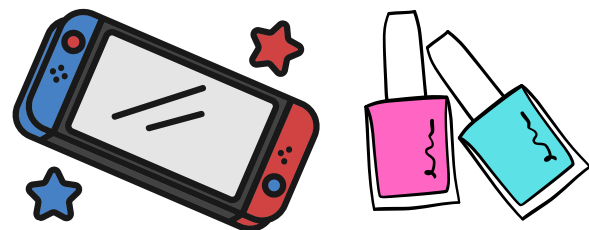
Roques/Jasper



Students recently spent a sunny afternoon exploring two of Downeast Maine's natural gems—Roque Bluffs and Jasper Beach. At Roque Bluffs, they enjoyed time on the sandy beach and nearby trails, taking in views of the bay and surrounding landscape. Later, they visited Jasper Beach, known for its smooth, colorful stones and unique coastal soundscape. The day was filled with laughter, sunshine, and moments of connection, while also appreciating two locations that are not only beautiful but geologically and ecologically significant to the region.



EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS



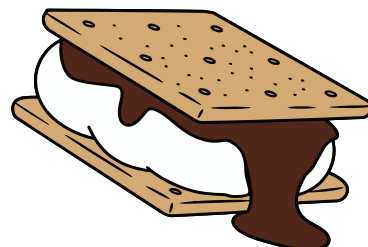
A Night in before APs

After a busy first week back from break, our students enjoyed a relaxed evening in the dorms to recharge. The girls treated themselves to a self-care night with face masks, painted nails, and a lively Mario Kart tournament, while the boys had fun playing FIFA and getting creative with LEGO builds. Everyone came together for some ice cream and downtime—resting up for upcoming AP exams and easing back into the rhythm of school life.



Campfires

Our recent campfire nights brought warmth, laughter, and a sense of connection to the WA dorm community. At Talbot, the boys gathered around the fire to roast s'mores, share stories, and unwind under the stars. Over at the girls' dorm, students enjoyed a relaxing evening filled with cozy blankets and quiet camaraderie. These simple yet meaningful moments offered students a chance to bond, recharge, and enjoy the peaceful side of dorm life.



EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS

The Final International Dinner

Our final International Dinner of the year was an incredible celebration of culture, community, and cuisine. Students from Italy, Turkey, and China treated us to a delicious evening featuring dishes they thoughtfully prepared and presented. From Italy, we enjoyed rich pesto and ragù pastas topped off with creamy tiramisu. The Turkish students served flavorful kabab and a traditional kısır, while our Chinese students shared handmade dumplings and a unique taro purée.

The night was more than just a feast, our students delivered engaging and informative presentations that brought their cultures to life for all of us. The Turkish group energized the room with a traditional dance, and the Italian students got everyone moving with their own twist on a conga line. Many students spent the entire week preparing dumplings and sauces from scratch and dedicated the day of the dinner to cooking in the kitchen. Their hard work and enthusiasm made for a truly memorable evening that brought our community together one last time in the best way possible, through shared food and joy.



Prom night



Photo by
Salty Compass



Photo by
Salty Compass

Prom has a special place in American high school culture. It serves as a rite of passage, a celebration of youth, friendship, and the journey from adolescence to adulthood. Students prepare for months to create a night filled with excitement and memories that last a lifetime.

At Washington Academy, prom carries the same symbolic weight. This year's event was an example of how WA students, especially those in our residential program, embrace the tradition while making it their own.

The excitement began well before the event itself. Residential students enjoyed a festive atmosphere as they got ready together. A local stylist came to campus to help with hair, and the common rooms were filled with snacks and treats.

The boys took part in their own preparations renting tuxedos, coordinating with friends, and purchasing flowers for the evening. The process of getting ready was not just about appearances; it was about bonding, supporting one another, and feeling part of something special.

Prom night itself was a celebration filled with music, and connection. Whether dancing with friends, posing for pictures, or enjoying refreshments, students came together to take part in this cherished American tradition.

At its heart, prom at Washington Academy isn't just about fancy clothes or good music. For our students, especially those far from home, it's a chance to participate in a tradition that defines the American high school experience while making it uniquely their own. In the end, prom is more than just a night of fun it's a reminder of the joy that comes from coming together, the strength of our global community, and the importance of making memories that truly last.



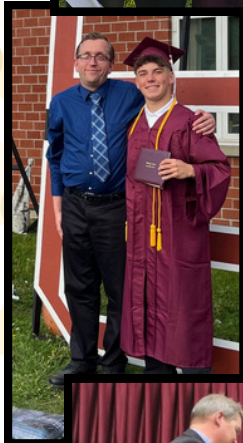
Photo by
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Good Luck Seniors!



"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin."

Tony Robbins

A Note from the Director

As the school year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly memorable and meaningful year in Residential Life at Washington Academy. From day one, our students brought heart, energy, and a willingness to show up for each other, and it has made all the difference.

From the enthusiasm during Homecoming to the cultural richness of our International Dinners, from weekend campfires and movie nights to our unforgettable trip to Boston, we have shared experiences that have brought us closer together as a community. Whether cheering each other on at sports events, dancing at school events, or simply relaxing in the dorms after a long day, it has been inspiring to see our students build friendships that span cultures, backgrounds, and time zones. Those everyday conversations, shared laughs, and quiet check-ins are what truly make residential life feel like home.

This year's success is due in large part to the incredible students who make up our residential life community. Their enthusiasm, kindness, creativity, and resilience have helped shape a program we are truly proud of. Thank you for all that you have brought to our dorms, our campus, and to one another. They have each contributed something unique to our program, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

To our graduating students, we celebrate all you have achieved and wish you continued success as you take your next steps. To those returning, we are already looking forward to what next year will bring: new adventures, new traditions, and more moments of laughter, learning, and growth.

Until then, I wish each of you a restful summer and a bright, fulfilling future. To those who are parting ways with us, whether for new schools, new opportunities, or to return home, please know you will always be a valued part of our story, and you leave behind a lasting impact on our community.

Best Wishes,
Stephanie Griffin
Director of Residential Life

