

here
students
do

FINDING THEIR OWN WAY IN THEIR OWN WORDS



The Putney School

A photograph of two young women with long brown hair sitting on the ground in a lush green field filled with wildflowers. They are facing each other, and the woman on the left is gesturing with her hands as if in conversation. The background is a dense forest of green trees, with a small house visible on a hill in the distance. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day outdoors.

IN MANY WAYS your biggest project here is creating your best self. The self that can go out in the world and do good work. The self that can work hard and have a good time doing it. You know you've found that self when all 220 of your peers and 40 teachers give you a standing ovation in Assembly. Or when your Independent Study project turns into something that could provide a solution right here on campus, like improved energy efficiency in the dorms. Or when you finish barn work ten minutes earlier than usual and you sit watching the sun rise over a crazy green hill.

If you're going to leave home, why not make it count?

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 "That's one cool thing I've learned here: even if Putney doesn't start with what you want, you can find a way to make it happen."



ANNA

YEAR:
Junior
 FROM:
California

YOU'LL FIND PEOPLE WALKING BAREFOOT. Yes, it's okay if you come to breakfast smelling like you just did AM Barn. These are some of the things I tell international students before they arrive on campus. I'm kind of joking, but not really. As an International Ambassador, my role is to be a leader in welcoming students from other countries, showing them the campus, getting them acclimated, ensuring they have everything they need.

Throughout the year, we also try to bring a sense of cultural diversity to campus. We host panel discussions and we organize events and activities. For instance, in the winter we have the International Food Festival, which is an opportunity for students to volunteer to cook food from their homes—I cooked Filipino food once, Chinese students cook for the Lunar New Year, and we've had Swedish food, too. It's really fun.

There's a lot of opportunity here to start anything if what you want or need isn't offered. I was able to start a Spoken Word Club and now we have a small community of people passionate about spoken poetry. We even went as a group to a poetry slam in Brattleboro, and several of us won awards. It was a

really fun night. That's one cool thing I've learned here: even if Putney doesn't start with what you want, you can find a way to make it happen.

I definitely like writing the most, so when I took my first physics class in the fall I thought I wasn't going to like it. It was hard, for sure, but for Project Week I ended up doing a physics and behavioral economics project. I took what I'd learned and applied it to real life. Being able to translate equations into the real world is really cool.

For a similar reason, I chose to do trimester abroad in Mexico. I had taken a Spanish class but really wanted to learn the language in a natural environment. After those eight weeks, I came back three levels higher in Spanish, and it didn't even feel like I had to try. It was like doing homework constantly, just by talking to people, by having to shop for food and get around. I also took physics there. Imagine that: learning an already difficult subject in another language! It was such a cool opportunity. And now physics has started to influence my poetry. I just wrote a poem, for instance, about inertia and how it relates to social justice. It's all coming full circle.



ANNA'S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8	American Studies	Statistics		Intro to Physics	Writing & Research	Intro to Physics	
9	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	American Studies	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch		Brunch
10	Assembly	Conference Block	Assembly	Sing	Assembly	Milk Lunch	
11	Learning Center Tutorial		Writing & Research	Conference Block	College Planning	Statistics	
12 pm	Writing & Research	American Studies		Statistics	Intro to Physics	Lunch	
1	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lacrosse	
2	Intro to Physics	Writing & Research	Lacrosse	American Studies	Statistics		
3	Lacrosse	Lacrosse		Lacrosse	Lacrosse		
4							
5							
6	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7	Creative Writing	Creative Writing	Music Lesson		Creative Writing		
8							
9							



THIS IS NOT AN EXPERIENCE or a place you can plan for, even when you're in the midst of it. At any point, in any class, a moment or lesson or assignment can grab you and completely change what you're focused on, your sense of why you're here. Putney really underscores that you shouldn't be static, that you should be progressing at all times.

For me, this dramatic shift happened when I took my first English class here. In public school, I was used to lessons being centered on a checklist of themes the teacher had prepared for us to talk about. Here, it's a much more open and free-thinking discussion. It was actually just a conversation where we were thinking and developing our own ideas and then talking through them together.

Computer science came as a big surprise too. I literally had no idea what computer science was before I came to Putney. In geometry, we had a couple of coding assignments. I got really into them, and have since taken Computer Science I and II. I find the logic of it meditative and challenging.

In some ways coding relates to my real passion, which is playing music and writing music. I play on my own, but I also took Music Theory I and Advanced Music Theory, as well as playing in jazz band. Those music theory classes were very intense academically, and came at the same time as my first English experience. Together, those rigorous classes set my priorities straight and clarified exactly why I'm here, which is to follow my passions of English and music and take advantage of the opportunities here to make the most of my education.

