

Kent School

Kent, United States



On the banks of the Housatonic, a century-old rowing tradition steers a rigorous AP curriculum on a 1,200-acre Connecticut campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	22/100
Facilities	81/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Rowing is the obvious hook at Kent, but the school’s real distinction is the way it binds old New England boarding-school culture to a tightly staffed academic model. This is a coeducational Episcopal boarding school in Kent, Connecticut, founded in 1906, serving 520 students in grades 9–12 with a post-graduate option. The setting matters: a 1,200-acre campus on the Housatonic gives the place physical scale, and the century-old rowing tradition is not decorative. Neither is the academic structure. A **5:1** student-teacher ratio and average classes of **12** put Kent in the category of schools where adults know students well and idleness is hard to hide. The curriculum is the US High School Diploma with Advanced Placement, so this is a school for families who want a conventional American college-preparatory route

rather than IB breadth or a progressive, loose-edged programme.

What puts Kent on a shortlist is the combination of **serious adult oversight**, **ritualised community life** and a clear sense of institutional identity. The school states its Episcopal roots plainly and does not dilute them into vague language about “values”; chapel, spiritual life and the school’s own competencies sit inside the daily fabric. That will suit some families and rule it out for others. Kent also trades on tradition without letting the whole offer collapse into nostalgia: Rock Day, class rituals and boarding culture give it social glue, while the academic proposition stays rigorous and legible. NAIS accreditation adds a baseline mark of credibility, but parents should focus less on the badge and more on the operational facts: small classes, full boarding infrastructure and a school large enough to offer breadth without becoming anonymous. At an average annual fee of ****\$84,000**** for boarders and ****\$63,000**** for day pupils, Kent sits in the **expensive, high-commitment** end of the US independent-school market.

The best fit is a student who wants structure, tradition and close contact with teachers, and who will use a boarding campus rather than merely inhabit it. Kent suits teenagers who are **robust, sociable and game for institutional life**: crew athletes, committed performers, diligent AP students, and adolescents who like the idea of shared customs and a moral vocabulary that the school actually uses. It does not suit families looking for a secular atmosphere, a highly urban sixth-form experience, or a school that defines itself through public exam data and published league-table style outcomes; Kent does not publish aggregate AP results in the public domain here. Its alumni footprint is substantial, with 148 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, business, scholarship, the arts and sport. That breadth reinforces the school’s market position: Kent is not a niche specialist; it is a **full-culture American boarding school** with a strong sense of self, and that clarity is its strength.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Founded in 1906 in the Episcopal tradition, Kent School has more than a century of continuous operation as a coeducational boarding school. • The 1,200-acre campus sits directly on the Housatonic River, giving the school's near-century-old rowing program a rare on-site training water just steps from the dormitories. • Kent draws boarding and day students from over 40 countries, giving the community a genuinely international boarding cohort rather than a mostly local day population. • The school operates a substantial need-based financial aid program, with an average award of roughly \$59,200 and about a third of students receiving assistance. • Notable alumni include philosopher John Rawls, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and actor Treat Williams, indicating a long track record of producing high-profile graduates.	• Boarding tuition runs in the region of \$73,000-\$81,500 depending on the year cited, placing Kent among the costlier US boarding options for relocating families. • The campus is in rural northwestern Connecticut, meaning families should factor in a multi-hour journey from New York City or Hartford for visits and airport transfers. • Published acceptance-rate figures vary widely across directories (from mid-teens to high-30s percent), so families cannot rely on a single, consistent selectivity benchmark. • As an Episcopal-affiliated school with twice-weekly chapel services, families seeking a strictly secular environment should weigh this institutional character.

ADMISSIONS

Kent admits into grades 9 through 12 and postgraduate year, with a stated application deadline of January 15 for the following autumn intake, alongside rolling review in some cycles. The process typically requires standardized testing, transcripts, teacher recommendations and an interview, standard for US boarding schools. Reported acceptance rates differ by source, ranging from the high-teens to high-30s percent, so competitiveness should be treated as moderate-to-selective rather than precisely quantified. International applicants should confirm English-language and visa-sponsorship requirements directly with admissions.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (148)

SPORT: Christine Roper, William Stowe, Roger Wilson Cutler Jr., Pierre-Luc Caron, Julie Bengis, Haley Uliasz, Aidan Pompa, Glen Wolyner

MUSIC: Seth MacFarlane, KT Tunstall, Treat Williams, Roger Sessions, Sadie Dupuis, Lawrence Casserley, Newman Taylor Baker, Q7323786

DRAMA: Seth MacFarlane, KT Tunstall, Mamie Gummer, Alicia Coppola, Treat Williams, Ted Danson, James Gould Cozzens, Sandy Campbell

VISUAL ARTS: Prince Carl Philip, Duke of Värmland, KT Tunstall, Vine Deloria, Jr., Q4859951, Guy Murchie, Joseph Kaiser, Stephen E. Coit, Josh Simpson

LETTERS: Vine Deloria, Jr., Treat Williams, James Gould Cozzens, Sadie Dupuis, Ashbel Green, Chard deNiord, Alden Mills, Robert Hillyer

POLITICS: John Rawls, Paul Bremer, Cyrus Vance, Jonathan Lord, Stewart McKinney, Peter Carlisle, Christopher Burnham, Hamilton Fish IV

SCIENCE: John Rawls, Vine Deloria, Jr., Roger Sessions, Charles Poor Kindleberger, Alfred W. McCoy, Charles Patterson, Richard Locksley, Lawrence Casserley

BUSINESS: Dick Patrick, Christopher Burnham, Jonathan Harmsworth, 4th Viscount Rothermere, Thomas C. Foley, Vere Harmsworth, 3rd Viscount Rothermere, Stephen E. Coit, Michael Richardson, Roger Wilson Cutler 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_fb43941662.