Who We Are

Founded in 1934, Rocky Hill Country Day School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school with students in nursery through grade 12. Rocky Hill’s expansive waterfront campus is located between Goddard State Park and Narragansett Bay, and the park, the campus, and the Bay are a part of our students’ living classroom.

Points of Pride

The Upper School experience at RHCD is rooted in:

- **Harkness**: At the heart of a RHCD education is communication and the open exploration of ideas and beliefs. Convening around the Harkness™ table allows every student a front row seat to develop appropriate listening skills, self-advocacy, face-to-face dialogue, and an appreciation for civil discourse.

- **Project-Based Learning**: PBL is an approach to education that centralizes student inquiry while addressing a real world problem with authentic work to address the project and is often conducted in collaboration with experts in the field of study.

- **Intensives**: The Upper School uses an intensive model to focus on fewer courses at any given time for deeper exploration of subject matter and skills. Students earn 5-6 credits per year while focusing on 2-3 courses at a time in a block schedule. With fewer courses during an academic term, these courses—that we call “intensives”—often meet for 90-105 minutes at a time.

- **Electives**: Simulating a college academic environment, extensive single-semester electives are offered across all disciplines beginning in Grade 10.

- **Seminar**: is a required for-credit course, facilitated by experts in the field, and dedicated to:
  - Social Emotional Learning
  - Equity and Belonging
  - Health and Wellness
  - 9th Grade Seminar has an additional focus on first-year transition and media literacy.

The Mariner Way

- Belief in the value of the arts with a two-credit graduation requirement.

- Belief in the value of life lessons through team sports with a two-sport requirement per year for all students.

- Mindfulness practice.

- Four-season engagement with our waterfront campus on the Potowomut peninsula, where classes are just as likely to be outside under a tree, involve walks through Goddard State Park, and kayaking on the Greenwich River.

Hack for Global Good: a time-bound, real-world learning experience designed by RHCD students, and open to all high school students across Rhode Island and around the world. Now in its 4th year, the goal of this social good hackathon is to expand the group’s collective imagination, network, access, and expertise in order to find new solutions to critical global problems. Teams collaborate alongside industry experts to design solutions that address a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal. The topic theme in 2022 was Education. In 2023, the theme is Health.
Curriculum and Pedagogy

Rocky Hill Country Day’s teaching and learning centers on deep inquiry to prepare students to tackle real world problems through a combination of Project-Based Learning (PBL), Harkness methodology, and research and student empowerment through curriculum, fostering opportunities for failure, adjustment and student growth. The RHCD curriculum infuses student-driven Harkness discussion techniques to learn and practice important skills as communicators, developing the value of listening and understanding different perspectives. Through inquiry in discussion, projects, research, labs and writing, students engage with their learning deeply and build readiness for both college and careers.

RHCD offers a curriculum which is flexible by design, allowing students to forge important connections between distinct fields of study. Our curriculum includes a wide selection of elective courses for students to explore interests, including a number of Advanced college-level courses, which have been designed to challenge students who are at the top of their field and replaced AP course offerings (discontinued after the 2020-2021 school year). Students graduating from RHCD are prepared not only for rigorous college courses, but also for internships, entrepreneurial work, and to positively impact the world around them.

Academic Highlights

Modern And Classical Languages

- Participation in national exams in French and Spanish, and National Honor Societies.
- Competition in regional Certamen, a Latin culture and language trivia contest.
- Student have the opportunity to sit for the DELF Junior (Diplôme d’Études en Langue Française), an internationally recognized diploma awarded by the French Ministry of Education.
- In upper-level language courses, students engage with people from the community outside of school where they can use the target language in a real world context.

Science

- Students in Marine Biology and Environmental Science courses engage in real-world research and problem solving by collecting and analyzing data using ecological research skills to measure population density and biodiversity (easternmudsnails, Spartinaalterniflora, and ribbed mussels).
- In partnership with the University of Rhode Island, students in Environmental Science monitor invasive species (Phragmites) and protect threatened species (the diamondback terrapin).
- The Robotics Team competes in the national FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) TechChallenge.

Fine And Performing Arts

- Students were awarded two Gold Keys and six Silver Keys in the Rhode Island Scholastic Art Competition.
- Our fine arts teachers are professional artists who exhibit and sell their work nationally.