To make the most of it also means spending a lot of time here, since I'm a day student. After those experiences, I probably went from spending 60 hours a week on campus to 80 hours. This is definitely not a campus where you enter to learn and then leave—it's an all-encompassing place. It really demands it. We all—day student or boarding student—have an obligation to create and uphold a functioning community, to do our part to keep it thriving.

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“Putney really underscores that you shouldn't be static, that you should be progressing at all times.”

DAVID'S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	Computer Science 2 Chemistry & Microbiology History of the Modern World Spanish 2	Algebra 2 Composition: Forms of the Essay History of the Modern World Music Theory 2	Spanish 2 Literary Analysis Algebra 2 Chemistry & Microbiology
Afternoon Activity	Hiking	Snowshoeing Jazz Ensemble	Ultimate
Evening Art	Jazz Combo	Jazz Combo	Jazz Combo
Work/Job	Lunch Prep	Cow Barn	Supply Stock
Seminars		Health 2	
Project Weeks	Writing & Recording a 1940s Jazz Standard		Crafting a Music Video

DAVID

YEAR:
Sophomore
 FROM:
Vermont



MY MOM IS FROM GERMANY and my dad is from the U.S., so I grew up going back and forth between Germany and Colorado. I knew that I wanted to go to a boarding school because I had attended one in Germany. I liked the community and how my friends became my family. I also knew I wanted a boarding school with a flexible curriculum because I like pursuing my own interests and goals.

Ultimately the horse program is what swayed me toward Putney. I started riding when I was young and it makes me happy to be around horses. It's a nice part of my day. I don't want to do anything professional with it, but I really enjoy that time. I work in the horse barn and take lessons with the riding instructor. I typically do four days of riding in the fall and two in the spring, since I also play lacrosse. When I have time, I try to ride in the mornings before school.

When I came to Putney I hated doing school work. I always did the bare minimum, nothing extra. Now though, I'm totally motivated to work on my own, to develop my own goals, and work toward them. Math and science have been my favorite subjects for

a long time and, because I have a language waiver, I've found the opportunity to design my own independent classes to pursue those goals. I have four independent classes right now: two computer science and two advanced physics.

I love coding. It sounds really geeky, but it's so interesting. I'm working on a graphing calculator to code an equation that will solve for anything—integrals, for X. It's kind of an endless project. And my physics classes are thermodynamics and electricity and magnetism. I'm working with coils of wires, measuring ohms and volts, with different kinds of batteries and types of currents, asking myself questions about it, identifying what puzzles me and trying to figure it out without outside resources.

My future is definitely in science, or science and technology. All the colleges I'm looking at are science-based. I know that in the future I want to make a difference. I don't know exactly what I'll do, but right now, with my classes and my studies, I think of myself as going in the right direction. We'll see where it leads.

"Sophia is insatiably curious. Whether exploring computer coding, translating German poetry, or investigating new techniques for photography, Sophia lives on the edge of what she doesn't yet understand or know how to do."

NATHAN ZWEIG
English Teacher

SOPHIA'S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8	Calculus 2	American Studies		Statistics	Writing & Research	Statistics	
9	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Calculus 2	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch		Brunch
10	Assembly		Assembly	Sing	Assembly	Milk Lunch	
11	Conference Block	College Planning	Writing & Research	Conference Block	Conference Block	American Studies	
12 pm	Writing & Research	Calculus 2		American Studies	Statistics	Lunch/ Work Committee	
1	Lunch/ Work Committee	Lunch/ Work Committee	Lunch/ Work Committee	Lunch/ Work Committee	Lunch/ Work Committee	Lacrosse	
2	Statistics	Writing & Research	Lacrosse	Calculus 2	American Studies		
3	Lacrosse	Lacrosse		Lacrosse	Lacrosse		
4							
5						Dinner	Dinner
6	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		
7		Music Lessons & Practice Guitar		Music Lessons & Practice Guitar			
8							
9							

SOPHIA

YEAR:
Junior

FROM:
Colorado



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“There’s value placed on work, and it feels connected to the essential aspects of living.”

NOA

YEAR: *Freshman*
 FROM: **MAINE**

PUTNEY IS BIGGER than anything I had experienced before since I came from a small Waldorf School located basically in the middle of nowhere. I knew I wanted to come here because the place resonated with me. With the farm, the work program, and its location, Putney is very connected to the outdoors. There’s value placed on work, and it feels connected to the essential aspects of living. I came to Putney because it meets many of my core values in this way.

I started playing piano when I was six, and Putney also seems like a good space to grow as a pianist. I take lessons from the music teacher and for my first Project Week I learned a song and performed it, accompanied by my friend on violin. That was really fun. It felt good to be able to take that much time to spend on something I enjoy deeply. For future Project Weeks I already have so many ideas—I’m not sure I can get to all of them!

