KEY SCHOOL

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND | EST. 1958

SCHOOL PROFILE

CLASS OF 2027



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 ADVISING

Laura Burrell Baxter Director of College Advising
lbaxter@keyschool.org 443-321-7883

Christy Serinis College Advising Coordinator
cserinis@keyschool.org 410-263-9231 ext. 1454

ADMINISTRATION

Matthew Nespole Head of School
Brian Michaels Upper School Division Head

Key School is accredited by AIMS-DC

www.keyschool.org
410-263-9231
534 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21403

CEEB No. 210013

UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS

201 students in the Upper School (Grades 9-12)

46% students of color

6:1 student-to-teacher ratio

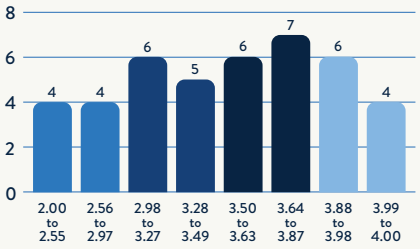
16 average class size

CLASS OF 2027 DATA

44 SENIORS

3.45 AVERAGE GPA

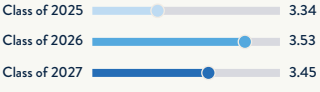
GRADE DISTRIBUTION



based on 42 students who were at Key from 9th-11th grades

GPA AVERAGE TREND

Average at the end of Junior year out of 4.00



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

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

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Academic year is divided into semesters on the block system
- Minimum of 5 courses each semester
- Maximum of 6 courses each semester
- Four, 80 minute classes/day

COURSES & TESTING

HIGHEST COURSES OFFERED:

Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Physics, Advanced Calculus I, Advanced Calculus I/II, Calculus II/III, Advanced Statistics, Advanced French Language & Culture, Advanced Spanish Language & Culture, Advanced Spanish Literature, Studio Concentration

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

SAT/ACT & MERIT SCHOLARS

SAT *(as of July 2026)*
Average: 1327
Tests: 33
Test Takers: 24
Mid 50%: 1240-1410

ACT *(as of Aug. 2026)*
Average: 29
Tests: 7
Test Takers: 4
Mid 50%: 27-31

2 students will enter the College Board National Merit Scholarship Program

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	12
4	11
3	9
2	2

19 students took AP exams
34 tests were taken

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

HUMANITIES

CORE COURSES

- **Ancient Civilizations: Literature & History** (9; 2 credits)
- **Modern Civilizations: Literature & History** (10; 2 credits)
- **American Civilizations: Literature & History** (11; 2 credits)
- **Comparative Literature** (12; 1 credits)
  AP English Literature & Composition Exam Optional

ELECTIVE COURSES (1/2 Credit)

- **African American Literature: Movements & Theory** (10-12)
- **African American Literature: Horror & Genre** (10-12)
- **The Art of Reasoning: An Introduction to Logic & Debate** (10-12)
- **Creative Writing** (11 & 12)
- **Cultures in Conflict** (10-12)
- **Environmental Perspectives** (11 & 12, 10 with instructor permission)
- **History through Food** (10-12)
- **International Film** (10-12)
- **J.R.R. Tolkien The Lord of the Rings** (11 & 12)
- **Japan & The West** (10-12)
- **Media & Culture** (10-12)
- **Psychology** (11 & 12, 10 with instructor permission)
- **Theoretical Foundations of Economics** (Grades 11 & 12, 10 with instructor permission)

WORLD LANGUAGES

CORE COURSES (1 Credit)

Classical Languages

- Latin I
- Latin II
- Latin III

Modern Languages

- Arabic I
- Arabic II
- Arabic III
- Arabic IV
- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- Spanish III
- French I
- French II
- French III
- French IV
- French Literature & Film

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Advanced French Language & Culture** (AP Required)
- **Advanced Spanish Language & Culture** (AP Required)
- **Advanced Spanish Literature** (AP Required)

MATHEMATICS

CORE COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Algebra I**
- **Geometry**
- **Accelerated Geometry with Trigonometry**
- **Algebra II**
- **Accelerated Algebra II with Trigonometry**
- **Applied Algebra and Trigonometry**
- **Precalculus**
- **Statistics**

ELECTIVE COURSES

- **Introduction to Computer Science** (1/2 Credit)
- **Data Science** (1/2 Credit)

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Advanced Calculus** (AP Calculus AB Required)
- **Advanced Calculus I/II** (AP Calculus BC Required)
- **Calculus II/III** (AP Calculus BC Optional)
- **Advanced Statistics** (AP Required)

SCIENCE

CORE COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Integrated Science: Data/Physics** (9)
- **Integrated Science: Energy/Chemistry** (10)
- **Integrated Science: Systems/Biology** (11)

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Advanced Biology** (11 & 12) (AP Required)
- **Advanced Chemistry** (12) (AP Required)
- **Advanced Physics** (11 & 12) (AP Required)

ELECTIVE COURSES (1/2 Credit)

- **Anatomy & Physiology** (10-12)
- **Applied Scientific Research** (10-12)
- **Astronomy: Celestial Cycles** (10-12)
- **Astronomy: Solar System** (10-12)
- **Ecology** (10-12)
  (if taken w/Environmental Science, AP test optional)
- **Environmental Science** (10-12)
  (if taken w/Ecology, AP test optional)
- **Experimental Methods in Science** (10-12)
- **Marine Biology** (10-12)
- **Zoology** (10-12)
- **Oceanography** (10-12)

INNOVATION & ENGINEERING

ELECTIVE COURSES

Year-Long (1 Credit)

- Introduction to Engineering (9-12)
- Engineering Project Design

One-Semester (1/2 Credit)

- Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
- Computer-Aided Design

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Students need 1/3 credit yearly in grades 9-11.

VISUAL ARTS

CORE COURSES (1 Credit)

- **Art I** (9-12)

ELECTIVE COURSES (1/2 Credit)

Fine Arts

- 2D Studies I
- 2D Studies II
- 3D Media I
- 3D Media II

Digital Arts

- Digital Photography I
- Digital Photography II
- Digital Video I
- Digital Video II

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES (1/2 Credit)

- **Studio Concentration I** (AP Optional)
- **Studio Concentration II** (AP Optional)

**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.*

PERFORMING ARTS

ELECTIVE COURSES

Year Long (1 Credit)

- Band I, II (9-12)
- Chorus I, II (9-12)

One Semester (1/2 Credit)

- Acting: Theory & History (10-12)
- Acting: Performance & Technique (10-12)
- Dance Technique (10-12)
- Music Theory I (10-12)
- Music Theory II (10-12)
- Playwriting (10-12)
- Theater Design (10-12)

OTHER COURSE OFFERINGS

- **Leadership: Theory & Practice** (10-12; 1 Credit)
- **Community Seminar (9; 1/4 Credit)** (Is required for all 9th graders and is P/F)

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 for fall of senior year. The course is included on the Key transcript and is incorporated into the final senior year GPA.

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.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- Provides opportunities for students to make connections between their academic studies and the natural world.
- 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.

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.

KEY SCHOOL OVERVIEW

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.

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.

FACULTY

- 120 faculty members in the School
- 83 hold advanced degrees / 7 doctorates
- 31 have taught at Key for more than 15 years

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.

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 families 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.