

Fairfield Country Day School



Where Boys Excel

Pre-K – 9th Grade

We Know Boys

Headmaster John R. Munro, Jr.

3



Excelling at Country Day

Academics, Curriculum, Performing & Visual Arts,
Athletics, Community, and Active Spaces

5



Excelling as Learners

Lower School: Grades pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3

16



Excelling as Explorers

Middle School: Grades 4, 5, 6

21



Excelling as Leaders

Upper School: Grades 7, 8, 9

Stewards of the School: 9th Grade

25



Excelling as Graduates

Visit Country Day

fairfieldcountryday.org

30



From pre-K through grade 9, Fairfield Country Day School provides a path for each boy to discover his strengths, experience success, and excel.

1936

We Know Boys



"Boys learn best in an all-boys educational environment. We've known this since 1936, and research strongly supports our mission. As we develop programs to meet their specific needs, our commitment to single-gender education remains resolute. Quite simply, we know boys."

JOHN R. MUNRO, JR., HEADMASTER

At Fairfield Country Day School, boys are our focus. As a leader in boys education, we value boys' unique qualities and design our programs and environment to meet their specific educational and developmental needs. The result: boys excel here. They excel in many ways, both inside and outside of the classroom, and in many areas, such as biology, geometry, Latin, bell choir, and ice hockey. Our dedicated and talented faculty provide each boy, from our youngest to our oldest, with the individual attention he needs to develop confidence, take risks, and discover his own path to success.

Excelling at Country Day Academics

Engaging Active Minds

Boys are active learners. At Country Day, we fully engage them with a balanced curriculum of academics, arts, music, and athletics. Our academic program teaches boys to communicate effectively, problem solve, and lead, inside the classroom—studying Spanish in kindergarten, multiplication in 4th grade, or physical science in 8th grade—and beyond—contributing articles to the daily e-Blotter, defending an argument in the debate program, or gaining leadership skills as a Student Council member.

Our structured yet flexible classes and schedules allow boys to move as part of the daily educational experience—around the room, the building, and the campus. From camping trips to museum visits, experiential learning in each grade provides students with opportunities to apply and gain knowledge outside of the classroom. A recognized leader in education technology, we integrate laptops, Smart Boards, and iPads throughout the school where they are most effective for teaching and learning, giving the boys the tools they need to excel.



"The faculty at Country Day approach each of my boys differently. School comes easily to my 5th grader, but his teachers are doing an excellent job of challenging him, whereas with my 3rd grader, who's a little freer, the faculty have helped him build confidence in the classroom. The curriculum is exceeding our expectations, and as different as they are, both of my boys just love going to school."

PARENT, 3RD AND 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

► **Why a Boys School:** "In [coeducational] elementary-school classrooms—where teachers increasingly put an emphasis on language and a premium on sitting quietly and speaking in turn—the mismatch between boys and school can become painfully obvious."—Peg Tyre, author of *The Trouble with Boys: A Surprising Report Card on Our Sons, Their Problems at School, and What Parents and Educators Must Do*

Lower School: Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3

Goals

In the Lower School, our goal is to channel the boys’ energy into positive learning experiences. In grades pre-K through 3, boys develop academic, social, and emotional confidence, resulting in increased self-esteem. By the end of Lower School, our boys have a solid foundation in the core subjects and are discovering how to translate their innate skills into a successful learning process.

Program Design

The Lower School curriculum is taught in an environment that instills a love of learning. Our lessons are hands-on and sensory, which is critical for boys at this stage. Additionally, teachers utilize strategies from the Responsive Classroom, a teaching approach that brings together social and academic learning. We uncover each boy’s learning style and teach in a way that will most effectively strengthen individual intellectual development.

Courses

Language Arts	Art
Math	Technology
Science	Library
Social Studies	Music
Spanish	Athletics

Special Offerings

In addition to hands-on work in the classroom, experiential learning opportunities, such as the outdoor Science Lab and academic-related field trips, are woven into the curriculum in many disciplines. Our public speaking program begins in pre-K with poetry recitations. We ensure that boys master the basics by offering math and reading enrichment and support outside of the regular classroom.

