“Be yourself; no base imitator of another, but your best self. Listen to the inward voice and bravely obey that.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a champion of individualism and a key figure in the Transcendentalism movement. In his most famous essay, Self-Reliance, Emerson urges us to follow our individual will and voice, and to be honest in our relationships with others. Emerson made his home in Concord for nearly 50 years, until his death in 1882.
We are a coeducational, independent boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12 in historic Concord, Massachusetts.

We are a tight-knit community of passionate learners who thrive with the care and partnership of talented educators and our wide-as-you-can-dream curriculum. Concord Academy is a place where students love to learn, where creativity and trust are abundant natural resources, and where the history and literature of New England enrich us every day.
You’ll find our campus in the heart of Concord, a small town known for its prominent role in the Revolutionary War, as well as for being a stop on the Underground Railroad. Located 18 miles from Boston, our town takes pride in being both a cultural center and a thriving community.
Since our founding in 1922, the world has changed dramatically, yet our values have endured. Our spirit of individualism, fervent love of learning, and devotion to our community continue to define us—and will for years to come.

While we are a nondenominational school, the Elizabeth B. Hall Chapel is the heart and soul of Concord Academy. It’s always open to students seeking a few moments of quiet reflection.

Over the years, hundreds of seniors have stood in the Chapel to share their stories of growth and learning with the CA community.
When the tulips are in full bloom, students band together for Field Day, a recently revived CA tradition of healthy competition dating back to the 1970s. Among the highlights: a mini-marathon, three-legged race, dry-land canoe carrying, spikeball, and beanbag toss. The day culminates in a friendly game of tug of war.

The CA campus runs along Main Street in the heart of Concord, just steps from a cluster of restaurants, bakeries, cafés, and specialty shops. It’s a lively community intertwined with museums, historic sites, and a variety of landmarks, including Walden Pond and Minute Man National Historical Park.
A CURRICULUM AS WIDE AS YOU CAN DREAM

With more than 200 courses across a broad spectrum of concentrations, there’s something to pique nearly every interest and fuel every passion.

WHAT MAKES A POPOVER POP?
Whether you’re mixing a vinaigrette, kneading bread, or heating water, cooking boils down to pure science. The Chemistry of Cooking course transforms students into culinary scientists as they explore basic chemical principles in the kitchen. Students roll up their sleeves to examine how food molecules are transformed through heating, fermenting, brining, acidifying, drying, and mixing ingredients. There’s also an investigation into the role that certain chemical mixtures, such as foams, emulsions, and gels, play in taste and texture.

GREEN SCREENS AND RED CARPETs
From screenwriting to directing to sound mixing, students explore all facets of filmmaking in The Feature Film Project. “It’s a sprawling endeavor,” says film teacher Justin Bull. “I know of no other high school in the country that produces a full-length feature film like we do.” Past CA productions have garnered critical acclaim, including the sci-fi thriller Merge, which premiered at the 2016 SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival.

THE WORLDVIEW OF OUR CHANGING WORLD
We’re living in the Anthropocene: the geologic period in which humans have made the largest—and most detrimental—impact on the planet. In The Literature of the Anthropocene, students explore and debate various perspectives on climate change through both a literary and a scientific lens. “We’re tackling how to write about something as big as climate change in a way that’s accessible,” says English faculty member Andrew Stevens, who co-leads the course.

View our full course listing at CONCORDACADEMY.COM
Common trust is an unspoken agreement, a glue that bonds all of us at Concord Academy. Every one of us at CA—students, teachers, staff, coaches, and house faculty—holds an intrinsic respect for one another’s ideas, opinions, identities, and possessions.

“Common trust is the understanding that you are connected to everything and everyone, and making the best of that interconnection. It’s about realizing that your behavior, and your very existence, has consequences and connections to everybody and everything.” — Max Hall, Faculty, Science

A COMMON RITE OF PASSAGE

It’s 8:40 a.m. on a chilly November day. Stefano Amador ’19 steps up to the podium in the Elizabeth B. Hall Chapel to deliver his chapel talk to the CA community.

“I’ve done a lot of work in terms of social justice,” he tells his peers. “You always have to ask yourself this: ‘Who is my activism for?’”

