

PRACTICING Kindness

INSPIRING Curiosity



LEARNING Courage



RUMSEY HALL SCHOOL





AT RUMSEY HALL, children discover the joy of learning and what it means to be a contributing member of a community. Teaching attitudes of mind and heart that will guide our graduates throughout their lives is our mission. In our close-knit community, every child is known for their unique talents and contributions, nurtured as they grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Young people thrive in an environment where their innate curiosity is encouraged. Rumsey's emphasis on rewarding effort teaches the value of hard work and enables every student to be their best. A natural extension of the classroom, Rumsey's spectacular 231-acre campus offers opportunities for students to study, explore, and play year-round. This unique setting in the Litchfield Hills combined with a whole-child approach to education come together to make Rumsey a home for students and their families. We encourage you to visit campus to experience the warmth and excitement that fill our classrooms and the joy of being a Rumsey student.

Beginning in Third Grade (1st Form), students receive weekly grades for effort from all of their teachers. Effort grades recognize students who meet their obligations by completing assignments, being on time, and taking responsibility for learning. The names of those who have earned positive marks for effort are announced during Morning Meeting. The Dean's List gives further recognition to students who have achieved positive effort marks in four or more classes. This celebration of effort sets the tone for life at our school. Our students learn that hard work and effort are the most enduring measures of success.



At Rumsey,
our success is measured by our effort.

REWARDING Effort

IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN through Ninth Grade, Rumsey engages and challenges students in small classes where they work closely with their teachers and peers. A low student:teacher ratio enables teachers to recognize each child's unique learning style and tailor instruction. Our expert faculty are passionate about teaching and are inspiring role models. Faculty also serve as dorm parents, advisors, athletic coaches, and more, allowing them to guide students in all areas of school life.

Rumsey's focus on effort is a defining feature of our approach to teaching and learning. From the earliest years, we emphasize the importance of effort and encourage students to take risks, demonstrate perseverance, and learn from their mistakes. We believe achievement is not just about the attainment of a grade or a concept of perfection; it is about doing one's best and striving to learn and grow.



TEACHING Values

RUMSEY'S INTENTIONAL APPROACH to teaching values provides the context in which all learning takes place. The core values of honesty, kindness, and respect are central to all we do and are reinforced daily, from Morning Meeting and classes to recess and athletic contests. In Lower School classrooms, posted lists of Character Words guide our students, featuring traits such as empathy, resilience, and self-reflection.

Rumsey encourages students to think independently, take initiative, and give back in service to others. Our Signature Programs in Ninth Grade allow students to design and execute projects focused on social and community leadership. Whether it's the kindergarteners leading the charge for reducing single-use plastics on campus or the ninth graders serving as dining hall prefects, our students learn to become responsible members of a community and graduate ready to serve.



At Rumsey,
honesty, kindness, and respect are our guiding values.



The 336 students who attend Rumsey come from 25 local communities, 14 states, and 10 countries. Lower School students represent towns throughout Northwest Connecticut. In the Upper School, the mix of day and boarding students includes international students from all over the world. Our boarding students enrich the Rumsey community by sharing their cultures, traditions, and languages. The friendships Rumsey students make with their teachers and peers stay with them for life. Being a member of a vibrant, diverse community is an invaluable education that fosters cultural awareness, open-mindedness, and global understanding.



RUMSEY OUTDOOR CAMPUS

231 acres

2 rivers

2 barns

4 ponds

infinite skies

At Rumsey,

the woods, ponds, and rivers are our environmental classroom.

LEARNING from Nature

THE RUMSEY CAMPUS, 231 acres surrounded by wooded hills and the scenic Shepaug and Bantam Rivers, offers a beautiful, safe environment where children can come into their own. Our spacious campus is central to giving students a real experience of childhood, free of screen time and full of opportunities for exploration. From the earliest grades, Rumsey students learn independence as they play and learn outdoors in structured and free activities. They become practiced at observing the natural world and come to understand what it means to be stewards of a place and of the earth.

Teachers regularly take students outdoors for lessons that go well beyond the classroom. Students walk from building to building for lunch in the dining hall, art classes, and after school activities, important breaks that bring everyone out into the fresh air. All students enjoy a mid-morning recess and homemade cookies. Every day, we learn from and celebrate the beauty of the natural world.