Independent Study

Students in recent years have completed year-long projects for academic credit in a variety of subjects. Some have been continuations of academic work once they’ve exhausted our curriculum in that discipline, some have been overjoyed to pursue a passion project, and others have looked for ways to examine possible career paths. Some recent independent studies include: Building Community During COVID-19, Chinese Politics, Fashion Design, Music Theory, Girls Leadership Collaborative, Interactions with the State: Patterns in Jewish History, Learning Preferences among Middle School Students, Linear Algebra, Modern Physics, and Multivariable Calculus.

Humanities

- The Ethics and Adv. Genetic Literacy classes collaborated in writing a multinational accord, considering the issues that relate to gene editing technology’s impacts on social issues, healthcare equity, national and international regulation, agriculture and environment, and the marketplace. They then debated and sought consensus on a proposal for shared guidelines. This cross-disciplinary project engages student competencies of being an ethical citizen, globally-minded communicator, and critical thinker.
- In English 10, the Sharing Voices Project focuses on personal and family identity, empowering students’ authentic voices and challenging them to gain a deeper appreciation of the immigrant and refugee experience. While reading a diverse selection of short prose, memoirs, essays, and poetry, students conduct personal interviews to learn about individuals who undertook the journey to come to the United States, and in reflecting on their selfhood, the students discover what it means to negotiate one’s identity and claim a new sense of place.

Grading Scale (D- to Pass): A-F

Credits to Graduate: 22

GPA is Reported on an Unweighted 4.0 Scale

Rocky Hill Does Not Rank
Accreditation and Memberships

**AFFILIATIONS**
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Accredited
- National Association of Independent Schools, Member
- Association of Independent Schools in New England, Member
- National Association for College Admission Counseling, Member
- New England Association for College Admission Counseling, Member
- Association of College Counselors at Independent Schools, Member

**College-Level Courses**

**MATH**
- Adv. Calculus I
- Adv. Calculus II
- Adv. Statistics

**HUMANITIES**
- Adv. Humanities 11
- Adv. Humanities 12
- Adv. Study of Polarized Politics

**SCIENCE**
- Adv. Genetic Literacy in the 21st Century
- Adv. Topics in Chemistry: Atoms all Around Us
- Adv. Physics: Electricity & Magnetism
- Adv. Human Physiology

**LANGUAGES**
- Adv. French
- Adv. Spanish

**ART**
- Adv. Portfolio

The complete list of required and elective courses can be found here: shorturl.at/fBDIU

Rocky Hill Country Day School, as a member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling, complies with all best practices articulated in NACAC’s *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.*
College and University Acceptances & Matriculations 2018-2022

Matriculations are shown in bold

Albright College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Babson College
Bard College
Barry University
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Birmingham Southern College
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bridgewater State University
Brown University
Brown University/RISD Joint Program
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Canisius College
Cazenovia College
CCRI
Chapman University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina Univ
College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
College of the Holy Cross
College of William & Mary
Colorado State Univ
Columbia College Chicago
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Curry College
Dean College
Denison University
Depauw University
Depauw University
Drew University
Drexel University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College (MA)
Endicott College
ESCP Business School, France
Fairfield University
Fisher College
Flagler College-St Augustine
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Polytechnic Univ
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Green Mountain College
Hamilton College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
Johnstone & Wales University-North Miami
Johnson & Wales University-Providence
Keene State College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Lewis & Clark College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Lynn University
Macalester College
Manchester College
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Mass Maritime Academy
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
MCPHS
Merrimack College
Miami University (Ohio)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Mitchell College
Montclair State University
Mount Holyoke College
New England College
New York University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northern Vermont University-Plattsburgh
Northwestern University
Norwich University
Nova Southeastern University
Obrien College
Ohio State University
Pace University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Plymouth State University
Pratt Institute
Provost College
Purchase College (SUNY)
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Rhode Island School of Design
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rivier University
Rochester Inst of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Rutgers University
Ryerson University (Canada)
Saint Anselm College
Saint Leo University
Saint Louis University
Salve Regina University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
St. John's College (MD)
Stanford University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University (SUNY)
Suffolk University
SUNY Albany
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY-Geneeseo
SUNY-Oneonta
SUNY-Oswego
Syracuse University
Temple University
The American University of Paris
The George Washington University
The New School
The Ohio State University
The University of Arizona
The University of Scranton
The University of Tampa
Trinity College
Tufts University
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
Union College
Unity College
University of Alabama
University of Buffalo (SUNY)
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign
University of Maine at Farmington
University of Maine-Orono
University of Maryland-Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Miami
University of Montana
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of Ottawa (Canada)
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of the Pacific
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Waterloo (Canada)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western Colorado University
Western New England University
Wheaton College (MA)
Williamette University
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
York University (Canada)

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