

The Chapin School

New York City, United States



On the East River's edge, a K-12 girls' school where two years of Latin are compulsory and no valedictorian is named.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	79/100
University placement	77/100
Prestige & heritage	77/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

On East End Avenue, The Chapin School makes an unusually clear offer: a K-12 girls’ education with one campus, a strong academic spine and no appetite for empty status signals. Two details capture the place well. Latin is compulsory for two years, which tells you something about its view of intellectual discipline, and the school names no valedictorian, which tells you something about its resistance to turning every high achiever into a public ranking exercise. Founded in 1901 by Maria Bowen Chapin, Chapin still runs from Kindergarten to Class 12 under one roof at 100 East End Avenue. That continuity matters. It gives the school a coherent internal culture rather than three semi-detached divisions sharing a badge.

This is an American-curriculum day school, non-religious, accredited by NEASC and NAIS, with a **6:1** student-teacher ratio. That ratio is not decorative. In a girls’ school that talks about scholarly excellence, it points to close adult attention and a serious classroom culture. The mission language is heavy on intellect, character and community; many schools write that way, but Chapin’s structure backs it up better than most. A single-site K-12 school in New York can feel *intensely cohesive* or *claustrophobically insular*. Parents need to decide which side of that line appeals. The average annual day fee is **\$71,000**, which places Chapin firmly in New York’s *top-fee bracket*. At that price, families are not buying facilities on a sprawling campus. They are buying access to a concentrated, academically demanding urban girls’ school with very strong peer effects.

What is special here is not novelty but conviction. Chapin reads as a school that still values scholarship for its own sake, not just as a delivery system for college admissions. The founder’s language about “sound scholarship”, tradition and “untrodden ways” still sits close to the centre of the school’s self-understanding. That combination — intellectual seriousness, female leadership, and a refusal to flatten achievement into one prize at the end — will put Chapin on the shortlist for families who want a *fiercely academic*, *high-expectation* girls’ school without religious framing. Its documented alumni footprint is also substantial, with 33 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across business, science, journalism, film and the arts, which reinforces the sense that the school has long produced graduates who move comfortably into public life.

The student who will want Chapin is bright, organised and comfortable in a culture where academic effort is taken for granted. She does not need hand-holding to value reading, writing and disciplined thought, and she will benefit from a community built entirely around girls and young women from age 5 to 18. This is *not for families chasing flash*. It is for families who want seriousness, consistency and a school that has kept faith with its own standards for more than a century.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Founded in 1901, Chapin is one of Manhattan's oldest all-girls independent schools, with all grades from Kindergarten through Class 12 housed in a single building at 100 East End Avenue. • The school reports a 6:1 student-to-teacher ratio, supporting small-class instruction across Lower, Middle, and Upper School divisions. • Chapin belongs to the Interschool consortium of eight Manhattan independent schools, sharing curricular and extracurricular resources with peer institutions such as Brearley, Dalton, and Spence. • Notable alumnae publicly documented on Wikipedia's alumni list include Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy (Class of 1947) and fashion designer Vera Wang. • The school maintains a dedicated financial aid program using the SSS/NAIS form, with aid intended to meet demonstrated need for qualifying families.	• As a single-sex school, Chapin does not offer a coeducational option at any grade level, which will not suit families seeking mixed-gender schooling. • Published tuition for 2025-26 is \$68,250 per year, placing it among the most expensive private day schools in New York City, before additional fees. • Admission is highly concentrated at Kindergarten entry, with very few openings in later grades, limiting options for families relocating mid-childhood. • The school occupies a single Upper East Side building, meaning campus space, athletic facilities, and grounds are more constrained than schools with multiple or suburban campuses.

ADMISSIONS

Chapin admits most new students at Kindergarten, when the bulk of seats are filled across roughly three classes; openings in later grades are rare. The process follows the standard NYC independent-school pattern: application, school transcripts (for older applicants), recommendation letters, an admissions test such as the ERB, and a family/child interview. Competition is significant given Chapin's standing among the city's historic girls' schools, and advisors commonly recommend applying to several peer schools simultaneously. Financial aid is available via the SSS/NAIS form for qualifying families.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (33)

MUSIC: Samantha Ronson, Annie Moon

DRAMA: Lake Bell, Constance Bennett, Barbara Bennett, Alexandra Isles, Galt Niederhoffer, Nicole Berger

VISUAL_ARTS: Vera Wang, Ivanka Trump, Queen Noor of Jordan, Q5372801, Lilian Swann Saarinen, Sister Parish, Lynden B. Miller, Virginia Dancy Webb

LETTERS: Ivanka Trump, Queen Noor of Jordan, Christine Todd Whitman, Alexandra Kotur, Galt Niederhoffer, Deborah Hautzig, Lilian Swann Saarinen, Theodora Keogh

POLITICS: Ivanka Trump, Christine Todd Whitman

SCIENCE: Hope Cooke, Theodora Mead Abel, Frances Sergeant Childs, Virginia Dancy Webb

BUSINESS: Vera Wang, Ivanka Trump, Joan Whitney Payson, Elbridge T. Gerry

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_7ce7f09a5d.