Role in Our Community

In pre-K, we introduce our honor code and motto, and boys learn the importance of integrity, scholarship, and respect. Boys gain a sense of responsibility with classroom jobs and begin to understand their role in the larger community by regularly interacting with Upper School boys. Link Days bring Upper and Lower School boys together in productive relationships that continue throughout their time at Country Day and beyond.

Performing Arts

Starting in pre-K, the performing arts become an integral part of a Country Day education. Lower School boys are introduced to music, gaining an understanding of organization and structure in music expressions, producing sounds, studying composers, and learning basic rhythmic patterns on various instruments. Formal performances are conducted in winter and spring.

Visual Arts

Our visual arts program introduces boys to a variety of media and materials, fostering creativity and discovery. Art projects are cross-curricular and thematic, tied to what the boys are learning in the classroom.

Athletics

During sports period, boys acquire confidence, strength, fitness, and coordination. Through a variety of games and activities, Lower School boys develop hand-eye coordination and learn the importance of physical activity and good sportsmanship. Exposure to a variety of athletic activities in the Lower School allows boys to determine which sports they want to pursue in higher grades.

Middle School: Grades 4, 5, 6

Goals

Middle School boys are exploring—discovering who they are and how they learn best. We encourage them to take ownership of the learning process and support them in their transition from Lower School. Boys gain organizational and research skills and better study habits, becoming independent learners and thinkers who are prepared for the challenges of Upper School.

Program Design

The Middle School program balances freedom with structure, providing boys with the security and independence they need to fully invest in the learning process. In grades 4 and 5, we use a homeroom model similar to that of the Lower School; in 6th grade we introduce boys to a wider variety of teachers. We stress collaborative work through interdisciplinary projects and allow for further exposure to art, music, and athletics.

Courses

Math	Geography
English	Art
History	Technology
Science	Library
Spanish	Music
Latin	Athletics

Fourth grade boys also take Math and Reading Lab.

Special Offerings

Starting in 5th grade, students take Inside/Out, an ethics course in which boys tackle issues such as honesty, justice, and decision making. Advising also begins in Middle School, with Circle of Power and Respect in 4th grade, weekly homeroom meetings in 5th grade, and weekly group meetings with an advisor in 6th grade. Boys continue to engage in experiential learning and public speaking.

Role in Our Community

Beginning in 4th grade, boys dress in a jacket and tie, giving them a greater sense of responsibility and leadership. The entire division serves their community by setting the tables for lunch every day, and boys take part in more community service projects, organizing book and coat drives, performing at a nearby nursing home, or cleaning up our local beaches.

Performing Arts

Every Middle School boy learns to read music and sing. All 4th and 5th grade boys play the recorder; all 6th grade boys play the chimes. Fifth and 6th grade boys sing in their own 5th and 6th grade choir, and boys in 6th grade participate in the Upper School concert choir. Interested boys may also participate in the string orchestra.

Visual Arts

Boys attend visual arts classes several times a week. While the 4th grade art program focuses on perspective, boys in 5th grade explore symmetry, the color wheel, folk art, and medieval art. The 6th grade art program includes pottery and the study of Impressionism and Fauvism.

Athletics

Every boy in Middle School plays team sports. Fourth and 5th grade boys play on our Blue and White intramural teams, while 6th grade boys compete in interscholastic sports against other schools in the area. Middle School sports include: soccer, football, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse. Sixth grade boys may also join the cross country team.

Upper School: Grades 7, 8, 9

Goals

Upper School boys are challenged in a rigorous learning environment, continuing their personal and academic exploration with a focus on the future. By the time they leave Country Day, our boys are self-assured, with an excellent academic foundation and the personal confidence to succeed in secondary school and in life.

Program Design

Boys benefit tremendously from serving as leaders and role models within the community. Small, seminar-style classes foster leadership abilities and enhance the development of 21st-century skills. Upper School boys move from class to class, experiencing a variety of teaching styles and learning environments.

Courses

English	Latin
Algebra	History
Geometry	Inside/Out
Science	Technology
Art	Music
French	Athletics
Spanish	

Ninth grade boys also take Biology, Western Civilization, and Advanced Algebra.

