

Hopkins School

New Haven, United States



Rooted in a 1660 charitable trust on the New Haven Green, this hilltop campus builds rigor around original scientific research.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	78/100
Academic outcomes	81/100
University placement	79/100
Prestige & heritage	81/100
Alumni network	78/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Hopkins trades on something few American schools can match: a foundation in 1660 and a campus life tied to the New Haven Green, then shifted to a hilltop setting that gives it room to act like a serious secondary school rather than a polished urban boutique. The school covers grades 7-12, teaches through an American curriculum, and keeps its academic engine tight with a **10:1** student-teacher ratio and average classes of **18**. That matters here, because Hopkins is built for students who want intensity, not hand-holding. The school itself calls the programme demanding; that rings true. This is a place for adolescents who like argument, reading, problem-solving and teachers who know their subjects in depth.

What puts Hopkins on a shortlist is the combination of age, intellectual seriousness and a culture that values original work. The school’s own emphasis on curiosity and high achievement fits the editorial tagline neatly: rigor here is not decorative, and original scientific research gives the offer more substance than the standard American independent-school promise of “challenge”. Accreditation from NEASC and NAIS places it firmly inside the established US independent-school mainstream, but the character is **more exacting** than many schools that sell themselves on balance first and academics second. Parents paying an average annual fee of ***\$55,850*** will want that clarity. This is an **expensive** day school, and it earns its place in the market by being unapologetically academic rather than trying to please every family.

The right student for Hopkins is bright, self-propelled and comfortable in a room full of other able children. It suits the child who enjoys being stretched and does not need constant reassurance when work gets hard. It also suits families who want a non-religious school with real academic ambition and the infrastructure to support it, rather than a looser progressive model. Recent destinations listed in the school context include American University, Auburn and Barnard, which tells you less about prestige than about breadth: Hopkins sends pupils on to solid American universities, but the school does not publish the kind of outcome breakdown that would let parents judge the full consistency of results at the top end. Even so, its alumni base is **deep**, with 90 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, science, writing and the arts. That long civic and intellectual footprint gives Hopkins something many younger schools lack: **institutional weight**.

STRENGTHS

- Hopkins is one of only three mid-seventeenth-century independent schools in the country to survive to today, founded in 1660, giving it an unusually long institutional track record.
- The school reports an average annual financial aid award of \$33,405 for a Hopkins family, with aided families receiving on average a 60% reduction in tuition costs for 2026-27.
- Mid-50% SAT scores run 1390-1540 and mid-50% ACT scores 30-34, indicating a strong academic peer group among the small senior class.
- The school is a founding school of the Malone Schools Online Network (MSON) and runs the Hopkins Authentic Research program, widening access to specialised courses beyond its own faculty roster.
- Classes are small, with an average class size of 12 and a student-to-teacher ratio reported as low as 5:1 to 7:1 depending on the source.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day tuition is high, listed at \$54,800 for 2024, with additional fees for international students such as a student management fee.
- Admission is genuinely hard to secure: admission to Hopkins is very competitive, with most applicants scoring above the 75th percentile on standardized entrance exams, and third-party trackers put the acceptance rate around 46-51%.
- International representation is thin -- the school has about 724 students, of whom only 0.30% are international students, limiting global-peer exposure for relocating expat children.
- The academic load is demanding by design: the curriculum includes mandatory Latin and a fast pace across core subjects, requiring students to be highly motivated and organized to manage the workload effectively.

ADMISSIONS

Hopkins enrolls day students in grades 7-12, with entry points concentrated at grade 7 (Junior School) and grade 9. Families apply via the SAO or Gateway common application, submit a \$75 fee, and complete school transcripts, recommendations and a required interview; SSAT or ISEE scores are commonly submitted. The deadline is January 15, and the school states it seeks 'highly self-motivated' applicants able to handle a challenging curriculum. Reported acceptance rates cluster in the mid-40s to low-50s percent, and the school itself describes admission as very competitive, with most admits scoring above the 75th percentile on entrance testing.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (90)

MUSIC: Charles Ives, Henry Strong Durand, Nicholas Britell, Harry Rowe Shelley

DRAMA: George DiCenzo, Jonathan Mostow, Scott Lowell, Trey Ellis, Alexander DiPersia

VISUAL_ARTS: William Morris Hunt, Ernest Flagg, Elisha Cooper, Henry Murphy

LETTERS: Guido Calabresi, Harold Hongju Koh, Walter Camp, Mei Chin, Arthur Twining Hadley, Theodore Winthrop, Timothy Dwight V, Carolyn Hax

POLITICS: James Hillhouse, Wilson S. Bissell, Orris S. Ferry, Edward Mandell House, Augustus Brandegee, Henry W. Edwards, William W. Hoppin, Roger Sherman Baldwin

SCIENCE: Josiah Willard Gibbs, Benjamin Silliman Sr., Harold Hongju Koh, Abraham Pierson, Paul MacCready, Arthur Twining Hadley, Timothy Dwight V, John Hays Hammond Sr.

BUSINESS: William Phelps Eno, John C. Malone, John Hays Hammond Sr., George G. Haven 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_443df4e505.