I really value time with myself. I’m fairly introverted. Even though Putney is bigger than anything I’ve experienced, once you know everyone it starts to

feel smaller. My senior mentor is a big inspiration to me. She’s very caring. She’s involved in fiber arts and for my birthday, instead of giving me a gift, she offered to weave something with me. Together we wove a scarf, twice as long as normal, and then cut the strings in the middle so we each had a scarf. It meant so much to have that experience with her.

The pace of work here took some adjustment. First trimester was really busy, and I like to take my time on projects to make sure I’m doing my best work. For Humans in the Natural World, I did a creative writing project, retelling the story of how my great-grandparents met from the perspective of my great-grandmother. There was one scene in particular that my teacher responded to, and it seemed like I had almost encapsulated the entire point of the project in this one scene. I was really proud of that.

Even this first year, I can already see myself changing. It’s good. I don’t know exactly who I’ll have become when I graduate.



NOA'S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6am	Cow Barn		Cow Barn				
7	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8	Humans in the Natural World	Humans in the Natural World		Algebra 1	Spanish 2	Algebra 1	
9	Milk Lunch Assembly	Milk Lunch	Humans in the Natural World	Milk Lunch Sing	Milk Lunch Assembly		Brunch
10	Tech Seminar	Conference Block	Assembly		Conference Block	Milk Lunch Humans in the Natural World	
11	Spanish 2	Humans in the Natural World	Spanish 2	Humans in the Natural World	Algebra 1		
12 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
1	Algebra 1	Spanish 2			Humans in the Natural World		
2	Running & Fitness			Running & Fitness			
3							
4							
5		Piano Lesson					
6	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7	Ceramics	Ceramics					
8							
9							

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 "I'm friends now with people from all over the world—China, Japan, Madagascar, and all over the U.S.—so we're able to talk about cultural contrasts and have interesting discussions."

TRIANA

YEAR:
 Freshman
 FROM:
 Mexico

WHAT'S A GOOD DAY HERE? A warm day! I come from a small town southwest of Mexico City, so in addition to some culture shock, there was some climate shock when I came to Putney. I miss the sun in the winter. My transition into Putney wasn't too rough though, because I have a support system of international students. I'm friends now with people from all over the world—China, Japan, Madagascar, and all over the U.S.—so we're able to talk about cultural contrasts and have interesting discussions. It's a strength of the community here. With people from such different perspectives contributing to conversations, the community is able to grow to a much higher level.

What I like about Putney is the freedom to follow my own interests, rather than having a strict curriculum forced upon me. The most surprising thing I've started doing is creative writing. I was pretty sure I was terrible at it, but after exercises in my Evening Arts Creative Writing my teacher gave me such positive feedback! I also wrote a descriptive essay of a natural disaster, based on the earthquake in Mexico, for an assignment in Humans in the Natural World. I was really proud of that.



The freedom lets me try new things too. For Project Week I made a dress for myself. I made the pattern, measured it out, made sure it would fit, and then used a sewing machine to put it together. It turned out pretty well! Do I wear it? It's really fancy, and there's a lot of mud around here.

But that's one reason I chose Putney—I like to be outside. The school I came from was a small, older school that was originally horse stables. We were outside all the time, and I didn't want to go back to being in a building when I went to high school. Here, I love walking to the horse barn in the morning. It's peaceful here and we have really beautiful sunrises.

TRIANA'S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	Humans in the Natural World Geometry	Humans in the Natural World Geometry Drawing 1	Humans in the Natural World Geometry Drawing 2
Afternoon Activity	Horseback Riding Hiking	Alpine Skiing	Running & Fitness Horseback Riding
Evening Art	Figure Drawing Creative Writing	Stained Glass Figure Drawing	Drawing Stained Glass
Work/Job	Building Cleaner	AM Horse Barn	Dinner Crew
Seminars	Tech	Health	Music
Project Weeks	The Impact of Our Homes		Building a Low Ropes Element Course



THE VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM was a big reason I was drawn to Putney. I do painting, sculpture, drawing, and a lot more, and being at Putney has given me the ability to expand my horizons, to test new things. I've been able to experiment with different types of art, like weaving, printmaking, ceramics, recyclable types of art. I'm still experimenting and I don't see an end to it—the ability to try so many things makes me happy.

