

School Profile 2026-2027



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.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Quarter 1 Grades are available by November 1st.
- Semester 1 Grades are available by January 1st.
- Holderness does not report GPA or class rank.

COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

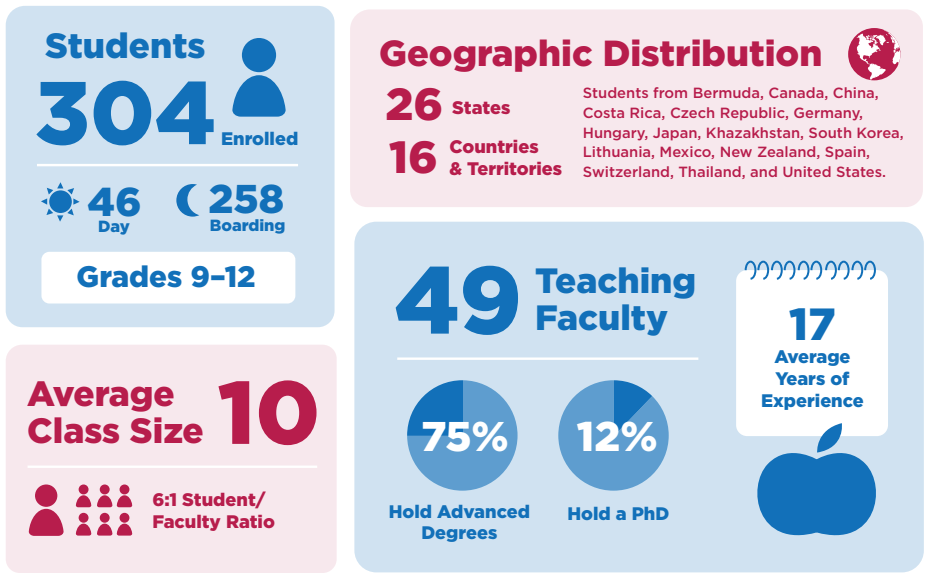
The first, and most important, number is the “level” of the course. The second and third digits (as in HIST 201) reflect organizational schemes at the departmental level.

100	Courses typically taken first in a sequence (9th grade)
200	Courses typically taken second in a sequence (10th grade)
300	Courses typically taken third in a sequence (11th grade)
400	Courses typically taken fourth in a sequence (12th grade)
500	Courses equivalent to first year college courses typically denoted by an Advanced Placement Curriculum
600	Courses equivalent to second year with a 500 pre-requisite. Labeled *Intensive* on the SRAR and Common App Courses & Grades Section.

Honors Classes

Chemistry, Physics, Algebra 2, and Precalculus. Advanced Precalculus is a unique course that includes topics from the start of calculus to prepare students to go directly into BC Calculus.

AT A GLANCE



COLLEGE OFFICE CONTACTS

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MISSION

Holderness School fosters equally in each student the resources of the mind, body, and spirit in the creation of a caring community, inspiring all to work for the betterment of humankind and God's creation.

OUR VISION

Holderness School seeks to develop people the world needs most.

CLASS OF 2026 STATS

- 85 students
- 8.1 applications sent per student
- Matriculated to 50 different colleges in 20 states
- A college process intensely focused on fit

2026 AP EXAM RESULTS

AP Exams are **required** as part of enrollment in an AP Course. **398** exams were administered in 2026. We teach **19** AP Courses.

- **81% AP Pass Rate**
- **50% of exams scored 4 or 5**

NOTEWORTHY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

5 courses is full-time at Holderness

- **Theology and Religious Studies – .5 Credits (1 Semester)**
1 semester of a Theology and Religious study course. This could be World Religions or a course cross-listed within the English or History departments. At times this requirement makes it difficult for a student to enroll in AP English their senior year.
- **Arts Courses – 1 Credit (2 Semesters)**
- **Human Development – .25 Credit**
Health Course
- **Capstone – 1 Credit (Senior Year)**
 - Required Year Long Course Senior Year
 - Students engage in research with mentorship from faculty and adults in the field
 - Includes a self-designed, hands-on learning opportunity
 - Culminates in a thesis presentation to an audience of peers***Please note, as this is a required, full-time course, schedule restraints may result in it replacing a core discipline for students in their senior year*

UNIQUE NOTES ON SPECIFIC COURSES

- **Advanced History of the West**
A two-year intensive course combining curricula from AP US History and AP European History. Students take both exams at the end of the two-year sequence.
- **Advanced Precalculus**
Advanced Precalculus is a unique course to prepare students to go directly into BC Calculus including topics from AP Calculus.
- **Linear Algebra and Differential Equations**
These are college-level electives we offer every other year to students who might otherwise exhaust our math curriculum.
- **AP Physics Electricity and Magnetism**
This is a college-level physics course with a prerequisite of AP Physics C: Mechanics.

See all our courses in the [*Curriculum Guide*](#).

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

In 2025-2026, Holderness students provided over 9500 hours of service to the local community, with 78 students recognized with Rotary Service awards for 25 or more hours above the requirement.

- 29 students 25-49 hours above requirement
- 27 students 50 - 74 hours above requirement
- 9 students 75 - 99 hours
- 7 students 100 - 199
- 6 students 200+ hours above requirement

The Holderness Service Council is completely self-funded. Student initiatives saw revenues of more than \$115,000 in 2025-2026 with \$80,000 in profits donated to local, low-income schools and non-profits. All “business ventures” are student run and directed. Students are required to do **10/hrs of service per year** of attendance.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

PROJECT OUTREACH – 9TH GRADE

Leadership begins by knowing how to serve others, so in March, the ninth graders participate in community service projects around the local community including preparing meals at the food bank, fundraising for Special Olympics, and volunteering at non-profits.

ARTWARD BOUND – 10TH GRADE

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 – 11TH GRADE

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 – 12TH GRADE

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 students' field of interest. In March, they embark on self designed, hands-on learning opportunities and in May present their theses to the school community.

JOB AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Every student at Holderness **participates** in the student-led Job Program, serving in myriad support capacities and learning important lessons of individual responsibility such as
 - Cleaning every dish in the dining hall
 - Caring for faculty children during meetings
 - Cleaning classrooms
 - Collaborating with maintenance staff for outdoor cleanup
- Students 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**.

LOVE LEARNING TOGETHER

Our academic mission is to support 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



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