Treasure Island is Rumsey's outdoor classroom along the Shepaug River where students in all grades gather to study the natural sciences. For a recent Ninth Grade Biology project, students chose a square meter, known as a "mandala," to observe throughout the seasons, documenting changes in plant and animal life. They were joined by Lower School students who made drawings of the mandalas. In good weather, Lower School classes visit Treasure Island regularly to collect earthworms for study, sketch spring flowers, and follow the transitions as trees leaf out.



FOSTERING Leadership

IN A SCHOOL DEDICATED to students in Pre-Kindergarten through Ninth Grade, young people have a myriad of opportunities for leadership. At Rumsey, students learn from an early age to advocate for themselves, speak up on issues of importance, and take on leadership roles in campus activities.

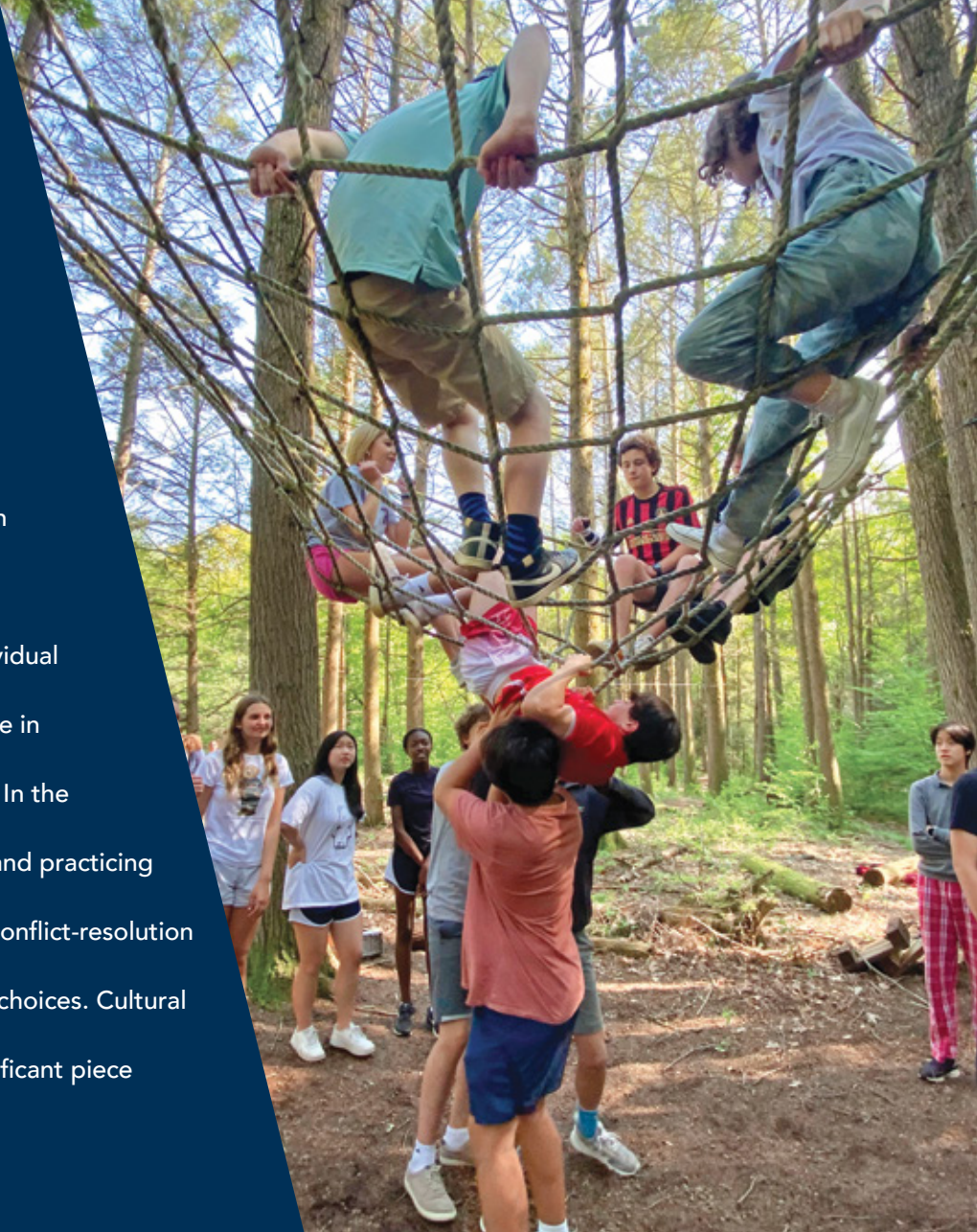
Our long-standing public speaking program is central to building students' confidence in their leadership abilities. Each year, every student gives a declamation by reciting a

poem, making a presentation, or sharing a project with the grade or school. For example, in the Third Grade students help to lead Morning Meeting by announcing news items, sports scores, and the weather to the entire Lower School. As students progress to the upper grades, they take on more responsibility for organizing and leading activities, and have expanded opportunities for public speaking. By the time they graduate, Rumsey students have gained the experience to present themselves with confidence.