Special Offerings

All Upper School students continue to participate in public speaking, through debate and 8th and 9th grade speeches. Ninth grade boys benefit from the use of iPads in the classroom. Boys continue with the Inside/Out ethics course throughout Upper School.

Role in Our Community

As the leaders of our school, Upper School boys become role models for our younger boys, gaining confidence and poise. Link Days pair Upper School boys with younger students in relationships that continue over the years. Boys lead community service projects, including charity pancake breakfasts and food drives, and serve as admissions tour guides and editors of the daily school newsletter, yearbook, and literary magazine.

Performing Arts

Upper School boys may join the Upper School concert choir and the string orchestra, and audition for the bell choir and annual musical, a coed opportunity during which they perform with girls from neighboring schools. Ninth grade boys may audition for Pinstripes, our a cappella group.

Visual Arts

In art class, boys in 7th grade study contour and gesture drawing, while 8th grade boys create printing plates by carving rubber blocks and examine the work of M.C. Escher and Norman Rockwell. In 9th grade, boys explore portrait drawings, wire sculpture, and Pop Art. All Upper School boys also take pottery.

Athletics

All Upper School boys are required to participate in a sport. Country Day competes in the Fairchester Athletic Association. JV and varsity sports include: soccer, football, cross country, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse.

Performing & Visual Arts



Exploring the Arts



"At Country Day, boys like to sing and make music. Our program provides a level of comfort and confidence for each boy when on stage and when in class, and this confidence serves him well in daily life, as he gains a well-rounded sense of self. Secondary schools have thanked us for providing them with strong students in the performing arts."

JIM BALMER, UPPER SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER

Free from gender-based social pressures, boys at Country Day step out of their comfort zones and explore our rich selection of music, art, and theater—singing in Pinstripes, our a cappella group, touring Europe with our concert choir, or performing in our annual Broadway musicals. Here, it's just as "cool" to make the select bell choir as it is to make the football team, and over 95 percent of Upper School boys elect to participate in music or drama. In our spacious art studio, boys sculpt, paint, and draw, while in our auditorium they light up the stage with newly discovered acting abilities, excelling in ways both expected and unexpected.

Country Day's performing and visual art offerings include: annual musical, art history, bell choir, ceramics, concert choir, drawing, holiday concert, painting, Pinstripes, printmaking, sculpture, string orchestra, and technical crew.

► **Why a Boys School:** According to Diane Ruble, professor of psychology at New York University, in single-gender environments, without the constraints of gender stereotypes that prevail in coed settings, boys have a greater freedom to be themselves. They become more engaged in art, music, drama, and foreign languages.

Athletics

Every Boy Plays

Whether they're skating in kindergarten on our own ice rink or scoring the game-winning touchdown in 9th grade, Country Day boys learn what it means to be a team player. Athletics are a vital component of developing well-rounded boys, and here everyone plays and excels. Boys like to compete, and we emphasize competition along with sportsmanship and enjoyment of the game. Our coaches are also teachers, reinforcing the connection between the education boys receive in the classroom and the lessons they learn on the playing fields.

In the Lower School, sports are a regular part of the academic day, allowing boys to explore a variety of athletic activities. Boys in 4th and 5th grade play on our intramural Blue and White teams, while 6th grade boys compete in interscholastic sports against other schools in the area. Upper School boys try out for and join our JV and varsity teams in the Fairchester Athletic Association. Country Day sports include: soccer, football, cross country, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, and squash.

"Our triumphs are the hundreds of boys who come to us as marginal players who may never play competitive sports beyond Country Day, but remember their participation in the Country Day athletic program as an enjoyable experience and continue to make physical fitness a part of their lives."

BRAD FALLON, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AND HISTORY TEACHER



► **Why a Boys School:** "Sports can build confidence, connect boys to each other through action, and help them express emotions that they too often are not allowed to express in regular, daily life."
—Boys' Institute for Growth

Instilling Integrity, Scholarship, and Respect

Community and the relationships it fosters are central to the Country Day educational experience. We cultivate relationships through family-style lunches, Assemblies, advisor groups, Link Days, and a shared honor code and motto. Our honor code outlines the three pillars of our community—integrity, scholarship, and respect—and our motto, *Laboribus Iudicamur*, “we are judged by our deeds,” instills character in each student.

