



Key School engages children from 2.5 years of age through grade 12 in a progressive, coeducational, college-preparatory program on its picturesque 15-acre campus located 4 miles from downtown Annapolis.

# COLLEGE PROFILE CLASS OF 2026

## College Advising

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## Administration

**Matthew Nespole** Head of School  
**Brian Michaels** Upper School Division Head  
**Key School is accredited by AIMS-DC**

CEEB No. 210013

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410.263.9231

534 Hillsmere Drive Annapolis, Maryland 21403

## OUR UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS

201 students in Upper School (grades 9-12)

Class of 2026 comprises 51 students

16% are students of color

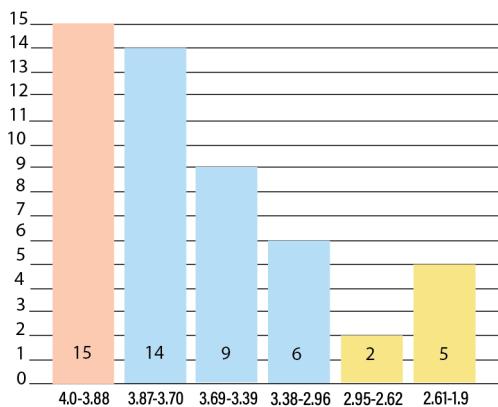


6:1 – student teacher ratio

Average class size is 16

1 Semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program

## CLASS OF 2026 DATA



GPA Average for Class 2026 at end of Junior Year: 3.53/4.0  
GPA Average for Class 2025 at end of Junior Year: 3.34/4.0  
GPA Average for Class 2024 at end of Junior Year: 3.36/4.0

51 Seniors

	A (93-100)	A- (90-92)
<b>B+</b> (87-89)	<b>B</b> (83-86)	<b>B-</b> (80-82)
<b>C+</b> (77-79)	<b>C</b> (73-76)	<b>C-</b> (70-72)
<b>D+</b> (67-69)	<b>D</b> (63-66)	<b>D-</b> (60-62)
	<b>F</b> (0-59)	

## ACADEMIC STATEMENT

- All courses are college preparatory; no honors designations
- All students take a core curriculum from 9th -11th grade in Humanities and Science
- The cumulative GPA is based on final grades
- Maximum GPA is 4.0
- GPA is not weighted
- GPA will be calculated at the end of 12th grade for a final cumulative GPA
- No Class Rank
- No honor roll or academic awards



## COURSES AND TESTING

Highest courses offered: Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Physics, Advanced Calculus I, I/II, II/III, Advanced Statistics, Latin IV, Advanced French Language and Culture, Advanced Spanish Literature, Advanced Spanish Language and Culture, Advanced Studio Concentration.

Students are unable to complete all of the highest level courses offered given the limitations of the schedule.

## SAT/ACT

Average SAT 1382, 85 tests, 39 test takers  
Mid 50% 1340-1450

Average ACT 30, 15 tests, 9 test takers  
Mid 50% 29-32



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, students must earn at least 18.25 credits:



**Arts:** 2 credits  
**English:** 4 credits  
**History:** 3 credits  
**World Language:** 2 credits  
**Laboratory Science:** 3 credits  
**Mathematics:** 3 credits  
**Physical Education:** 1 credit earned over 3 years  
**Community Seminar:** 0.25 credits

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING

AP exams are required for students taking any courses listed as "Advanced", the highest level courses offered. Courses are not designated as AP on the transcript, but are noted as "Advanced".

SCORED	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
5	5
4	20
3	14

28 students took AP exams - 50 tests were taken

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Academic year is divided into semesters on the block system
- Minimum of 5 courses each semester
- Maximum 6 courses each per semester
- Four, 85 minute classes/day

## UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

SUBJECT	REQUIRED/CORE/COURSES	ELECTIVE COURSES - (1/2 Credit)					
<b>HUMANITIES</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ancient Civilizations: Literature and History (9; 2 credits)</li> <li>Modern Civilizations: Literature and History (10; 2 credits)</li> <li>American Civilization: Literature and History (11; 2 credits)</li> <li>Comparative Literature (12; 1 credit)</li> </ul> <p>(AP English Literature &amp; Composition Exam optional)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African American Literature: Movements &amp; Theory (10-12)</li> <li>African American Literature: Horror &amp; Genre (10-12)</li> <li>The Art of Reasoning: An Introduction to Logic and Debate (10-12)</li> <li>Creative Writing (11 &amp; 12)</li> <li>Cultures in Conflict (10-12)</li> <li>Environmental Perspectives (11&amp; 12, 10 with instructor permission)</li> <li>History through Food (10-12)</li> <li>International Film (10-12)</li> </ul>					
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REQUIRED/CORE/COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>			<b>HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>			
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b> 	<b>CLASSICAL LANGUAGES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latin I</li> <li>Latin II</li> <li>Latin III</li> </ul>	<b>MODERN LANGUAGES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arabic I</li> <li>Arabic II</li> <li>Arabic III</li> <li>Arabic IV</li> <li>French I/II</li> <li>French III</li> <li>French IV</li> <li>French Literature and Film</li> <li>Spanish I</li> <li>Spanish II</li> <li>Spanish III</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced French Language and Culture (AP Required)</li> <li>Advanced Spanish Language and Culture (AP Required)</li> <li>Advanced Spanish Literature (AP Required)</li> <li>Latin IV (AP Exam Optional)</li> </ul>				
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REQUIRED/CORE/COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>		<b>ELECTIVE COURSES - (1/2 Credit)</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>		
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Accelerated Geometry with Trigonometry</li> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Accelerated Algebra II with Trigonometry</li> <li>Applied Algebra and Trigonometry</li> <li>Precalculus</li> <li>Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Computer Science</li> <li>Data Science</li> </ul> <p><b>HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES - (1 Credit)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Calculus I (AP Calculus AB Required)</li> <li>Advanced Calculus I/II (AP Calculus BC Required)</li> <li>Advanced Calculus II/III</li> <li>Advanced Statistics (AP Required)</li> </ul>		<b>ENGINEERING</b> 	<p><b>YEAR-LONG - (1 Credit)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Engineering (9-12)</li> <li>Engineering Project Design</li> </ul> <p><b>ONE-SEMESTER - (1/2 CREDIT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robotics &amp; Artificial Intelligence</li> <li>Computer-Aided Design</li> </ul>		
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REQUIRED/CORE/COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>		<b>ELECTIVE COURSES - (1/2 Credit)</b>		<b>HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>		
<b>SCIENCE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Science: Data/Physics (9)</li> <li>Integrated Science: Energy/Chemistry (10)</li> <li>Integrated Science: Systems/Biology (11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (10-12)</li> <li>Applied Scientific Research (10-12)</li> <li>Astronomy: Celestial Cycles (10-12)</li> <li>Astronomy: Solar System (10-12)</li> <li>Ecology (10-12) (if taken w/Environmental Science, AP test optional)</li> <li>Environmental Science (10-12) (if taken w/Ecology, AP test optional)</li> <li>Experimental Methods in Science (10-12)</li> <li>Marine Biology (10-12)</li> <li>Microbiology (10-12)</li> <li>Oceanography (10-12)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Biology (AP Required)</li> <li>Advanced Chemistry (AP Required)</li> <li>Advanced Physics (11 &amp; 12) (AP Required)</li> </ul>		
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REQUIRED/CORE/COURSES - (1 Credit)</b>		<b>ELECTIVE COURSES - (1/2 Credit)</b>		<b>HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES - (1/2 Credit)</b>		
<b>VISUAL ARTS*</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art I (9-12)</li> </ul>	<b>Fine Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2D Studies I</li> <li>2D Studies II</li> <li>3D Media I</li> <li>3D Media II</li> </ul>	<b>Digital Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Photography I</li> <li>Digital Photography II</li> <li>Digital Video I</li> <li>Digital Video II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Studio Concentration I (AP Required)</li> <li>Advanced Studio Concentration II (AP Required)</li> </ul>			
<p><i>*All students must take 2 credits in the Arts. One credit is Art I. The second credit is 1/2 credit in performing art and 1/2 credit in either performing or visual art.</i></p>							
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>						
<b>PERFORMING ARTS*</b> 	<p><b>YEAR-LONG - (1 Credit)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band I, II (9-12)</li> <li>Chorus I, II (9-12)</li> </ul>	<p><b>ONE-SEMESTER - (1/2 CREDIT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acting: Theory and History (10-12)</li> <li>Acting: Performance and Technique (10-12)</li> <li>Dance Technique (10-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music Theory I (10-12)</li> <li>Music Theory II (10-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playwriting (10-12)</li> <li>Theater Design (10-12)</li> </ul>			
<b>SUBJECT</b>							
<b>NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Service (10-12; 1/2 Credit)</li> <li>Leadership: Theory &amp; Practice (10-12; 1/2 Credit)</li> <li>Community Seminar (9; 1/4 Credit)</li> </ul> <p>(Is required for all 9th graders and is P/F)</p>			<p><b>Physical Education:</b></p> <p>While there are no specific required physical education classes in the Upper School, all students must obtain one credit for graduation. Students need 1/3 credit yearly in grades 9-11.</p>			

*Dual Enrollment at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC): Sample course options include Introduction to Business, Introduction to Psychology and Python. Seniors may apply for 1 course at AACC that would be included on the Key transcript and in their GPA. They must have a B in the corresponding subject.*

## ABOUT US

Founded as a day school in 1958 by professors and parents affiliated with St. John's College, Key School graduated its first senior class in 1971. Key's rigorous academic program emphasizes experiential learning, interdisciplinary studies and global perspectives while encouraging both collaboration and independent thinking.