For the 15 minutes that follow, Stefano shares the experiences that shaped him, thanks family and friends for their support, and imparts this sage advice: “Surround yourself with people who care about you entirely.”

Three times a week, a senior stands before family and friends to mark this rite of passage. The tradition of chapel is one of the most memorable ways we experience and embody common trust.
"I learned how to manage my time and prioritize responsibilities at Concord Academy."

"In my first-year biology course, I became fascinated with the biological and socioeconomic effects of diabetes."

This fascination carried over to Isabelle’s senior project, which examined diabetes and food policy in urban communities. “After learning that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by health issues, I knew I wanted to find answers.”

SKILL YOU DISCOVERED AT CA?

“I attended a middle school that assigned very little homework, so I wasn’t prepared for the rigor and challenge of CA,” says Saul. “Luckily, my teachers and advisor made my transition to CA smooth and straightforward.”

COURSE AT CA THAT CHANGED YOUR WORLDVIEW?

“How I will change the world
I will build sustainable homes for underprivileged families.

I will help people find commonalities among their cultural differences.

SAUL VERDI ‘21
Chicago, IL

ISABELLE CHARLES ‘19
Milton, MA
The mentoring relationship that students form with their advisors is one of the most rewarding aspects of their CA experience.

As a student, you’ll meet with your advisor once a week to talk about learning and life. These one-on-one meetings can take place over lunch, on the quad, or during walks into town for coffee.

“Common trust is key,” notes Nick. “Being open in your conversations is vital to the advising relationship. It’s important for both of us—the advisor and advisee—to share the honest sides of ourselves, so that we both feel known to each other.”

“Ellen and I both share a love of Thoreau. And we often find ourselves talking about our place in the world, and how we can become better citizens.”

“Nick has been incredible in helping me with my academics, but he’s also helped me organize my life. Even though we meet once a week, I know he’s there whenever I need him.”

“During his first year, Sam struggled with juggling academics and athletics. We worked together to find balance. A year later, he’s achieving that balance on his own.”

“I’m able to sit across from Sabrina every week and talk about everything that’s going on in my life. I don’t know any other school where you’d get this kind of relationship. She’s made a huge difference in my life.”

“Advising isn’t a one-way street,” says Sabrina. “I’ve learned so much from Sam. Having a window into his world helps me understand the perspectives of all my students. And that makes me both a teacher and a student in this advising relationship.”
The student-run organization, CA Women in Tech, sponsored the first annual Taking CTRL, a daylong conference celebrating women in the world of technology. The attendees—who included high school and middle school students, along with representatives from Dell, Raytheon, MIT, and other companies and institutions—explored topics such as coding, deep learning, and sports science management.

“It’s a place where we share beats and our techniques,” says Ethan Cole ’19. He’s talking about the Producers Club, a student-run group that meets weekly to collaborate and compose music. Before joining the club, Ethan had his sights set on pursuing literature or science, but he got hooked on making music. “I’m headed to Berklee College of Music to study songwriting and digital music production. It’s amazing how one experience can change your life course.”

Student run, life changing
LIVING AND LEARNING IN BALANCE

The balance of boarding and day students shapes our culture, widens our worldview, and connects all of us to Concord Academy, its people, and its history.

More than 40 percent of our student community make their home on the CA campus, while the others arrive each morning by rail, car, or foot.

SWITCHING IT UP

From time to time, day students may spend a night on campus, while boarding students may spend a night at a day student’s home. The experience gives students a break from their usual day-to-day routines.

COME TOGETHER

Throughout the year, day and boarding students take part in Community Weekends, a series of events designed to bring the entire CA community together. Past weekends have featured beach parties, movie nights, and service trips.

Around 8 a.m. every weekday, Main Street comes alive with the arrival of day students. They travel to campus from all over Greater Boston. Some share a car on the commuter rail, then make the three-block walk to campus, while others emerge from car pools carrying backpacks, instruments, and athletic gear. A few of our day students live nearby and make the short walk to campus.

“Making House Food brings the house together as a family and allows me to share a valuable part of my culture and traditions.”