In the auditorium, a living symbol of Country Day’s community, students and faculty gather every week for Assembly, to share news and celebrate wins by ringing the Victory Bell. Public speaking skills are a focus of a Country Day education as boys develop confidence and excel together.

► **Why a Boys School:** On average, boys are “more likely to work hard when surrounded by groups of boys.”
—Michael G. Thompson, author of *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*

“What separates Country Day from other schools is our community—boys feel nurtured and safe here. They do things at our school that they wouldn’t necessarily do at other schools, partly because there are no girls and they don’t feel that social pressure, but also because they just feel so comfortable. It’s an environment in which boys can be themselves.”

RICK RUNKEL, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND SCIENCE TEACHER



Community



Outdoor Ice Rink



Gym



Courtyard



Four Athletic Fields



Outdoor Classroom



Multipurpose Sport Court



Lower School Playground

► **Why a Boys School:** “Boys tend to be more kinesthetic, more hands-on, more spatial-mechanical. They don’t tend to sit still to learn [the same way] as girls do. They rely more on gross motor skills, so that means more physical movement.” —Michael Gurian, author of *The Minds of Boys: Saving Our Sons from Falling Behind in School and Life*

Country Day's campus offers many spaces for boys to learn in different ways. Our 25 acres include an outdoor classroom, four playing fields, a playground, our own ice rink, a sport court, and a state-of-the-art gym. Constructed by students, our outdoor classroom provides an open space for boys to expand their knowledge. Lower School classrooms lead out onto the playground, which boys enjoy during recess, while Middle and Upper School boys gather informally in our courtyard to talk and play. At Country Day, our active spaces are yet another reason why boys excel.

Active Spaces

Excelling as Learners

Lower School: Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3

LOWER SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Grandparents' Day
Manner of the Week
Mother's Day Tea
Poetry recitation



"Boys need to move, change venues, and learn in hands-on ways. We make sure they use all of their senses by structuring our curriculum around how boys learn best at this age."

DEBBIE SULLINGER, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

A boy's active engagement in the learning process begins in Lower School. Small group work, hands-on, sensory lessons, and movement, both inside and outside of the classroom, keep boys busy and focused on what they are learning throughout the day. Whether they are executing science experiments, problem solving with puzzles, working with math manipulatives, or using WhisperPhones to practice their oral reading skills, they are active in building their academic foundation.

While our daily schedule is conducive to the time frames in which Lower School boys learn best, our traditional curriculum, which includes math, science, language arts, and social studies, provides a strong foundation, integrating current technology where most effective. Boys receive one-on-one attention from teachers and additional support and enrichment from our reading and math specialists.

Lower School Pathways

A daily path through Lower School includes a wide variety of learning experiences. Academic classes anchor the day, while a broad range of additional activities foster each boy's natural intellectual curiosity.



ASSEMBLY

On Tuesdays, the day begins with an all-school Assembly. The entire community gathers to discuss school news or listen to a guest speaker.

FREE CHOICE

Pre-K and kindergarten boys start their day with "free choice." Self-directed activities, such as math puzzles or word recognition games, allow boys to socialize, easing them into the school day.

STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

Boys study language arts, social studies, math, and science, while iPads and Smart Boards are incorporated as learning tools. We ensure that boys master the basics by offering additional math time with a math specialist and reading support with the help of a reading specialist. These teachers work with students individually and in small groups on an as-needed basis to strengthen lesson comprehension.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Boys in each grade participate in experiential learning, which can include venturing outside for Science Lab or taking a field trip to the Garbage Museum.

MORNING MEETING

In the classroom, our day begins with morning meeting, with teachers utilizing techniques from the Responsive Classroom. Students have the opportunity to practice skills such as greeting, listening and responding, speaking to a group, reading, or group problem solving. Teachers integrate aspects of the classroom curriculum into the routine, which helps students make the transition to school and sets a tone of interactive and engaged learning.

RECESS & SNACK

Each day includes time for recess and snack. These breaks allow time for boys to release energy while playing with classmates on the playground or in the gym.