## OUR MISSION

The Key School is founded upon the conviction that children are innately curious about themselves and the world; they want to learn, they want to discover, and they want to create.

Our mission is to nourish and guide this natural exuberance, energy, and delight in the search for meaning, so that each student embraces lifelong learning and develops into an informed, thoughtful, and constructive member of society.

## OUR FACULTY

120 faculty members in the School

83 hold advanced degrees / 7 doctorates

31 have taught at Key for more than 15 years

## OUR ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

The general tone of Key is egalitarian, academically focused, informal, creative, and caring.

Key's program is designed to develop independent thinkers, creative innovators, effective collaborators, tenacious problem-solvers, and articulate leaders.

The School emphasizes the learning process, promotes individuality and encourages the free expression of ideas and points of view.

The adults on campus honor the intelligence and capacity of the student, and the students, in turn, create genuine and long-lasting connections with their teachers.

## OUR CURRICULUM

Key's curriculum includes courses, materials and experiences intended to instruct, stimulate, challenge, and engender a delight in learning while developing a sustaining degree of intellectual curiosity.

Key faculty believe knowledge should be constructed, not delivered, and that real rigor comes from a deep understanding of the complexity of concepts and problems, not from the sheer amount of content covered.

In each course, Key's curriculum is designed to ask its students to analyze, question and construct meaning from information gathered.

## DISTINCTIVE CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

### Integrated Science Courses

- Required 9th through 11th: 9th Data/Physics; 10th Energy/Chemistry; 11th Systems/Biology
- Topics from each of the traditional disciplines are chosen to match the overarching theme of each course
- For example, through classroom discussions and applied labs, students discover how cellular respiration (biological principle) is a series of oxidation-reduction reactions (chemistry concept)

### Civilizations Courses

- Required 9th through 11th: 9th Ancient; 10th Modern; 11th American
- Two-credit humanities-based course that includes history and English/literature

- Study of history and literature combined with study of philosophy, art, religion, politics, economics, law, and history of science
- Student essays require original thinking and logical rigor
- Sample essay: Assess role played by early Americans' belief that they were inhabiting a "New World" drawing on literary, historical and cultural evidence

## STEM

- Courses in the STEM threads prepare students for advanced STEM studies and foster critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills essential for future careers in technology and engineering.
- Courses across the STEM threads promote creativity, design thinking, problem-solving, and persistence through experiential and project-based learning.

## Outdoor Education

- Provides opportunities for students to make connections between their academic studies and the natural world
- Coursework in the field is overseen by core discipline teachers and outdoor education staff
- Entire grades attend 1 to 6-day-long trips that include camping, backpacking, canoeing, and rock climbing
- Required trips include:

Grade 9 Island Odyssey: three days on remote Chesapeake Bay islands, studying ancient civilizations, physics, music, and art as well as the current environment of the Bay and its cultural implications

Grade 10 Rollin' on the River: four-day canoeing and camping excursion, where the study of history and chemistry become integral as they assess the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the region

Grade 11 Assateague: a five-day trip to Assateague Island where they explore the ecological interactions in and around the Chesapeake Bay and investigate the area's diverse habitats

## COLLEGE ADVISING

Finding a college that fits the needs of the student is paramount to Key's college advising process. We work closely with students to help them identify their learning styles, personality tendencies, academic strengths, and social, extracurricular and community interests. Finding the right college is an important decision for seniors and we partner with our students and their parents to listen, understand and then determine the best list of potential schools. Our approach is personal, reflective and appropriately paced.

## ATHLETICS

- Inclusive and competitive
- No "cuts": All students may play on an interscholastic team
- More than 75% participate in Key Athletics

### Varsity and JV sports include:

Fall: Cross-Country, Equestrian, Sailing, Soccer, and Volleyball  
Winter: Basketball, Equestrian and Swimming  
Spring: Baseball, Lacrosse, Sailing, and Tennis

## REPORTING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

The Key School does not volunteer to colleges information about minor infractions for which a student may have been suspended or placed on probation. If asked, the School will report disciplinary actions resulting from violations of local, state and federal law, from acts of significant academic dishonesty, or from any threat to the safety of the School community.

## OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

