



The Putney School

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CEEB: 460-340

coed | 9-12 & PG
198 students | 143 boarding, 54 day
51 seniors | 66 faculty

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The Putney School is a co-educational boarding and day school for grades 9-12, based on a working farm in southern Vermont. Founded in 1935 by Carmelita Hinton, **we are a progressive school and believe that people learn best by doing.** Our commitment to Mrs. Hinton's fundamental beliefs—in **project and place-based learning, meaningful student leadership, integrated curricula, and the arts**—has put Putney at the leading edge of education in America.

We believe in the dignity and relevance of manual labor.

Every student has a job every trimester. Whether they are milking cows, cleaning buildings, or preparing food, students are responsible for the functioning of the school, and all jobs are managed entirely by other students.

Sustainability is central to our campus, community, and curriculum.

We are moving toward becoming a net zero school; our dairy farm and gardens produce about 20% of the food we consume, and courses make use of our buildings, farm and forests to educate students about sustainability.

A community is strongest where an individual intersects with a shared-purpose. **Diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging** teach us how to come together as a community and understand ourselves as individuals.

Courses

The academic program aims to motivate students to ask significant questions, listen to the ideas of others, read carefully, write persuasively, **create independently and think critically.** Putney celebrates individual achievement, but does not use rank or awards to assign value to student achievements. Although we consider our advanced and elective courses equivalent academically to "honors" level classes, we do not use the term to stratify our curriculum.

Examples of Experiential Education

Humans in the Natural World This is an integrated course required for 9th grade students, co-taught by faculty from three departments, synthesizing English, social science, and natural science to explore the challenging relationship between human development, ecological systems, and the climate.

American Studies A three-trimester required course for juniors in lieu of English and U.S. history, this course provides a rich, challenging exploration of American society, culture and history. It is arranged around a series of thematic explorations: nature, American political thought, slavery, conflict, labor & industry. The one-trimester required junior year course, Writing & Research, works in tandem with American Studies.

Agroecology Putney's working dairy farm and 600-acre campus serve as a laboratory for the investigation of complex, interdependent systems: ecological, agricultural and economic.

Investment & Finance In this mathematics course, students use probability, functions, and spreadsheets to unpack financial concepts such as the risk-return spectrum, the efficient-market hypothesis, compounding interest, and SEG investing.

Media Studies How does the way we watch television influence the way we think about the world around us? What does my Facebook profile say about my class, race, and gender? This class equips students with the tools to analyze and critique the various forms of media that structure our lives.

For a complete list of
academic courses,
activities, and arts visit
putneyschool.org/curriculum



Grades & Assessment

All students are required to complete a minimum of five academic credits a year, and their progress is assessed on a scale of A+ to E. **Because of our philosophical commitment to learning for the love of knowledge and joy of discovery rather than for marks, badges, or rank**, our students only gain access to their grades in the winter of their junior year upon the outset of the college counseling process. Until then, students and parents receive detailed, narrative progress reports from their teachers six times a year. These written reports are designed to encourage students to reflect actively on their learning process and engage in their education as much as they are designed to evaluate student progress and skill development.

Project Weeks

Twice each year, at the end of the fall and spring terms, Putney students spend ten uninterrupted days concentrating on two projects. **Project Weeks offer students the chance to pursue intense one-on-one work with faculty on an academic, creative, or combined topics of their own design.** Project Weeks foster innovation, adaptation, independent thought, and self-sufficient study habits by encouraging students to focus on a single activity for an extended period. Students complete Project Weeks by demonstrating their knowledge or sharing their work in myriad ways—papers, presentations, live performances, orations, art expositions, mixed media documentation, and more.

Sample Projects Include:

Bones Reimagined: Creating Art From What is Left Behind

Newtonian Telescopes: Design to Construction

Double Weaving: Exploration of Dimensional Weaving

Landscape of Mathematics: Exploring Visual Math Through Programming

Exploring Feminizing Vocal Training

Decay in Human Context: Ceramics

Pollinator Study: Bees at Putney

Exhibitions

Exhibitions allow students to work on an extensive interdisciplinary research project in place of two courses during the spring of their senior year. **These major projects are awarded to those students who have demonstrated maturity and achieved excellence within the regular program.** Last year one third of the graduating class completed Exhibitions.