PERFORMING ARTS

The music rooms and the stage become a regular part of the day for Lower School boys. We teach vocal and instrumental musical expression in a lively, engaging environment. In the winter and spring, boys showcase their musical accomplishments at concerts for the entire school community.

FAMILY-STYLE LUNCH

Our family-style approach to lunch enhances our culture of inclusiveness. Each lunch table has a mix of boys from kindergarten through 4th grade and a teacher, which rotates every two weeks. Before lunch begins, a student selects a Manner of the Week, and everyone says a non-denominational grace. Lunch provides a forum for teachers and students to get to know one another outside of the classroom.

VISUAL ARTS

Using a variety of media and materials, art projects are cross-curricular and thematic, and boys recognize the correlation between their art projects and what they are learning in a core subject.

ATHLETICS

Sports are a regular part of the day for Lower School boys. They play soccer, flag football, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse, and learn to skate or improve their skating skills on our outdoor rink.

POETRY READING

Public speaking, an important part of the Country Day curriculum, begins in Lower School. Boys in pre-K through 3rd grade memorize and recite a poem of their choice at special Assemblies held in the spring.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Every grade at Country Day participates in a community service project each year. Lower School boys actively participate in age-appropriate projects, such as LEGOs for Love, trick or treat for UNICEF, and a bake sale to support the rainforest.

E-BLOTTER

Lower School students may contribute features to the e-Blotter, our daily online newspaper.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After School Program is an optional extended day program. Activities include homework, computers, sports, and arts and crafts.

Excelling as Explorers

Middle School: Grades 4, 5, 6

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRADITIONS

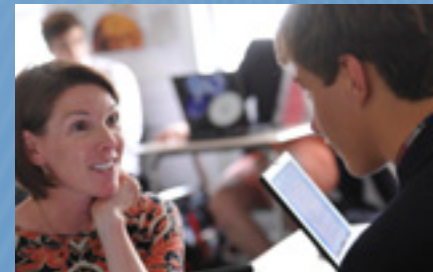
4th grade lunch waiters
6th grade laptop program
Blue and White athletic teams
Jacket and tie
Study Hall

Our Middle School successfully transitions boys from Lower School into Upper School, providing security and structure, yet developing new skills, study habits, and independence. Guided by faculty who allow them to explore who they are and how they learn best, boys experience an increase in academic rigor, with more class time devoted to math, writing, research, and interdisciplinary projects.

Organization is a key component of Middle School—boys learn how to organize their books, their laptops, and themselves. In the classroom, we encourage collaboration and enable students to take ownership of the learning process. Middle School boys also have more exposure to performing and visual arts, reading music in choir and experimenting with clay in art class. Boys are active participants in all of their classes, as they study ecosystems in science, grammar in English, word problems in math, and ancient civilizations in history.

“Middle School boys need to feel comfortable asking questions and taking risks. They’re energetic and curious, much like younger boys, but they are maturing emotionally and intellectually. We are here to support their growth while also providing a safe and structured environment, allowing them to make mistakes and learn from them.”

MARGOT PEARCE, HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL



Middle School Pathways

A daily path through Middle School provides opportunities to develop organizational skills, good study habits, and independence as boys explore learning styles.



Where Boys Excel: "Country Day has helped me excel by giving me confidence in my classes, sports, and music. The lunches with the teachers and the other boys are fun and delicious, too!" —6th Grade Student

LEARNING STRUCTURE

Fourth and 5th grade boys have a homeroom, as we gradually introduce different teachers, while boys in 6th grade follow an individualized schedule where they move independently from class to class.

ENGAGING PROJECTS

Throughout their unit on ancient civilizations, 4th grade boys learn about the start of civilizations and study Mesopotamia and Egypt, engaging in collaborative group projects in the library. In conjunction with English class, each student writes a research paper in the spring, serving as a culminating interdisciplinary project for Middle School.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In addition to classroom learning, boys participate in experiential educational activities, such as travelling to Cape Cod to explore marine biology. Middle School classrooms also employ techniques from the Responsive Classroom. The boys meet twice a week as a class to work on character skills, participate in activities, and share personal stories.