I keep myself busy with art, but it definitely isn't my only focus. Like so many people at Putney, I'm putting my energies in multiple places. Your schedule is pretty full here, but to some degree, you can also be however busy you want to make yourself. I'm the type of person who likes to be busy, likes to be really involved. I'm a dorm head and I'm also on the leadership of the Diversity Committee. The Diversity Committee is especially rewarding. We're always looking for ways to keep pushing the importance of diversity—racial, economic, and other types—by holding conversations, meetings, and workshops on campus. It's definitely a tough position, but I really like it. It's an important issue

and it affects everyone, whether you're a person of color or not, so it's rewarding to be able to lead those conversations.

Being a student dorm head is rewarding too. When students first arrive on campus, dorm heads help facilitate a welcoming environment. It can be tough and shocking for new students to step into this, so we're the people they can rely on to answer questions, orient them to the community, and remedy any issues that might arise.

Being in these important positions, and Putney as a whole, has impacted me greatly. I'm more aware of the social problems of the world, and this place helps give a voice to young students and young people to stand up and speak about things they're passionate about. It's really important. Before Putney, I didn't really feel like I had a voice. Because of the strong trust Putney has in its students, and the emphasis on students being leaders, it's helped me realize that I have the power to start something, to do something, and not necessarily to fix it, but to do something that will go toward making it better.

“Because of the strong trust Putney has in its students, and the emphasis on students being leaders, it's helped me realize that I have the power to start something.”

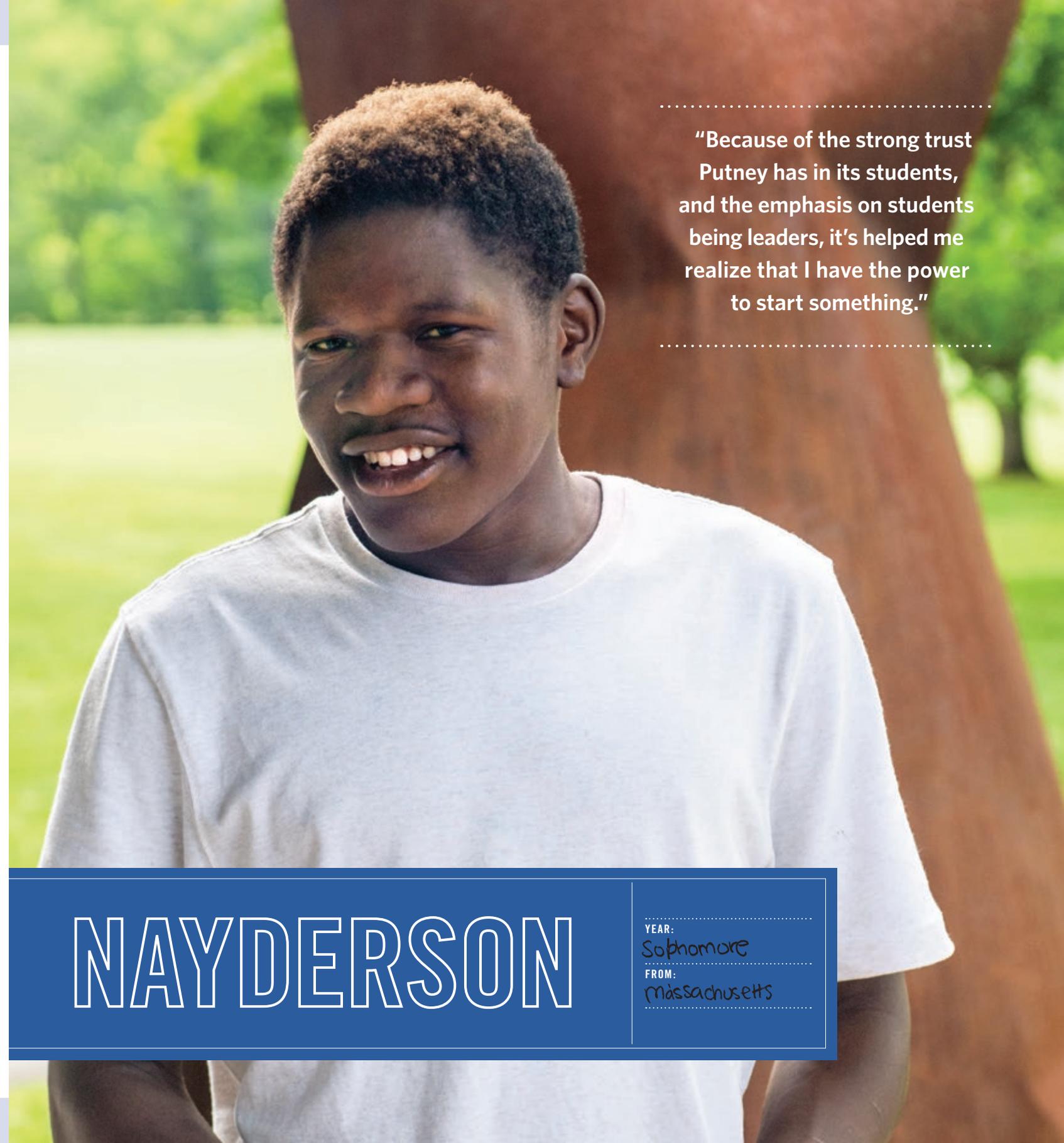
NAYDERSON'S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 am	Fitness Conditioning Breakfast	Fitness Conditioning					
8	Chemistry & Microbiology	Literary Analysis		French 3	Drawing 4	French 3	
9	Milk Lunch Assembly	Milk Lunch	Chemistry & Microbiology	Milk Lunch Sing	Milk Lunch Assembly	Milk Lunch	Brunch
10	Conference Block	Conference Block	Assembly Drawing 4	Conference Block	Health Seminar	Foundations in Literary Analysis	
11	Drawing 4	Chemistry & Microbiology		Literary Analysis	French 3		Learning Center Tutorial
12 pm	Lunch/Bldg. Cleaner	Lacrosse					
1	French 3	Drawing 4	Lacrosse	Chemistry & Microbiology	Literary Analysis		
2	Mountain Biking			Mountain Biking			
3		Learning Center Tutorial					
4						Dinner	Dinner
5	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		
6		Printmaking					
7				Afro-Caribbean Drumming			
8							
9							