Past Exhibitions Include:

Making Peace: Reflections on Environmental Forgiveness

The Love Letter to Astronomy: A Story of Two Stars

The End of Everything: Queer Theory Beyond Identity

Eyes, Hands, and History: The Preservation of Practical Arts

Restoring and Monitoring Critical Wetland Habitat

The Math Behind Anamorphosis: The Art of Distortion

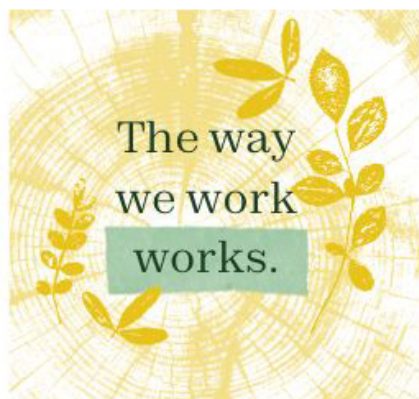
The Demon in the Tree: Jewish Storytelling through Visual Art

The Gypsy's Song: Narrating Exodus in Lyric Prose

Arts

The arts and creative expression are part of every Putney student's life. Academic art classes offer depth. They cultivate an intellectual understanding of the discipline, facilitate student portfolios, and build skills of self-critique.

Evening Arts offer breadth. At least twice a week, after dinner, every student takes Evening Arts classes. **More than 25 disciplines are taught, from weaving to songwriting to metal sculpture to hip hop dance.** These classes encourage students to explore new art forms in a relaxed and informal environment, and offer a way to unwind at the end of a busy day.



At Putney, there's no such thing as extracurricular.

We view everything as curricular.

Work Program

In our work program, every student has a job every trimester, and these jobs are essential to the functioning of the school. All jobs are run by student leaders, who are, in turn, organized by the student-run Work Committee, which assigns jobs each trimester, oversees work divisions, and manages student participation. Jobs are carried out six days each week for 30–40 minutes each day.

Students rotate jobs each trimester and must satisfy the following six work distribution requirements: lunch service, dinner waiter, barn, dish crew, general substitute, and land stewardship.

Afternoons & Athletics

Students participate in afternoon activities four afternoons a week for two trimesters a year and two afternoons a week for one trimester a year, one credit of which must come from an activity devoted to “land use” such as gardening, woods crew, landscaping, farm, sheep & garden, or sugaring.

Team Sports

Basketball, cross-country running, cross-country skiing, volleyball, rowing, soccer, ultimate frisbee

Recreational Activities

Alpine skiing, aikido, am fitness, ballet, badminton, circus arts, conditioning, climbing, creating outdoor spaces, cross-country skiing, earth living skills, expeditionary endeavors, hiking, horseback riding, jazz dance, mountain biking, pond hockey, Renaissance fencing, rock climbing, running & fitness, self-defense, snowshoeing, Spanish language arts, sport fencing, tai chi, weights & fitness, wilderness skills, yoga

Work Activities

Conservation crew, trail maintenance, cabin design, carpentry, cider making, woodshop, community service, child care, farm, flower garden, foraging, garden/greenhouse, groundskeeping, kitchen, landscaping, maintenance, putting food by, recycling, farm & garden, sustainability crew, teacher tech, woods crew

Student Leadership

At Putney, students assume real leadership roles and learn through experience. There are more than 50 leadership positions, which allow students to participate in the decision-making processes that make the community run. This work is vital to the school.

Roles Include:

Student Heads of School

Work Committee

Admission Committee

Educational Programs Committee

Standards Committee

Student Trustees

Diversity Committee

International Ambassadors

Prism

Putney Outdoor Program

Student Head of Dorms

Cabin Dwellers

Day Student Representatives

Student Weekend Activity Planners

Student Dorm Heads

Putney Service Corps

Tech Team

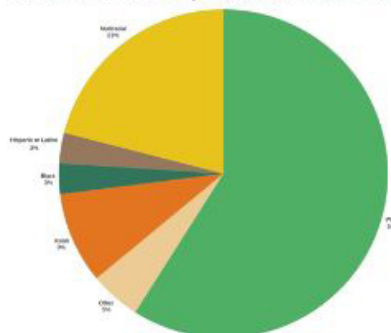
Sustainability Squad Leaders

Neurodiversity Committee



Demographics

This year, Putney drew students from 23 states and 12 countries outside the United States, including China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Uganda.



For the 2025–2026 school year, 60% of applicants were accepted at Putney, and 40% of enrolled students received financial aid, totaling \$4 million.