INSIDE/OUT

Starting in 5th grade, students take Inside/Out, our ethics course that provides a forum for boys to discuss issues such as decision making, honesty, courage, and justice.

PERFORMING ARTS

Each year, 5th and 6th grade students combine to create a 60-voice ensemble, rehearsing once a week within the school day. These singers prepare and perform two-, three-, and four-part treble voice music, including many languages and styles from around the world. They sing in the same three concerts with the concert choir and the Pinstripes. Sixth grade students may also join the Upper School concert choir and the string orchestra.

VISUAL ARTS

In Middle School art class, boys focus on artists such as Claude Monet and Henri Matisse. Additionally, they explore their skills in pen and ink drawings and work with complementary colors. Cross-curriculum projects are often integrated into the program.

FAMILY-STYLE LUNCH

During family-style lunch, each boy is responsible for a daily lunchroom task, such as setting tables or serving as a waiter.

ADVISING

Advising begins in 4th grade with Circle of Power and Respect, led by homeroom teachers. In 5th grade, boys meet with their homeroom teachers during a weekly advisor period. In 6th grade, boys are divided into small groups and are linked with a faculty advisor. These groups meet weekly to discuss academic progress and social issues.

STUDY HALL

At the end of each academic day, boys have Study Hall, during which they receive one-on-one attention from their teachers. "In Middle School, boys begin to understand how they learn best and develop strategies to become better learners," says 5th Grade Teacher Nancy Stevens.

POETRY READING

Middle School boys memorize and deliver a poem of their choice during special Assemblies held in the spring.

ATHLETICS

Every boy in Middle School plays team sports. Fourth and 5th grade boys play on intramural teams, and 6th grade boys compete in interscholastic sports against other schools. Middle School sports include: soccer, football, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse. Sixth grade boys may also join the cross country team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Each grade engages in a unique community service project. Fourth grade boys organize a book drive for Bridgeport Public Schools, 5th grade boys sing and perform at Bridgeport Manor Nursing Home, and 6th grade boys participate in the local beach clean-up and oversee an ongoing coat, hat, and glove drive.

E-BLOTTER

Boys in every division are encouraged to write for the e-Blotter. Middle School boys can contribute articles on topics of interest to them.

In Upper School, boys are academically prepared for their next steps. Building upon a solid foundation, boys continue to develop 21st-century skills—problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication, and collaboration—in classes ranging from Music Theory to Western Civilization.

As leaders of our school, Upper School boys become role models for our younger boys, gaining confidence and poise. While they use deductive reasoning in geometry, strengthen their writing abilities in English, or expand their French, Latin, and Spanish vocabulary, Upper School boys are invested in their education, asking questions, contributing their ideas, and applying what they've learned to everyday life.

"Our boys are well prepared for secondary school, always. They have a solid academic foundation in a range of subjects, from math to science to English, and they are also prepared for a fulfilling high-school experience in which they feel confident to try new things and make the right decisions."

CLIFF PAIGE, HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL



UPPER SCHOOL TRADITIONS

8th grade breakfast
Advisor lunches
Advisor Wiffle Ball
Ringing the Victory Bell
Spring musical
Varsity sports

Excelling as Leaders

Upper School: Grades 7, 8, 9

Upper School Pathways

A daily path though Upper School is varied and well-rounded—a varsity ice hockey player is also an accomplished violinist, while the star of our musical is also a Student Council member.

Where Boys Excel: “I never would have imagined that I’d be singing in a choir with my friends and teachers at Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican, or that I’d be giving a Flash presentation to my Latin class on the comparisons between the Parthenon and the Pantheon and enjoying it so much.” —8th Grade Student



BEFORE SCHOOL

Upper School boys may often start the day before school begins with extracurricular activities or meetings with teachers. A long-standing Country Day tradition, the 9th grade boys are the only students who are allowed to use the front “blue door” to enter and exit the building, a privilege they enjoy on a daily basis.

TECHNOLOGY

All students in Upper School have their own laptops for classroom use. Ninth grade boys use iPads in math, English, music, art, French, and Spanish.