www.putneyschool.org/nayderson

NAYDERSON

YEAR:
Sophomore
FROM:
Massachusetts





SOME PEOPLE LIKE THEATER because of the art of it and some people like it because you can act like an idiot and no one cares. I like it for both reasons. I did theater before I came to Putney, but the productions here are much higher quality. We do two productions a year, and the theater director gives us a huge range of work to perform. I've been in a British farce, a macabre musical, and a 1950s noir based on an Agatha Christie novel. And this trimester we're doing a children's musical, which we'll tour to elementary schools in the area.

All four of my older brothers visited Putney, but I'm the only one who came. I really liked how busy the students seemed. I like the structure. You're always doing something here—classes during the day, afternoon activities, and evening art. The time you're not doing that, you spend doing homework. Putney gives you the whole program.

In addition to theater, I like English and history. I'm a humanities guy. I have two science classes this

trimester, which is two more than I normally have. We'll see how that goes. I do feel strongly that I want a well-rounded education and broad experiences, though. I played lacrosse, I've been on the rowing team, I did rock climbing, dance classes, Madrigals. That's one of the things that's great about Putney: you can do all these different things and it's no problem. It's built right into your schedule. You can just try things, and that's a lot of fun.

I know community has become a big buzzword, but there's real truth to it here. It's small, obviously, and it really is close-knit. Everybody, as a part of the community, is working toward similar goals, which unifies us in a way. And we have our own idiomatic things: you can say "I'm going to do AM Barn," or ask "Do you have your G Sub credit?" and everybody knows what you mean. This community is like that: we're living together under a shared experience and we make our own language.

PATRICK'S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	College Planning Seminar Shakespeare American Studies Precalculus Music Theory	Writing and Research American Studies French 4 Precalculus	American Studies French 4 Advanced Chemistry: Climate Change Chemistry & Microbiology
Afternoon Activity	Madrigals Running & Fitness	Fitness Conditioning Madrigals	Madrigals Running & Fitness
Evening Art	Theater Jazz Basics	Theater	Theater Guitar Music Lessons
Work/Job	Lunch Kitchen Cleanup	Currier Center Cleaner	Currier Center Cleaner
Seminars		College Planning	College Planning
Project Weeks	Macbeth: An Analysis		Musical: <i>A Year in the Life of Frog & Toad</i>



“Everybody, as a part of the community, is working toward similar goals, which unifies us in a way.”

PATRICK

YEAR:

Junior

FROM:

Vermont



I LIKE BEING OUTDOORS and being active. Putney is a good place for that. I'm in the alpine skiing program, which goes skiing twice a week. I've been skiing all my life, and really love it. I also ride horses here, which I've done the majority of my life, and enjoy rock climbing. For spring Project Week two friends and I hiked 30 miles of Vermont's Long Trail. I'd like to complete the whole trail by the time I graduate.

A big reason I chose Putney was the trimester abroad language programs. I just spent 15 weeks in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I stayed with a host family and attended a private school there. I took some independent Spanish language classes, but also some really interesting classes taught in Spanish, like philosophy and linguistics. I started learning a second language when I was young and spent three years living in France. My parents were insistent that my brother and I learn other languages, so that was a big part of my upbringing. I love the idea of being

able to converse with more people, of being able to go somewhere new and understand the people and culture. We spend a lot of time here trying to bridge gaps between different cultures and communities and aspects of life, and the trimester abroad program is really connected to that goal.