At Rumsey,
we learn to be leaders in our community.

With a developmentally appropriate approach tailored to the needs of students at each age, the Character and Community Living Skills Program (CCLS) promotes an understanding of oneself and others through exercises that build emotional intelligence, strengthen relationships, and empower individual voices. In the Upper School, students engage in leadership classes and experiential learning. In the Lower School, CCLS focuses on active play and practicing kindness. Students across the grades learn conflict-resolution skills and the importance of making healthy choices. Cultural awareness and anti-bias exercises are a significant piece of the curriculum.



A scenic view of a lake with a grassy shore and buildings in the background, framed by autumn leaves. The foreground is dominated by large, out-of-focus autumn leaves in shades of brown and gold. In the middle ground, a calm lake reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape. A grassy bank rises from the water's edge, dotted with yellow wildflowers. Behind the grass, there are several buildings, including a large white house with a grey roof and a smaller red building with a white roof. The background is a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Our core values—
HONESTY, KINDNESS, AND RESPECT—
are modeled through all we do.



The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs at Rumsey give our youngest students a strong foundation for the years ahead. In nurturing classrooms, with the guidance of teachers adept at providing play-based and developmentally appropriate activities, children explore many subjects and gain independence. For recent projects, students have paired with ninth graders to study the brain, raised trout in the classroom to release in the river on campus, and studied the U.N. and global goals for human rights, conservation, and sustainability.



LOWER School

FOR STUDENTS in Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, the Lower School is a warm, welcoming place where teachers nurture the curiosity and love of discovery natural to children. Small classes allow teachers to work closely with students, providing instruction and encouragement suited to each child's needs. Experienced in teaching students with a range of learning styles, Rumsey teachers are practiced at supporting each child's unique path in learning.

The foundational curriculum in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies is centered in Lower School classrooms and taught by classroom teachers. This allows classroom teachers to give students personalized guidance in reading, writing, and math in particular. Specialists teach co-curricular classes in foreign languages, art, music, library/information literacy, health, and physical education. Lower School classes incorporate experiential learning through hands-on activities and emphasize an interdisciplinary approach that fully prepares students to think critically and act globally as they mature.



LOWER School

Rumsey students' days are filled with education and play, balancing academics, outdoor activities, creativity, and friendship. The school day begins with Morning Meeting, a gathering of the Lower School that fosters public speaking skills, responsible citizenship, and a strong sense of community. Regular opportunities for interaction bring together Lower and Upper School students across the grades and forge strong friendships. Family style seating, at lunch and in groups that rotate every two weeks, mixes students throughout the Lower School grades.

Lower School students begin the study of a world language with Spanish in Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade. In Fourth Grade, they study French, and in Fifth Grade, Latin. When students move on to the Upper School, they choose to continue with one of these languages. Our world language program is just one example of Rumsey's commitment to giving students a broad foundation in the liberal arts and empowering them to make choices about their education as they progress to the Upper School.





Rumsey's Afternoon Enrichment Program (AEP) for Lower School students runs from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. daily and offers a wide range of arts, athletics, and academic activities. Blue Dog Sewing Club, Ceramics, Woodshop, and Winter Survival Skills are a sampling of popular offerings. Fridays in the Neighborhood gives students unstructured time for play, exploration of campus, and being with friends. In Fifth Grade, students may choose to participate in Upper School sports during AEP time.

UPPER School

UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS in IVth – VIIth Form (6th through 9th Grade) make academic and personal strides in a program tailored for students in these significant years of growth. Because we are a Pre-K through 9th Grade school, Upper School students have unique opportunities as our community leaders. They blossom in a setting where they are supported and challenged, and given responsibility for important aspects of school life. Completing the VIIth Form (9th Grade) at Rumsey gives our graduates a significant advantage when they move on to secondary school, as they have already held leadership positions and served as role models for younger students.