28% students of color
13 % international students

College Acceptances

Last Three Years

Aberystwyth University
 Adelphi University
 Agnes Scott College
 University of Alabama-Birmingham
 Albertus Magnus College
 Albright College
 Alfred State College
 Alfred University
 Allegheny College
 AMDA College of Performing Arts
 American University
 Appalachian State University
 University of Arizona
 Arizona State University-Tempe
 Ball State University
 Bard College
 Bard College Berlin
 Barnard College
 Bates College
 Beloit College
 Bennington College
 Berklee College of Music
 Binghamton University
 Università Bocconi
 Boise State University
 Boston College
 Boston Conservatory at Berklee
 Boston University
 Brandeis University
 University of Brighton
 Brown University
 Bryant University
 Bryn Mawr College
 Bucknell University
 Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
 Cal Poly-Pomona
 University of California-Berkeley
 University of California-Davis
 University of California-Irvine
 University of California-Riverside
 University of California-San Diego
 University of California-Santa Barbara
 University of California-Santa Cruz
 California College of the Arts
 California State Polytechnic University-Humboldt
 Canisius University
 Carleton College
 Carlow University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Champlain College
 Chapman University
 Chatham University
 Claremont McKenna College
 Clark University
 Colby College
 Colby-Sawyer College
 College of Charleston
 College of the Atlantic
 Colorado College
 Colorado State-Fort Collins
 Columbia College
 Columbia College Chicago
 Concordia University
 University of Connecticut
 Connecticut College
 University of Colorado-Boulder
 Cooper Union
 Cornell University
 CUNY Hunter College
 Dalhousie University
 Dean College
 Denison University
 University of Denver
 DePaul University
 Dickinson College
 Drake University
 Drexel University
 University College Dublin
 Earlham College
 Eastern Connecticut State University
 Eckerd College

University of Edinburgh
 Elms College
 Elon University
 Emerson College
 Emmanuel College
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 FIDM
 Flagler College
 Florida Atlantic University
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Fordham University
 Franklin & Marshall College
 Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
 Georgia State University (Perimeter)
 University of Glasgow
 Goucher College
 Greenfield Community College
 Grinnell College
 Guilford College
 Hampshire College
 University of Hartford
 Harvey Mudd College
 Haverford College
 Hobart & William Smith
 Howard University
 Husson University
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 Indiana University-Bloomington
 University of Iowa
 Ithaca College
 Kansas State University
 Kent State University at Kent
 University of Kentucky
 Kenyon College
 Lafayette College
 Laurentian University
 Lawrence University
 Lehigh University
 Lesley University
 Lewis & Clark College
 Loyola Marymount University
 Loyola University Maryland
 Macalester College
 University of Maine
 Maine College of Art & Design
 Maryland Institute College of Art
 Marymount Manhattan College
 University of Mary Washington
 UMass-Amherst
 UMass-Boston
 UMass-Dartmouth
 UMass-Lowell
 Mass College of Art & Design
 Mass College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 McDaniel College
 Memorial University of Newfoundland
 Miami University-Oxford
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
 Michigan State University
 Middlebury College
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
 Montana State University
 Montclair State University
 Mount Holyoke College
 University of New England
 University of New Hampshire-Main
 New York University
 University of North Carolina-Asheville
 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 North Carolina State University at Raleigh
 Northeastern University
 Northwestern University in Qatar
 Norwich University
 Oberlin College
 Oberlin Conservatory of Music
 Occidental College
 Ohio University-Main
 University of Oklahoma-Norman
 University of Oregon
 Oregon State University

Otis College of Art & Design
 Pace University
 University of Pennsylvania
 Pennsylvania State University-Main
 Pitzer College
 Point Park University
 Pratt Institute-Brooklyn
 University of Puget Sound
 Purdue University-Main
 Queen's University Belfast
 Quinnipiac University
 University of Redlands
 Reed College
 University of Regina
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 University of Rhode Island
 Rhode Island School of Design
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Rutgers University-New Brunswick
 University of San Francisco
 Sarah Lawrence College
 Savannah College of Art & Design
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 School of Visual Arts
 Scripps College
 Skidmore College
 Smith College
 S. Connecticut State University
 University of Southern Maine
 University of St. Andrews
 St. John's College
 St. Lawrence University
 Sterling College
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Stony Brook University
 Suffolk University
 SUNY at Purchase College
 SUNY Brockport
 SUNY Buffalo State
 SUNY College of Agriculture & Technology at Cobleskill
 SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry
 SUNY at New Paltz
 SUNY Oneonta
 Swarthmore College
 Sweet Briar College
 Syracuse University
 The American University of Paris
 The Evergreen State College
 The George Washington University
 The New School
 The University of Montana
 The University of West Florida
 Thomas Jefferson University
 Trinity College
 Tufts University
 Tulane University of Louisiana
 Tuskegee University
 Union College (NY)
 University of the Arts London
 University of Utah
 Vassar College
 University of Vermont
 Vermont State University
 University of Virginia-Main
 Warren Wilson College
 Washington & Lee University
 University of Washington-Seattle
 Washington State University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wellesley College
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Wesleyan University
 Western Colorado University
 Western Connecticut State University
 Wheaton College-MA
 Whitman College
 Willamette University
 William & Mary
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 University of Wisconsin-River Falls