



Key School engages children from 2.5 years of age through grade 12 in a progressive, coeducational, college-preparatory program on its picturesque 15-acre campus located 4 miles from downtown Annapolis.

534 Hillsmere Drive • Annapolis, Maryland 21403



About Us

Founded as a day school in 1958 by professors and parents affiliated with St. John's College, Key School graduated its first senior class in 1971. Key's rigorous academic program emphasizes experiential learning, interdisciplinary studies and global perspectives while encouraging both collaboration and independent thinking.



Our Mission

The Key School is founded upon the conviction that children are innately curious about themselves and the world; they want to learn, they want to discover, and they want to create.

Our mission is to nourish and guide this natural exuberance, energy, and delight in the search for meaning, so that each student embraces lifelong learning and develops into an informed, thoughtful, and constructive member of society.



Our Students

Key students are curious, lively and enthusiastic.
645 students enrolled in Key-Wee (2.5 year olds) through grade 12
213 students in Upper School (grades 9-12)
Class of 2020 comprises 49 students, 21 males and 28 females
35% students of color
Geographic reach: students attend Key from 71 zip codes, 12 countries, and 264 sending schools
6:1 student teacher ratio
Average class size is 16

School Year 2019-2020
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The Key School is accredited by AIMS-DC



Our Faculty

114 faculty members in the School
69 hold advanced degrees / 7 doctorates
35 have taught at Key for more than 15 years



Our Academic Philosophy

The general tone of Key is egalitarian, academically focused, informal, creative, and caring.

Key's program is designed to develop independent thinkers, creative innovators, effective collaborators, tenacious problem-solvers, and articulate leaders.

The School emphasizes the learning process, promotes individuality and encourages the free expression of ideas and points of view.

The adults on campus honor the intelligence and capacity of the student, and the students, in turn, create genuine and long-lasting connections with their teachers.



Our Curriculum

Key's curriculum includes courses, materials and experiences intended to instruct, stimulate, challenge, and engender a delight in learning while developing a sustaining degree of intellectual curiosity.

Key faculty believe knowledge should be constructed, not delivered, and that real rigor comes from a deep understanding of the complexity of concepts and problems, not from the sheer amount of content covered.

In each course, Key's curriculum is designed to ask its students to analyze, question and construct meaning from information gathered.



Distinctive Curricular Offerings

Integrated Science Courses

- Required 9th through 11th: 9th Data; 10th Energy; 11th Systems
- Each course comprises integrated study of physics, chemistry and biology
- Topics from each of the traditional disciplines are chosen to match the overarching theme of each course
- For example, through classroom discussions and applied labs, students discover how cellular respiration (biological principle) is a series of oxidation-reduction reactions (chemistry concept)

Civilizations Courses

- Required 9th through 11th: 9th Ancient; 10th European; 11th American
- Two-credit humanities-based course that includes history and English
- Study of history and literature combined with study of philosophy, art, religion, politics, economics, law, and history of science
- Student essays require original thinking and logical rigor
- Sample essay: Assess role played by early Americans' belief that they were inhabiting a "New World" drawing on literary, historical and cultural evidence

Independent Study

- Appropriate for highly-motivated seniors
- Seniors work 1:1 with faculty member on intense course of study based on their academic interest
- Students responsible for securing a faculty sponsor and submitting a detailed syllabus and proposal for approval by Academic Committee
- Generally 25% of Key seniors pursue an Independent Study
- Samples include: Synthetic Biology, Comparison of Eastern and Western Medicine, The Evolution of the French Song, A Study of the Supreme Court, and Multivariable Calculus

Senior Projects

- 100% of seniors participate
- Two-week internships or community-based service activities
- Students must submit proposals and have project formally approved
- Culminating exercise is a presentation about each project given to a faculty panel and their peers
- Recent projects include: shadowing and work at the Computational Biology Lab at Johns Hopkins University, London School of Economics; glass blowing; and food writing for the Chicago Tribune