In small classes with an average of 12 students, everyone participates and every voice is heard. A balanced curriculum includes math, science, English, history, world language, art, and music, with Honors classes for eligible ninth graders. As students progress through the grades and prepare for secondary school, they learn how to manage their academic and co-curricular commitments with the guidance and encouragement of teachers who know them well.



The Rumsey Signature Programs give VIIIth Form students (9th Graders) unique opportunities to study a topic of interest in depth. Students may choose to focus on Makerspace Design, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Fine Arts Studies, or Social and Community Leadership. Through clubs, classes and other sustained endeavors, students meet regularly with their faculty advisors and peers. Each participating senior designs and executes a Capstone Project and organizes an event open to the whole community to showcase their work for the year.





The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program offers three courses for non-native speakers: ESL Skills, Literature, and History. Students study English grammar and practice conversational and reading skills, and learn about American literature, history, and culture. In addition to providing academic instruction, the program helps students make a smooth transition to Rumsey and provides support in all aspects of school and dormitory life. Our international students receive a warm welcome and are celebrated for their many contributions to our community.



UPPER School

Our teachers, professional educators who share a commitment to Rumsey's mission to educate the whole child, serve as mentors and role models for our oldest students. Upper School students work closely with their faculty advisors, who are readily available for support with academic and other needs. Advisors meet weekly with their advisees individually or as a group. Because advisors are also teachers, athletic coaches, and dorm parents, they see their advisees throughout the day and interact with them in the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the dining hall,

making for strong partnerships. Advisors are the primary contact for parents and are available to discuss any concerns. Students receive additional support through Extra Help sessions built into the weekly schedule. Students or teachers can request a meeting during these periods to go over lessons or cover extra material. Rumsey students are able to accept challenges and take risks with the knowledge that they are surrounded by caring adults who are dedicated to their success.





BOARDING School Life

RUMSEY'S BOARDING SCHOOL programs offer students in Grades 5th–9th a secure, home-like environment and a wealth of opportunities for learning and growth. Housed in small dormitories from 8 to 30 residents, students form strong bonds with their dormmates. Dorm parents who live in the dorms with their families (and pets!) provide close supervision and share their family life, welcoming students into their homes. The boarding experience teaches important skills, such as getting along with others and managing a daily schedule, and increases self-confidence and independence. Our boarding students graduate fully prepared for living on their own at a secondary boarding school and in college.

Dorm nights throughout the year feature fun and friendly contests between dorms for the Dorm Cup awarded in the spring. Pumpkin carving, spelling bees, math competitions, and broom ball on the ponds in winter are a few of the Dorm Cup challenges. The pride of being part of a dorm family is an essential piece of the boarding school experience.

Weekends at Rumsey are full of activities that bring students together and enrich their experience of campus and the surrounding area. Saturday trips include movies, museums, outdoor adventures, and athletic contests, such as a basketball game at the University of Connecticut. Rumsey's proximity to the cultural centers of New York and New England cities allows for trips to Broadway shows and historical sites. During the Sunday afternoon activity period, everyone enjoys such activities as hiking, community service, and in winter, sledding and hot chocolate around a bonfire.



ARTS

RUMSEY NURTURES STUDENTS' CREATIVITY

throughout the grades with classes and activities focused on visual art, music, and the performing arts. Our arts teachers are experienced professionals who bring their passion for artistic expression to their classrooms. Spacious art rooms with views of campus and the river give Lower and Upper School students an inspiring space for exploring a wide range of media. Art classes include work in drawing, painting, digital photography, jewelry making, industrial design, and ceramics.

We celebrate and share music on a daily basis at Rumsey, from Morning Meeting to formal recitals. The music program introduces students to a range of musical genres

and offers many performance opportunities. Choral groups include the chorus Clef Club and the a cappella group Passing Notes. Orchestra involves Upper School students in regular practice and performances.

The Performing Arts program allows students to learn all aspects of theater production and to participate in a number of productions each year. For Upper School students, these include a fall one-act drama, a winter musical that typically involves from 25 to 40 students on stage, and a spring Talent Show. Through drama, students enhance their public speaking skills and collaborate closely with their peers. Productions are staged in the Maxwell A. Sarofim '05 Performing Arts Center, recently upgraded with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.