The trimester abroad program teaches life skills we're going to need when we go out into the world after Putney. We'll need to deal with other people and we have to be able to interact with them productively. Having new and different experiences makes you more adaptable for sure, which is very important when going out on your own for the first time. It also teaches people how to be more adventurous—you won't know anyone where you're going and you have to be able to go out and connect with people who are maybe very different from yourself. That's not just something happening when you take a trimester abroad. That's happening every single day of your life. That's what Putney is preparing us for.



“Having new and different experiences makes you more adaptable for sure, which is very important when going out on your own for the first time.”

PIPER'S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8	Algebra 2	Foundations in Literary Analysis		Spanish 5	Chemistry & Microbiology	Spanish 5	
9	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Algebra 2	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Brunch
10	Assembly			Sing	Assembly		
11	Conference Block	Conference Block	Assembly	10th Grade Health Seminar	Conference Block	Foundations in Literary Analysis	
12 pm	Chemistry & Microbiology	Algebra 2	Chemistry & Microbiology	Foundations in Literary Analysis	Spanish 5	Lunch/Lunch Prep	
1	Lunch/Lunch Prep	Lunch/Lunch Prep	Lunch/Lunch Prep	Lunch/Lunch Prep	Lunch/Lunch Prep		
2	Spanish 5	Chemistry & Microbiology	Climbing	Algebra 2	Foundations in Literary Analysis		
3		Horseback Riding			Horseback Riding		
4							
5							
6	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7							
8	Knitting				Creative Writing		
9							

www.putneyschool.org/piper

YEAR: Sopomore
FROM: Vermont

PIPER



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 "The classes are demanding and stimulating. They've already challenged me to think about old ideas in new ways."

JAMES

YEAR: Freshman
 FROM: Rhode Island



WHEN SCHOOL STARTED, I remember walking into the lunch room and immediately thinking, where do I sit? Starting over in a new place and meeting new people can be nerve-racking. But the nervousness passes quickly because you're here all the time, so you make friends really quickly. The people here are supportive and fun. Now, when my friends and I are studying or doing homework and need to re-energize, we put on music and have little dance parties in the classrooms, or if it's clear that night we'll go stargazing.

What drew me to Putney? When I first visited the campus, I saw Wender and thought, Wow, that is a beautiful building! The art facilities are amazing, which were a big draw for me. I'm in ceramics now, and for spring project week I'd like to do a nature journal, taking the best drawings to make them into larger etchings. I'm excited to develop my skills in visual arts here at Putney. The classes are demanding and stimulating. They've already challenged me to think about old ideas in new ways. In Humans in the Natural World, I'm doing a project on ivory as a world commodity, and specifically unearthing mammoth

ivory as an alternative to elephant tusks—it's gotten me to think deeply about a complex issue and how to find a balance between so many tradeoffs.

I came to Putney from a more traditional school in Providence, Rhode Island, which was a lot less progressive than here. Social justice and activism are pretty big priorities for me. At my old school, I led a discussion group that covered social justice topics. Even though not every single person here has social activism as their highest priority, there's a lot going on that I've gotten involved in. On Martin Luther King Jr. day we had a bunch of workshops, and a group of us went to Montpelier for a women's march and rally. I try to go to as many meetings of Diversity Committee and Spectrum Committee as I can. I feel like there's a lot of space at Putney for discussion, and I hope to get even more involved and active so that I can become a sort of community leader as I grow here.

JAMES' YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	Humans in the Natural World Music Theory 1 Geometry	Humans in the Natural World French Geometry	Painting 1 Humans in the Natural World French
Afternoon Activity	Farm	Farm Sports Conditioning	Ultimate
Evening Art	Songwriting Jazz Ensemble	Ceramics	Ceramics
Work/Job	Main Building Cleaner	Dinner Crew	Kitchen Utility
Seminars	Music	Tech	Health
Project Weeks	Exploring Different Styles in Oil Painting		Documenting Native & Invasive Species & Their Interactions

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“Jade is a friendly, open-minded, and extremely kind person. She cares for her friends and the community. She soaks up every opportunity that comes her way and consistently looks for ways to expand her horizons. She’s a great credit to The Putney School.”