WENJUN KUAI, FACULTY

Our boarding students live in one of six historic houses situated along Main Street. Each home has its own layout and character. Seniors live next to sophomores, first-year students across from juniors—and they study, hang out, and learn from one another. House faculty, as well as other faculty and staff members, live on campus with their families—including lots of pets. All campus residences support and contribute to boarding life at CA.

EATING IT UP

If it’s 11 p.m. on a Saturday, then it’s House Food time. House faculty prepare all sorts of delicacies—from chocolate chip cookies to homemade mac and cheese to jerk chicken.
WE FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

We see, challenge, and encourage each student for who they are and who they can become.

We believe the most authentic learning occurs when you assemble and appreciate a mix of voices and viewpoints from various origins, cultures, and backgrounds.

During the academic year, the Community and Equity team sponsors programs that invite the CA community to challenge inequity and explore pressing themes of social justice.

For example, rather than taking the “day off” on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our student body has a “day on” to consider our own identities, the society we live in, and the future we want for ourselves and for others.

The Community and Equity team supports CA’s many affinity groups, which allow students to explore their shared cultures.

- Alianza Latina (Students of Hispanic/Latinx Descent)
- Asian Students Association (ASA)
- Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
- International Student Organization (ISO)
- Jewish Student Organization (JSO)
- Men of Color Alliance (MoCA)
- Multietnic Student Organization (MESO)
- Muslim Students Organization (MSO)
- Queer and Questioning (Q^2)
- Queer People of Color (QPoC)
- South Asian Student Society (SASS)
- Umoja (Students of African Descent)
- Women of Color Alliance (WoCA)
- Women’s Organization

Founded in 1988 by former history teacher Kevin Jennings (pictured left), our Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) was one of the first organizations at a North American high school to support the LGBTQ+ community. Today, the GSA, which now stands for Gender Sexuality Alliance, continues to promote equality and educate the CA community about current and future LGBTQ+ issues.
“I had never challenged myself to be an athlete like I challenged myself to be a student—I didn’t realize that I can be both.”

Haley credits her varsity lacrosse coach with inspiring her “to be the best player I can be and embrace the value of teamwork.”

“How I will change the world: I will inspire young girls to pursue opportunities in technology.

“Banding together with my Advanced Physics classmates to succeed in an incredibly challenging course.”

“We spent countless hours preparing for one of the most challenging exams of our high school careers,” says Lucas. “To celebrate, we designed T-shirts and other gear to honor our achievement.”

“How I will change the world: I will have a positive impact on the communities around me.

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“How I will change the world: I will have a positive impact on the communities around me.
CA is home to more than 70 clubs and organizations that span a wide range of interests, including jazz, anime, chemistry, fiction, and, yes, Harry Potter.

Have an idea for a new club? Start your own!
The chameleon is best known for its ability to change the color of its skin. So it’s only fitting that the CA chameleon serves as an enduring symbol of our ability as learners to adapt in a changing world.

Legend has it that the chameleon made its first appearance in Concord Academy’s art and music rooms during the 1920s. Since its debut, the little lizard has gone on to adorn class rings, coffee mugs, stickers, sweatshirts, and notebooks. It’s been carved into the plenum in our Chapel.
Concord Academy offers a wide array of athletic options, including physical education classes, intramural programs, and more than 30 interscholastic teams that compete in the Eastern Independent League. Our programs are designed to meet the needs of college-bound athletes, as well as those who are looking to stay healthy and have a little fun.

Unlike at most independent schools, CA teachers are not required to coach. As a result, all of our sports programs are led by passionate faculty and staff members or expert independent coaches.

“"We believe in educating the whole student. Developing skills on the court, field, track, or diamond that build on the values of teamwork, balance, and integrity is a big part of that.”" - Sue Johnson, Director of Athletics

CA students strive for excellence in academics—and bring that same drive and determination to the game.

We believe in the transformational power of movement and healthy competition.

Sprawling across nearly 14 acres, the Moriarty Athletic Campus is a venue for building character, teamwork, and pride in the CA community. Dedicated in 2012, the state-of-the-art campus hosts a fieldhouse, natural grass fields, a baseball diamond, cross-country trails, and six hard-surface USTA tennis courts.

