



7

*Proven Reasons  
the Boarding School  
Experience is a  
Competitive Advantage*



*As parents already know, quality of education is crucial to a student's success.*

If parents feel that their local public high school does not meet their child's needs academically, socially, athletically, artistically, or even with a positive peer group, the high school years can become very stressful for both them and their students. If this sounds like your family, it might be time to consider the boarding school experience. According to [The Association of Boarding Schools \(TABS\)](#), 95% of boarding school students are happy with their experience. Chances are, your child will be too.

Read our guide for further information of what boarding school has to offer. We will discuss seven reasons why the boarding school experience is a competitive advantage for your child.

**95%**

of boarding school students are happy with their experience.



**78%**

of boarding school graduates felt they were well prepared for non-academic aspects of college life compared to 23% of public school students.



REASON

1

## *Boarding School Emulates College Life*

Unlike other high school options, the boarding school experience truly prepares your child for life in college.

In boarding school, your child is responsible for managing their time, including their academics, extracurricular activities, and social life. They'll also be responsible for doing their own laundry, keeping their room clean, and being prepared for their school days. This allows them to gain independence in a structured environment and begin to take ownership of their own decisions. According to TABS, 78% of boarding school graduates felt they were well prepared for non-academic aspects of college life, such as independence, social life, and time management. Only 23% of public school students said the same.

Your child will also experience dorm life for the first time. They'll have a roommate and a shared bathroom which will foster important communication and social skills.

In these and many other ways, the boarding school experience prepares your child for success in college. 70% of boarding school students reported to TABS that their boarding school experience helped them develop self-discipline, maturity, independence, and the ability to think critically.





**91%**

*of boarding school students said that their classes were academically challenging compared to only 50% of public school students.*

REASON

2

## *Specialized Academic Programs*

Boarding schools typically offer specialized academic programs and more elective classes and advanced courses such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate. Students can explore a wide range of subjects or delve deeply into a subject of special interest to them. Boarding schools generally offer more classes in the arts, sciences, and languages than public high schools. They also have a wider range of special interest courses like engineering, astronomy, and multi-linear algebra, to name a few.

In a poll from TABS, 91% of boarding school students said that their classes were academically challenging compared to only 50% of public school students. Boarding schools also typically have smaller class sizes, providing your child with individual attention from their teachers.





**90%**

of boarding school students reported having great, high quality teachers compared to 51% of public school students.

REASON

3

## *Support from Faculty and College Counselors*

Attending a boarding school will give your child plenty of support from teachers and guidance counselors. Unlike at a public high school, teachers usually live on the campus and act as dorm proctors and mentors; they are involved in students' lives both during and outside of the school day. The faculty is very involved in the activities on campus and is available to your child.

90% of boarding school students reported having [great, high quality teachers](#) compared to 51% of public school students. Also, 75% of boarding school students felt their environment was supportive, according to a study from TABS.

College counselors offer their support to your student too. Your child will be guided through the confusing college application process from the get-go, helping them find their best-fit college.

TABS reported that 41% of boarding school students felt their college counselor was very helpful in exploring their college options. Only 13% of public school students felt their college counselors were as helpful.





REASON

# 4

## *Strong Campus Community*

At a boarding school, students are constantly surrounded by their friends, proctors, mentors, and teachers. This proximity builds a sense of community that is unparalleled in day schools. The school truly becomes a second home for many students and often life-long relationships are built with both peers and adults. As a strong sense of community is built, students learn to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

Students also have the chance to participate in volunteer activities, food drives, fund raisers and service trips — all opportunities they might not have in public school that help them build a sense of community kinship and belonging.







**77%**  
of boarding school  
students said they  
had opportunities  
for leadership  
compared to  
52% of public  
school students.

REASON

5

## Leadership Opportunities

Boarding schools emphasize leadership opportunities in all facets of school life. Students can participate in student government, overseeing their dorms as student proctors or members of their dormitory council, or they can lead in an extracurricular activity like a sports team or a theater group. In addition, programming specific to leadership skills is common at boarding schools.

77% of boarding school students said they had opportunities for leadership at their school compared to 52% of public school students.







**78%**

of boarding school students were motivated by their peers compared to 49% of public school students.

REASON

6

## *Motivated Peers*

Generally, students at boarding schools are very motivated in their academic lives because they are challenged in their classes and are learning alongside students who have similar academic capacity and motivation.

A [TABS study](#) found that 78% of boarding school students were motivated by their peers compared to 49% of public school students.

The boarding school experience encourages your child to want to learn and like-minded peers will challenge them to grow.







REASON

7

## *Focused on the Future*

The boarding school experience prepares your child for the future — not just for college, but for their professional lives as well. Typically, boarding school students achieve success at early stages in their career because of the competitive advantages they experienced in high school. In fact, 44% of boarding school students achieved a top management position by the middle of their career, 52% achieved a top management position later in their career, and 50% of boarding school students earned an advanced degree.







We hope this guide gave you a good understanding of why the boarding school experience is a competitive advantage and a valuable opportunity for your child. We'd also like to invite you to learn more about the **St. Johnsbury Academy Good Neighbor Tuition Program**. For Vermont, New Hampshire, and Quebec residents or vacation home owners, we offer a 40% savings on our boarding tuition.

**EXPLORE OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR TUITION PROGRAM**

