

Middlesex School

Concord, United States



A secular alternative to New England's church-affiliated academies since 1901, on an Olmsted-designed campus in historic Concord.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	79/100
Facilities	79/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set on an Olmsted-designed campus in Concord, 20 miles outside Boston, Middlesex has long occupied a distinct niche in the New England boarding market: secular, coeducational and intentionally small in a region crowded with historic church-affiliated or more socially stratified rivals. The numbers matter here. Middlesex teaches 425 students in grades 9–12, runs at a striking ****4:1 student-teacher ratio****, and draws pupils from 30 US states and 22 countries. That scale gives it a different feel from the larger New England names: more intimate, more supervised, and harder to disappear inside. Parents who want a school with reach but not sprawl will take notice.

What marks Middlesex out is the combination of **tight academic community** and full residential seriousness. The school talks frankly about faculty living on campus and opening their homes to students; that matters, because boarding schools either have a real all-hours adult presence or they do not. Middlesex does. The campus life also reads as broad rather than niche: theatre, chamber music, chapel talks, a cappella, student-centre sociability and competitive sport all sit inside the same compact ecosystem. The school is accredited by NEASC and NAIS, and the alumni floor is stronger than many schools of this size, with 42 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, business, science, writing and the arts. This is not a bargain option. The average annual fee is ****\$64,350**** for day pupils and ****\$79,200**** for boarders, which places Middlesex firmly in the **top tier** of the American independent-school market.

The right student for Middlesex wants **serious schooling without piety**, structure without grandstanding, and a campus where adults are visible and expectations are hard to evade. It suits bright teenagers who thrive in close discussion, can use a small school well, and want the classic American boarding-school range without the scale or theatrical prestige culture of the biggest brands. It will also appeal to international families who want an American curriculum in English inside a contained, high-contact environment. Students chasing anonymity, looser oversight or a giant social scene will find Middlesex **too contained**. For the right child, that containment is the point.

STRENGTHS

- Very low student-to-teacher ratio of 4:1 with an average class size of around 12, enabling close faculty attention.
- Long-established college-preparatory boarding school founded in 1901, with a 350-acre campus set 20 miles from Boston.
- Broad co-curricular offering for a school of its size, including 20 interscholastic sports and substantial performing and visual arts participation.
- Notable alumni across public life, business and the arts, including actor Steve Carell and Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom.
- Draws students from roughly 30 US states and 20 countries, giving a genuinely national, if modestly international, boarding cohort.

TRADE-OFFS

- Highly selective, with a reported acceptance rate of around 16 percent, well below the typical US boarding school average.
- Boarding tuition of roughly \$79,200 for 2025-26 places it among the most expensive secondary options in the United States.
- Small total enrollment of about 425 students across grades 9-12 means fewer elective and specialist course options than larger prep schools.
- International enrollment is a relatively modest share of the student body, so families seeking a heavily internationalised peer group may find the culture predominantly American.

ADMISSIONS

Middlesex admits boarding and day students to grades 9 through 12, with the application deadline set for January 15. The process is holistic, requiring school transcripts, teacher recommendations, a personal essay, an interview, and standardized testing (SSAT or ISEE) for the current cycle. Acceptance is reported at around 16 percent, making it more competitive than most US boarding schools. Financial aid is available and assessed via the Clarity platform based on family need; there is no separate application fee waiver process detailed publicly beyond standard forms.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (4 2)

SPORT: Mills Lane, Robert Egerton Swartwout

MUSIC: Paget Brewster, Robin Moore, William Damaged

DRAMA: Steve Carell, Paget Brewster, Mills Lane, Arden Myrin, John Davis Lodge, Conrad Aiken, Robin Moore, Philip Dunne

LETTERS: Bill Richardson, Conrad Aiken, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Bill Weld, Robin Moore, Cass Sunstein, Adlai Stevenson IV, Bret Stephens

POLITICS: Bill Richardson, John Davis Lodge, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Anthony Lake, Bill Weld, Chris Van Hollen, Richard M. Russell, Joseph S. Clark Jr.

SCIENCE: John Davis Lodge, Anthony Lake, Cass Sunstein, Oliver Selfridge, Shunsuke Tsurumi, Kevin Systrom, Edward Warburg, Mark P. Lagon

BUSINESS: Adlai Stevenson IV, William von Meister, Kevin Systrom, Q53787128, Peter Briggs, George Montieth Keller Jr.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_2a6c445453.