SARAH WILES
 School Librarian

JADE

YEAR: Sophomore
 FROM: China

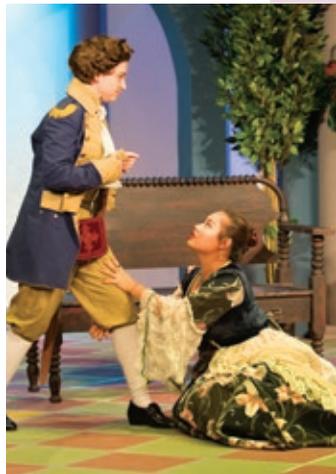


I DEFINITELY HAD SOME MAJOR CULTURE SHOCK my first year at Putney, but this year has been a lot better. For many of us international students, the language barrier is only one aspect. If you want to be able to integrate and make friends with domestic students, it’s also about learning the culture itself, learning cultural references. Just being integrated into the community has made it a lot easier. My advisor helped me a lot. She’s really familiar with the international student experience, so she was able to offer a lot of guidance.

The community here is also a lot different from my community at home. In China, your actions are guided by community expectations, but at Putney, you’re encouraged to be yourself, to find what you need and who you want to be. So rather than thinking about my family’s expectations or how I can fit into a community, here my thought is what

can I bring to this community as me, as Jade, as an individual. It’s a really reverse way for me to think, but it’s helped me explore new things and myself.

For example, I love singing and I’ve pursued that here. I was in Madrigals and I take voice lessons from the music director—he’s really amazing. I’ve also started performing in plays and musicals. I was even Olivia in Twelfth Night. Putney has changed me tremendously in that regard. When I came to Putney, I was nervous on stage, but the whole environment here is non-judgmental. Whenever someone goes on stage and gives a speech, everyone gives this person a round of applause. This makes me feel comfortable to express myself as an individual, to not hide inside the community. Every person here has different experiences and different stories to tell, and if you’re willing to share that, the whole community is really excited.



JADE’S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	History of the Modern World Chemistry & Microbiology Theater Elements	Advanced Literature & Composition Algebra 2 Chemistry & Microbiology Drawing I	Writing for Theater Algebra 2 Advanced Literature & Composition History of the Modern World
Afternoon Activity	Madrigals	Yoga Madrigals	Garden Weights & Fitness
Evening Art	Theater Voice Lessons	Theater	Madrigals Theater
Work/Job	Brunch Waiter	Cow Barn	Lunch Kitchen Counter
Seminars	Health 2		
Project Weeks	Playwriting & Revising		Musical: <i>A Year in the Life of Frog & Toad</i>



THIS TRIMESTER, my work job is dinner crew, which I think is such a Putney job! It supports the idea of students sustaining the school and taking ownership, and I think it also makes us be more mindful of people and the world around us. Unlike any other school, here it's my peers washing my dishes, and I'm washing theirs. This mindfulness sets Putney apart because it extends to other areas. I think it makes us more considerate human beings.

Coming into this community, I was struck by how welcoming everyone was, and I didn't expect that to last, but it has. All the other students are supportive and open to giving you advice from their own first-year experiences. The teachers also, make the environment open. At my old school, I sometimes felt afraid to ask questions, like I was just supposed to get it, but the classroom environment here is so different. My teacher for Humans in the Natural World, especially, immediately made me feel like I could ask anything. Not because she said anything explicitly, it's just the sort of environment she created in the classroom.

That class, Humans, has been interesting. When I first saw the class would be combining science, social studies, and English language arts, I was confused, but the course material incorporates the subjects so smoothly I hardly noticed. For example, we did a cow lab, which sounds like science. But we also talked about decisions farmers had to make to be most profitable. The science part was genetics, selective breeding, genetic manipulation. How can we make a cow that produces the most milk? But we also introduced ideas of ethics and morality—is this right? Is this wrong? And we worked with the actual cows in the Putney barn! I also learned that working with cows isn't as gross as it sounds. They're cute!

In a way, we're all privileged, since we have the opportunity to be here. That's humbling to me. There are a lot of leaders in this one small place. I look forward to growing as a person. I can feel something is happening that's preparing us all to be leaders.

JADYN'S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	Humans in the Natural World Spanish 1 Drawing 1	Geometry Humans in the Natural World Spanish 1	Geometry Humans in the Natural World Drawing 2
Afternoon Activity	Farm	Community Service Yoga	Lacrosse
Evening Art	Ceramics	Stained Glass	Painting Stained Glass
Work/Job	Currier Center Cleaner	Dinner Crew	Ceramics Studio Assistant
Seminars	Health	Music	Tech
Project Weeks	Building a Small Scale Model Using 3D Printer		Creating a National Filtration System from a Small Rainforest

JADYN

YEAR:
Freshman
FROM:
Georgia

"Jadyn is delightfully upbeat; she is one of the most positive people on the planet—truly. She is smart and confident and capable and sees all of Putney's program and people as a resource for her learning. She works hard and plays hard—and almost always with a smile on her face."

KATE KNOPP
Dean of Faculty



MAX

YEAR:
Sophomore
FROM:
Massachusetts

“I don’t think of it as a failure, because I learned from the experience. I have a deeper understanding of the processes involved and if I were to try again, I would know how to do it better.”