Outdoor Education

- Provides opportunities for students to make connections between their academic studies and the natural world
- Coursework in the field is overseen by core discipline teachers and outdoor education staff
- Entire grades attend 1 to 6-day-long trips that include camping, backpacking, canoeing and rock climbing

- Required trips include:
 - Grade 9 Island Odyssey: three days on remote Bay islands, studying ancient civilizations, physics, music, and art as well as the current environment of the Bay and its cultural implications
 - Grade 10 Rollin' on the River: four-day canoeing and camping excursion, where the study of history and chemistry become integral as they assess the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the region
 - Grade 11 Assateague: a five-day trip to Assateague Island where they explore the ecological interactions in and around the Chesapeake Bay and investigate the area's diverse habitats



Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, students must earn at least 19 credits and present as a minimum:

- Arts** 2 credits
- English** 4 credits
- History** 3 credits
- Foreign Language** 3 credits
- Laboratory Science** 3 credits
- Mathematics** 3 credits
- Physical Education** 1 credit earned over 3 years

"My experiences at Key have shaped who I am more than any other influence in my life. Experiences should hold more value than accomplishments...I learned this first-hand by not receiving a letter grade until freshman year. I enjoy learning for learning's sake; I learn because I want to grow and understand the world, not for a good grade. In all of my classes I have been asked deep, complex questions, and I have been expected to take my thoughts and synthesize them into clear, concise responses. I have learned that sharing ideas helps me broaden my perspective and rethink my initial conclusions."

*Katharine Young, Class of 2016
Pomona College*



Athletics

- Inclusive and competitive
- No "cuts": All students may play on an interscholastic team
- More than 75% participate in Key athletics

Varsity and JV sports include:

Girls: Basketball, Field Hockey, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Volleyball

Boys: Basketball, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, and Soccer

Coed: Baseball, Cross-Country, Equestrian, Golf, Sailing, Swimming, and Tennis



Academic Statement

- No Class Rank
- GPA not weighted; Maximum GPA 4.0
- No honor roll or academic awards
- All courses are college preparatory; no honors designations
- All students take core curriculum from 9th-11th grade in Humanities and Science
- Ancient, European and American Civilizations are 2-credit humanities courses linking English and History through junior year.
- English 12 is a required course and the only offering for seniors in this subject.
- Integrated Science: Data, Energy and Systems correlate to taking Physics, Chemistry and Biology through junior year.



Academic Requirements

- Academic year is divided into semesters on the block system
- Minimum of five course each semester
- Grades on a semester and yearly basis



Advanced Placement

- "Advanced" is Key's designation for "AP courses" and for highest level course offerings
- Students in "Advanced" classes are required to take the AP exam but the course is not aligned with the College Board curriculum.
- Advanced Courses Offered:
 - Biology
 - Calculus (AB & BC)
 - Chemistry
 - Latin
 - Spanish Literature
- Students can opt to take the AP examination from the following courses:
 - English 12 (English Literature and Composition)
 - French V (French Language and Culture)
 - Physics (Physics 1)
 - Spanish Language and Culture
 - Statistics
 - Studio Art

Class of 2020 Data

Mean GPA 3.03/4.0

National Merit Scholarship Recognition: 2 students

Standardized Test Mid-Range Scores through 6/19 testing:

SAT Mid-50% Scores: 1160 - 1360

ACT Composite Mid-50% Scores: 23-30

17 juniors took AP exams in 2019

76 % scored a 3 or higher on the exams

Grading Scale:

A = 93 – 100

A- = 90 – 92

B+ = 87 – 89

B = 83 – 86

B- = 80 – 82

C+ = 77 – 79

C = 73 – 76

C- = 70 – 72

D+ = 67 – 69

D = 63 – 66

D- = 60 – 62

F = 0 – 59

- Non-Weighted 4.0 System
- No Honor Roll or Academic Awards
- Key does not rank its students

"Imagine an environment where voicing your dissenting opinion is encouraged; composing your music, as a seven-year-old, is essential to the school play; studying the efficacy of herd immunity is debated or feeling supported in your desires for preserving the Chesapeake Bay for generations beyond me. For the past thirteen years, this has been the Key School environment. It's more than textbooks and classrooms; it's about instilling in me the desire for learning beyond 3 PM."