Our varsity teams focus on skill refinement and competition, while our JV, intramural, and PE offerings center on skill development and participation.
THE ARTS AT CA

The arts are a critical part of the curriculum that require us to ask questions, solve problems, and respond to the world around us.

You’re invited to explore the remarkable breadth and depth of the CA arts program.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, AND ACTION

When you’re part of the Directors’ Workshop Festival, you do more than act. Students wear a multitude of hats—from set design to lighting to hair and makeup—to produce theatrical events for the CA community. The student-directed performances teach valuable lessons that go beyond the stage. "I learned how to resolve conflicts with other directors," says Elliot White ’19, who worked as a set designer and stage manager for the festival. "I also learned the values of time management and staying on budget."

THE PORTRAITS OF AN ARTIST

File under ambitious senior projects: Nina He ’17 had a vision of creating 8-by-8-inch portraits of each of her 97 classmates. Working from individual photographs, she sketched each portrait by hand, then used acrylic paint to bring each canvas to life. "It’s a really intimate experience to paint your classmates," says Nina. "When you zoom into their faces for two to three hours, you really get to know the person." Following the exhibition of her work, Nina donated the collection of portraits to the Concord Academy archives.

RISE TO THE OCCASION

"CA students are committed to social justice," says Choral Director Tai Oney. "We wanted our spring concert, Rise Up, to reflect our commitment to equality." In preparation, Chorus and Concord Academy Singers selected songs that address themes of diversity, including a musical arrangement of Langston Hughes’ "I Dream a World" and a moving rendition of "Rise Up" by female chorus members. "It was a powerful evening," Tai notes. "We were reminded how fearless and committed our students truly are."

Violin, bagpipes, or the didgeridoo: You can learn any instrument at Concord Academy.
Concord Academy alumnae/i are shaping the world in meaningful ways.

Just a few examples of the thousands of global CA alumnae/i who are making a difference.

**LUCY MCFADDEN ’70**

Searches for moons and collects meteorites as a NASA investigator—and even has an asteroid named after her.

**IMANI PERRY ’90**

Award-winning author and Princeton University professor who is shaping the dialogue on race, law, literature, and African American culture.

**SARAH KOENIG ’86**

Produced NPR’s *This American Life* and *Serial*, the most popular podcast in history.

**SEBASTIAN JUNGER ’80**

Recounted the true-life tale of an epic tempest in his award-winning novel, *The Perfect Storm*.

**TOM FIRST ’85**

Turned an idea of selling juice in recycled wine bottles into the beverage empire, Nantucket Nectars.

**CAROLINE KENNEDY ’75**

Former U.S. ambassador to Japan who continues to advocate for women’s rights around the world.

**RASHAUN MITCHELL ’96**

Named “Outstanding Emerging Choreographer” and a Guggenheim Fellow, he continues to inspire the world through his artistic vision.

**PHILIPPE VON BORRIES ’97 & JUSTIN STEFANO ’98**

Formed Refinery29, an entertainment company for young women with a global audience of 550 million.

**RACHEL MORRISON ’96**

Became the first woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Cinematography.

**SARAH KOENIG ’86**

Produced NPR’s *This American Life* and *Serial*, the most popular podcast in history.

**DREW GILPIN FAUST ’64**

Revered historian who became the 28th president of Harvard University, the first woman to serve in that role.

**RACHEL MORRISON ’96**

Became the first woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Cinematography.

The only award at Concord Academy honors Joan Shaw Herman ’46, who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The Joan Shaw Herman Award for Distinguished Service recognizes a member of the CA alumnae/i community who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in the world.

Read more about our remarkable alumnae/i at CONCORDACADEMY.ORG
We are a community animated by love of learning, diverse and striving for equity, with common trust as our foundation.

Honoring each individual, we challenge and expand our understanding of ourselves and the world through purposeful collaboration and creative engagement.

We cultivate empathy, integrity, and responsibility to build a more just and sustainable future.

Ready to experience love of learning and common trust? The best way to learn more about Concord Academy is to visit our campus.

ADMISSIONS@CONCORDACADEMY.ORG