NINTH GRADE HOMEROOM

No classroom is more representative of Upper School than the 9th grade homeroom, which centers around a Harkness table. This format encourages lively discussion amongst students in a variety of subjects, including history, geography, and English. The 9th grade room is also the preferred Study Hall space for 9th grade boys.

ENGAGING LESSONS

Classes are small and interactive, encouraging group work and participation. Advanced Algebra is held in the office of the Head of Upper School, and French is taught from a “guy” perspective, according to Upper School French Teacher Barbara Viner.

ADVISING

Every Friday, boys meet with their advisor groups to discuss both academic and personal topics. These weekly meetings provide a forum to check progress, lend encouragement, and answer questions. In addition to weekly meetings, the faculty advisor mentors and advocates for each boy.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

From camping trips in the Adirondacks to museum visits in New York City, experiential learning in each grade provides students with opportunities to apply and gain knowledge outside of the classroom.

INSIDE/OUT

Inside/Out provides a forum for boys to discuss issues such as justice, empathy, and loss. Teachers use various academic and pop-culture-related methods to prompt discussion.

EIGHTH GRADE RESEARCH PROJECT

The 8th grade English/history research project is a trimester-long collaborative effort on a topic related to “The American Experience.” Working in pairs, students use a wiki to showcase a research paper that they’ve written together. The project allows teachers to work in a consultative capacity, emphasizing inquiry-based learning.

PERFORMING ARTS

The music room and auditorium come alive each day with Upper School boys practicing and performing. Upper School boys have the opportunity to join the string orchestra and concert choir and audition for the bell choir, Pinstripes, and the Upper School spring musical.

VISUAL ARTS

The art room provides a great forum for Upper School boys to explore their creative interests and skills. Art classes range from studying the work of Keith Haring, New York City’s famous graffiti artist, to mixing watercolor paints to learning how to make portrait drawings look more realistic.

ATHLETICS

Upper School boys participate in JV and varsity teams in the Fairchester Athletic Association. Upper School sports include: soccer, football, cross country, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

All 8th and 9th grade boys must write and present a speech, working with their English teachers to select a topic. The speeches are three to five minutes in length, and boys present them in front of their class and faculty judges. The finalists then present their speeches to the entire school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Boys are active members of the community, exemplifying the school’s motto, “We are judged by our deeds.” Upper School boys’ community service projects have included coastal clean-up, a charity pancake breakfast, and a food drive.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Country Day offers an optional three-week exchange program with a school in Spain. The program offers immersion into Spanish culture and significant language development, as 8th and 9th grade boys live with a host family while attending school.

E-BLOTTER

Managed by Upper School students, the e-Blotter has been a daily publication since the adoption of school-wide computer use. All three divisions may contribute articles, daily activities, sports reports, and trivia questions. Boys write about topics from the Fourth Amendment to ski tows to the India-Pakistan Conflict.



NINTH GRADE TRADITIONS

- 9th grade trips
- Blue door privileges
- Personalize 9th grade homeroom
- Salad bar at lunch
- Tour guides

Stewards of the School

9th Grade

"Country Day has helped me excel academically and in life, pushing me in my classes and teaching me how to become a responsible, respectful young man. I feel well prepared and excited for high school. There are lots of advantages to staying here for 9th grade, aside from gaining new privileges—my favorite being getting to use the salad bar at lunch."

9TH GRADE STUDENT

Boys benefit tremendously from experiencing their 9th grade year at Country Day. In small, seminar-style classes, they tackle the challenges of high-school-level studies and learn how to engage themselves, their peers, and their teachers in intellectual discussion. As stewards of the school, they uphold and protect our honor code and long-standing traditions and serve as role models for our younger boys. The responsibility given to these boys, in addition to the strong academic foundation they receive here, empowers them as they move on to secondary school, where they have the confidence to get involved and voice their thoughts and opinions, both inside and outside of the classroom.