*Rayan Zia, Class of 2018,
Dickinson College*



Finding a college that fits the needs of the student is paramount to Key's college advising process. We work closely with students to help them identify their learning styles, personality tendencies, academic strengths, and social, extracurricular and community interests. Finding the right college is an important decision for seniors and we partner with our students and their parents to listen, understand and then determine the best list of potential schools. Our approach is personal, reflective and appropriately paced.

Matriculations for the Class of 2016 - 2019

The American University (5)
 Anne Arundel Community College (4)
 Barnard College
 Baruch College, City University of New York
 Bates College (2)
 Beloit College
 Bennington College
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Bowdoin College
 Brown University
 Bryn Mawr College (2)
 Bucknell University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Clemson University (2)
 Colgate University
 College of Charleston
 College of William & Mary (4)
 Colorado College (2)
 Colorado Mesa University
 Colorado School of Mines
 Columbia College
 Columbia College, Chicago (3)
 Connecticut College
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Davidson College (2)
 Dickinson College (4)
 Drexel University
 Duke University (4)
 Eckerd College (2)
 Elon University
 Emerson College
 Flagler College
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Fordham University (2)
 Franklin & Marshall College (2)
 Frostburg State University
 Full Sail University
 The George Washington University (2)
 Georgetown University (3)
 Georgia Institute of Technology (2)

Gettysburg College
 Gordon College
 Goucher College (2)
 Guilford College
 Hamilton College, New York
 Hampden-Sydney College
 Haverford College (2)
 High Point University
 Hobart & William Smith Colleges
 Jacksonville University
 Johns Hopkins University (3)
 Kalamazoo College
 Kenyon College (3)
 Lehigh University
 Macalester College
 McDaniel College
 Michigan State University
 Morgan State University
 National Top Sports Institute
 New York University (3)
 New York University Shanghai
 Niagara University
 Notre Dame of Maryland
 Oberlin College
 Occidental College
 Otis College of Art & Design
 Pace University, New York City
 Pennsylvania State University (2)
 Pennsylvania State University, Abington
 Pepperdine University
 Pitzer College (2)
 Pomona College
 Pratt Institute (2)
 Princeton University
 Purdue University
 Reed College
 Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
 Rutgers University, New Brunswick
 Salisbury University
 Savannah College of Art & Design (3)
 Scripps College
 Skidmore College (2)
 St. John's College (2)

St. Mary's College of Maryland (5)
 State University of New York, Stony Brook
 Stetson University
 Syracuse University (4)
 Temple University
 Towson University (2)
 Tufts University (2)
 U.S. Army
 United States Naval Academy
 University of British Columbia
 University of Colorado at Boulder (2)
 University of Denver (4)
 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 University of Lincoln, UK
 University of Maryland (9)
 University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2)
 University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (2)
 University of Miami (3)
 University of Michigan (2)
 University of Mississippi
 University of North Carolina, Asheville
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Oregon
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Rochester
 University of St. Andrews, Scotland
 University of Tampa (2)
 University of Tennessee Knoxville (2)
 University of Vermont (5)
 University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)
 Ursinus College
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (2)
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wells College (2)
 West Virginia University
 Widener University
 Williams College

REPORTING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

The Key School does not volunteer to colleges information about minor infractions for which a student may have been suspended or placed on probation. If asked, the School will report disciplinary actions resulting from violations of local, state and federal law, from acts of academic dishonesty, vandalism, or from any threat to the safety of the School community.

"My journey through school has been anything but typical. As I have grown up, I have discovered that there are many things I do at Key that one would be hard-pressed to find at other schools. I leave school dirty; I have played and learned outside and returned home with messy clothes and leaves in my hair. I know every single person in my grade by name. I challenge my teachers through respectful discussion and call many of them by their first names because they consider me to be a peer. I see my teachers outside of class and feel comfortable sitting down and having coffee with them. I embrace failure and am confident that it will only lead to success further down the road."

*Jerry Mathis, Class of 2016
University of Notre Dame*