I WANT TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I CAN about different things and have diverse experiences. That urge drives me. I like to build things, to work with my hands. That’s how I learn best. Right now I’m taking blacksmithing as an Evening Art, which is a lot of fun. It takes skill and technique, but it also takes the right knowledge to understand how certain techniques will affect the end product. It takes a lot of experimentation to gain that knowledge, which I enjoy.

I’ve also made things for Project Weeks as a way to learn more about them. I built an ornithopter, which didn’t work out that well. And for one project I built several now-common tools with primitive materials. I made a hammer, an axe, a bow and arrow out of sticks, stones, and string, and compared these to the store-bought versions. Obviously, the store-bought tools were more effective. But even when the ornithopter or the tools don’t work perfectly, or at all, I don’t think of it as a failure, because I learned from the experience. I have a deeper understanding of the processes involved and if I were to try again, I would know how to do it better.

I like being active too, so I try to balance the arts with sports. I’ve played lacrosse and done rock climbing and running activities. Last trimester I studied abroad in Mexico, which was fantastic because I wanted to experience and learn about another culture firsthand. I really do like to try everything.

Lately, I’ve been pushing myself to do more than simply what’s required. In the past, I’ve definitely fallen victim to just coasting along and doing the bare minimum of work. One of the most important things to know coming into Putney is that you need to be able to regulate yourself without someone constantly reminding you to do certain things. This is such a great opportunity here and I want to make the most of it. The entire community is full of genuine people who are so passionate about what they do.

MAX’S DAYS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7 am	Breakfast/Cleaner	Breakfast/Cleaner	Breakfast/Cleaner	Breakfast/Cleaner	Breakfast/Cleaner	Breakfast/Cleaner	
8	Algebra 2	Spanish 4		Foundations in Literary Analysis	Chemistry & Microbiology	Foundations in Literary Analysis	
9	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Algebra 2	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Milk Lunch	Brunch
10	Assembly		Assembly	Sing	Assembly		
11	Conference Block	Health Seminar	Chemistry & Microbiology	Conference Block	Conference Block	Spanish 4	
12 pm	Chemistry & Microbiology	Algebra 2	Chemistry & Microbiology	Spanish 4	Foundations in Literary Analysis	Lunch	
1	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
2	Foundations in Literary Analysis	Chemistry & Microbiology	Climbing	Algebra 2	Spanish 4		
3		Running & Fitness			Running & Fitness		
4							
5							
6	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7			Music Lessons String				
8	Blacksmithing				Creative Writing		
9							



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“William is impressively open-minded—he’s eager to meet all kinds of people and receptive to a new way of learning. He listens without jumping to judgement. His humility and adventurousness are a perfect mix for Putney.”

LIBBY HOLMES
 Director of International Student Program

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WILLIAM

YEAR: *Freshman*
 FROM: *China*

I WENT TO A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL in northeastern China. We always had tests and a lot of homework. There was a lot of competition between students.

So Putney is very different for me. There’s so much freedom and independence. Teachers and students are all very helpful—this has made it much easier to adapt to the language and the culture. I’m a basketball player, so that has also helped me to meet new friends and feel part of a team.

I feel Chinese people don’t express their emotions directly, so that is something I’ve had to learn here. But at Putney, everyone is so friendly and open that I have become more open, too. It’s been such an easy community to join.

On my best days, I communicate well—I participate in class discussions, I talk with my teachers. I play a lot of basketball. I work in the library with friends and watch a movie in the dorm.

I’ve taken so many new things—figure drawing, sculpture, jewelry making. It is great to be able



to study so many different kinds of art—ways of making life beautiful.

I also take Humans in the Natural World (my favorite class) and Algebra II...and then there’s PM Barn work! In China, many people think this kind of work is disgusting. But, I like going from the barn to the gym and then to the library—all part of a busy and abundant day.

WILLIAM’S YEAR

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Curriculum	Humans in the Natural World Algebra 2 ESOL Structure & Use Music Seminar	Humans in the Natural World ESOL Structure & Use Tech Seminar	Humans in the Natural World Algebra 2 Drawing Health Seminar
Afternoon Activity	Running & Fitness Ultimate Frisbee	Downhill Skiing Maintenance Crew	Running & Fitness
Evening Art	Painting Sculpture	Comic Books & Graphic Novels Figure Drawing	Comic Books & Graphic Novels Figure Drawing
Work/Job	Currier Building Cleaner	Lunch Crew	PM Barn
Seminars	Tech	Music	Health
Project Weeks	Farm & Garden Design Painting		Wilderness First Aid & CPR Modeling the Solar System in Metal