Recent Secondary School Choices

Andover	Kent School
Avon Old Farms School	The Lawrenceville School
Berkshire School	Loomis Chaffee
Blair Academy	Middlesex School
Canterbury School	Millbrook School
Cheshire Academy	Milton Academy
Choate Rosemary Hall	Phillips Exeter Academy
Deerfield Academy	Pomfret School
Episcopal High School	Salisbury School
Fairfield College	St. George's School
Preparatory School	St. Luke's School
Fairfield Ludlowe High School	St. Paul's School
Fairfield Warde High School	Staples High School
Greens Farms Academy	Suffield Academy
Groton School	Tabor Academy
The Gunnery School	The Taft School
Hopkins School	Westminster School
The Hotchkiss School	

Plan a Visit

We encourage you to visit Country Day and experience our active community of boys. The school hosts monthly Open Houses from October through April. These provide an informal way for you to gain a sense of Country Day and meet faculty and staff.

You may also schedule an individual appointment by calling 203.259.2723 or emailing admissions@fcdsmail.org.

"From the beginning, Country Day was more than a school that cultivated the academic mind. It was a community—a community of parents, faculty, staff, and students who shaped my character and taught me how to live a diligent, upstanding life."
ALUMNUS '08, ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Excelling as Graduates

Country Day students achieve great success throughout their secondary school years, leading their schools in academics, arts, and athletics. As a result, our graduates have an excellent reputation among secondary schools, paving the way for future Country Day graduates.

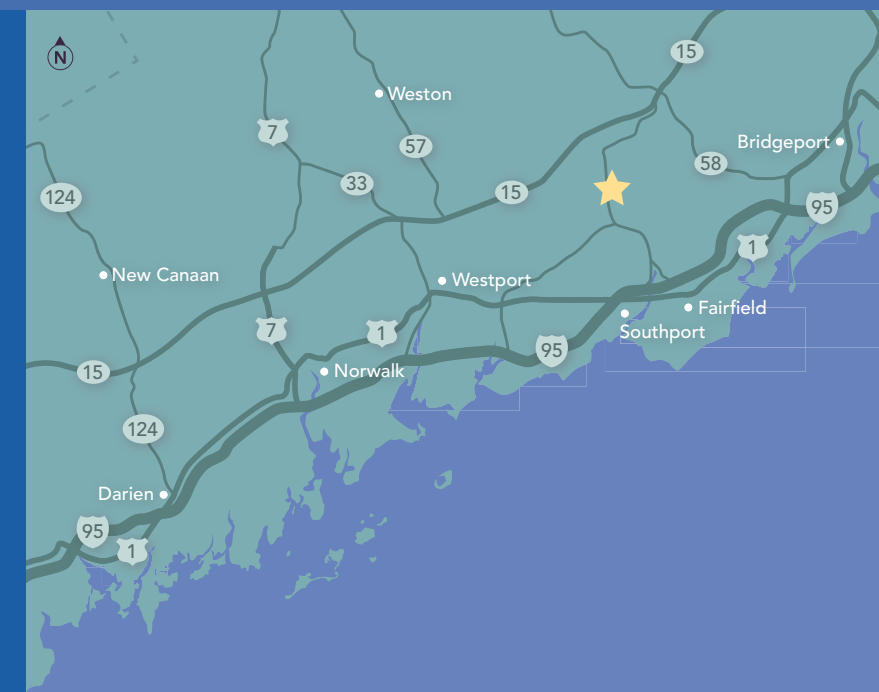
Starting as early as 7th grade, we guide each boy through the secondary school selection process with one overarching goal: to find the best school for him, where he will achieve continued academic and personal success. Our Headmaster and Head of Upper School work closely with each family, assisting them throughout this process.

Admissions Office
Rick Runkel
Jesse Crouch
Frances O'Neill

Contributing Photographers
Tony Rinaldo
Peter Baker
Jason Brand

Design and Copywriting
studio-e

Printing
Universal Millennium





OUR MISSION

Fairfield Country Day School provides an educational community dedicated to the personal growth and intellectual development of boys. Our balanced and challenging program is designed to help each student expand his desire and ability to acquire knowledge, stimulate his curiosity and creativity, and enhance his self esteem and respect for others. Each boy's individual development is encouraged in an environment that anticipates the future while appreciating the past.



Fairfield Country Day School

2970 Bronson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

203.259.2723

fairfieldcountryday.org