



WATKINSON SCHOOL PROFILE

CLASS OF 2023

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Our Mission

Watkinson's mission is to develop in our students the power to shape their own lives and the world around them. Our job is not to make students more like each other, but to help them make the most of themselves. We demonstrate this through our rigorous commitment to individuality.

About Watkinson School

- Co-ed day school
- Grades 6-PG (The Academy: a unique gap-year program)
- 213 students from 43 towns and 1 foreign country, reflecting a wide range of academic, personal and socioeconomic backgrounds
- 40 teaching faculty, 23 of whom hold master's or dual master's degrees and 5 PhDs
- Student-teacher ratio is 5:1
- Average class size: 14
- Semester calendar
- Advisor system focuses around the school's core values; each advisor guides 5 - 7 students; advisors and students meet daily
- Students of color: 30%
- 6 Middle School, 14 Upper School interscholastic athletic teams fielded annually; Housatonic Valley Athletic League and New England Prep School Athletic Council
- 1.4% international students

About the Class of 2023:

44 seniors; 4 Academy (post-graduate)

Curriculum Requirements (minimum):

English	4 years
Mathematics	3 years
Science (all labs)	3 years
History	3 years (includes U.S. History)
Foreign Language	Level 3 in one language must be attained
Fine/Performing Arts	1 year
Senior Seminar	1 year

Marking System:

90: high honors
85: honors

Watkinson does not rank its students. Advanced Placement and Honors Level courses are not offered.

Junior Year Grade Averages:

Median: 88.59/3.36 GPA on a 4.5 scale

Discipline Reporting Policy:

It is Watkinson's policy NOT to report disciplinary action to colleges on transcripts, in recommendations, or in the student profile. Students are expected to disclose this information to colleges.

About College Counseling

At Watkinson, College Counseling enables our students to find the right match with a school that truly "fits." The Director of College Counseling works closely with each student in their junior and senior year to assist with every aspect of the college admissions process. Each student's college profile is written, reviewed and edited by a team of faculty and administrators to ensure accuracy and balance.

The 52 members of Watkinson School's Class of 2022 received 121 merit scholarship offers totaling \$2.5 million for their freshman years in college.

COVID-19 and Watkinson's Class of 2023:

While the heart of the pandemic was during the Class of 2023's sophomore year, all classes at Watkinson took place both in person and synchronously online using Google suite. Watkinson intentionally shifted to online-only instruction from the period of November 30, 2020 to January 15, 2021, in order to maintain optimal health standards. Our grading system, along with our expectations and standards for students, remained the same throughout the pandemic.

Accreditations and Affiliations

Member of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools • Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Points of Difference of a Watkinson Education

Diploma Programs—Watkinson offers two Diploma Programs for students who commit to intensive study in the Creative Arts or in Global Studies. Each program involves an application process. The program's director works closely with students to help shape the program to each individual. Students who successfully meet the requirements of either Diploma Program receive a separate diploma, in addition to the traditional Watkinson diploma, upon graduation.

The *Creative Arts Diploma Program* is designed for students who demonstrate a serious interest and substantial ability in their art form. The program awards a second diploma to students upon completion of requirements related to one's artistic area of concentration, their major. The program includes: a junior year Arts Seminar, master classes, 7 – 10 hours of work in the student's major each week outside the classroom, frequent exhibitions of work and/or performances, and completion of a culminating work of art that is presented to the community at the end of senior year.

The *Global Studies Diploma Program* is an intellectually challenging interdisciplinary course of study for students interested in developing leadership and communication skills with a global perspective. Collaboration, cultural competency, research, and analysis are key skills students demonstrate while exploring a variety of themes including globalization, human rights, sustainability, technology, religion, the arts, and global public health. Over two years, students have ongoing contact with leading experts in world affairs through campus talks, virtual meetings, and field trips. Students engage in service work locally in the greater Hartford community and are encouraged to travel with the option

to participate in one of Watkinson's domestic or international service-learning trips to locations such as the Dominican Republic, Jordan, and Uganda. Seniors take our Global Studies Seminar and complete a year-long capstone project deeply exploring a global issue through intensive research, community engagement, and experiential learning. This project is guided by the Global Studies director, experts, other students in the program, and university librarians, and is presented to the public.

Exhibitions—Watkinson supplements conventional assessments with a long-term, in-depth program of evaluation called Exhibitions, in which students demonstrate their mastery of skills and content in a much more challenging and illuminating way.

Tenth-grade Exhibitions mark a milestone in students' high school careers. In a four-month-long process, all tenth-grade students build individual websites in which they reflect on their high school learning through the lens of Carol Dweck's *Growth Mindset* and Costa and Kallick's *Sixteen Habits of the Mind*. Students collect completed assignments, select pertinent examples, write a series of reflective personal essays, and present their website to a small audience consisting of peers, parents, and teachers.

The Senior Year—Through the dual components of the Senior Seminar and the Senior Project, the Senior Year provides each senior a genuine opportunity to learn for themselves. Each member of the senior class will participate in a year-long process intended to deepen, extend, and enrich their high school experience. They then present their learning in a capstone project of their own choosing, in a final exhibition which is both public and assessed. Students will identify

interest in an area of endeavor, actively conduct research to further develop their foundational knowledge, and test the strength of their interest. They participate in an experiential learning opportunity away from the confines of the school. When our oldest students occupy the center of their education, they are able to demonstrate to themselves, to the school, and to the wider community their capacity for autonomous, complex, and self-aware work, as well as highlight the skills and habits they have acquired throughout their years at Watkinson.

Interdisciplinary Coursework—Learning experiences co-relate subject areas and emphasize inquiry, investigation, research, reflection, and the intentional use of appropriate technology.

Link to the University of Hartford—A limited number of exceptional students were offered the opportunity to take a college course at the University of Hartford for college credit in the fall of 2022. These courses are taken alongside college students and are listed on their Watkinson transcripts.