Rumsey Outdoor Adventure (ROA) offers exciting outdoor activities as an alternative to team sports. Making use of our spacious campus and location in the Bantam River Valley, ROA is a fun and challenging way to master new skills and make friends. Activities include hiking, kayaking and canoeing, archery, mountain biking, team-building on our low ropes course, and learning wilderness skills.



ATHLETICS

AT RUMSEY WE BELIEVE that participating in team sports teaches lessons just as important as those covered in the classroom. Students in the Upper School play a different sport each season and practice or compete Monday through Friday afternoons. Interested fifth graders may participate in the program as well, during the Afternoon Enrichment Program (AEP). Through athletics, our students learn the value of effort and sportsmanship as they work together as a team.

The athletics program provides a sport and level of play for every student. With more than 30 interscholastic teams offered, there's a wide range of sports to choose from. Everyone gets a chance to play, whether they're new to the sport or a seasoned athlete. Our faculty-coaches work closely with students to help them reach their goals. For students interested in alternatives to interscholastic sports, there are a number of recreational sports offered.



TEAMS

Baseball

Basketball

Crew

Cross Country

Field Hockey

Football

Hockey

Horseback Riding

Lacrosse

Mountain Biking

Recreational Skiing/Snowboarding

Rumsey Outdoor Adventure

Skiing

Soccer

Softball

Tennis

Volleyball

Wrestling





The Blue Dog, our school mascot, is an emblem of our strong school spirit, and everyone turns out to cheer for our Blue Dog teams. Our outstanding facilities include the Lufkin Rink, ice hockey ponds, indoor turf field, indoor crew facility, two basketball courts, five athletic fields, an indoor rock climbing wall, indoor and outdoor tennis courts for year-round play, and a low ropes course on campus.

COMMUNITY LIFE and Service Learning

RUMSEY SCHOOL TRADITIONS bring our community together to celebrate milestones and our school identity. For the Lower School students, hot chocolate with the Head of School and unwrapping the class holiday book is an eagerly anticipated event. For Halloween, everyone dresses in costume and participates in a parade across campus. Other treasured traditions include the Blue Dog Parade, a celebration of school spirit, and contests throughout the year between the school-wide Red and Blue Teams.

Through Rumsey's Community Service/Service Learning program, students learn to take initiative and to make a difference. Regularly held service events include Hour of Service afternoons, food drives, and the Holiday Hope Chest drive. Weekend activities for day and boarding students in the Upper School include community service opportunities. Each year, Rumsey students give more than 1,000 hours of their time to volunteering, with 75 percent of the student body participating in work for local, state, and national groups.



For Challenge 20/20, an elective class for ninth graders, students choose a global challenge to study for the year and engage in team-building activities that foster an understanding of community and citizenship.

In a recent year, they chose Education for All as their theme and studied access to education in populations around the world and locally. Their study of funding problems in local public schools led them to organize a book drive for the Waterbury, Connecticut schools. The class also proposed, organized, and funded the purchase of solar charging stations across campus.





Clubs and co-curricular activities in the Upper School give students, particularly VIIth Formers (9th Graders), additional opportunities to exercise leadership, learn new skills, and contribute to the Rumsey community. Popular clubs include Art Club, Yearbook, Yoga, Investment Club, and Buddy Club (which pairs Upper and Lower School students for cross-division reading, games, and crafts).



SECONDARY

School Placement

RUMSEY SUPPORTS OUR VIIth Form (9th Grade) students as they approach the transition to graduation and secondary school through a thorough placement program. In the spring of VIth Form (8th Grade) students take 3C, a class in Creating Character and Community. Activities and discussion focus on leadership training and making the most of academic and co-curricular opportunities as students anticipate senior year and applying to secondary schools. A follow-up class in the fall of the VIIth Form year guides students in setting goals and all aspects of the application process.

Rumsey's Secondary School Counseling Director works closely with students and their families as they select the schools to which they will apply. Regular communication with parents keeps them informed about deadlines and requirements. Representatives from secondary schools visit campus to educate Rumsey students about their schools and the application process. With a carefully designed program, students and their families receive comprehensive support for the next step in their lives. Rumsey graduates have a strong record of enrolling in outstanding day and boarding schools.





We hope this publication has shown you how much Rumsey offers students
and their families and the difference a Rumsey education will make to
your child's future. To fully appreciate the vitality of our
school and the excitement of the learning that
happens here, arrange for a campus visit.



We look forward
to welcoming you to
Rumsey!



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