

Emma Willard School

General Information

Name: Emma Willard School

Address: 285 Pawling Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

Founded: 1814

Founder: Emma Hart Willard

Campus Size: 137 acres, including 40 acres of natural woodlands

Mission and Vision

Emma Willard School's commitment to educating motivated, intellectually-curious young women is grounded in our history as the first school of higher learning for girls. In 2002, the school officially adopted its current mission, which continues to guide our educational philosophies and community best practices today: "Honoring its founder's vision, Emma Willard School proudly fosters in each young woman a love of learning, the habits of an intellectual life, and the character, moral strength, and qualities of leadership to serve and shape her world.

For over 200 years, Emma Willard has adapted and evolved to meet the needs of each generation of students. In 2021, with the leadership of Head of School Jenny Rao, the school completed a comprehensive and collaborative visioning process that resulted in the creation of a five-year strategic plan titled *Leading with Purpose: A Strategic Vision for the Future*.

The strategic plan is focused on positioning Emma Willard as a leader in five key priorities: learning, teaching, belonging, connection and capacity.

Student Body

Total Enrollment: Approximately 355 students

Boarding Students: 67%

Day Students: 33%

Diversity

- Students from 39 countries, including China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Canada, Rwanda, Taiwan, Thailand, Afghanistan, and others
- US representation:
- Persons of color: 38%

Faculty

Total Faculty: 49 teaching faculty members

- **Residential Faculty:** 11
- **Faculty with Advanced Degrees:** 98%

Student-Teacher Ratio: 8:1

Academic Programs

- **Course Offerings:** 139 courses
- **Advanced Studies Courses:** 21
 - Advanced Studies (AS) courses are equal to or greater than Advanced Placement (AP) courses in challenge and rigor, but do not strictly adhere to the AP syllabus, AS courses are designed through a rigorous internal process and are subject to approval by the Director of Curriculum and Innovation.
 - Emma Willard offers a rigorous college preparatory program with Advanced Studies (AS) opportunities and upper-level electives in all disciplines. In line with our Program Pillars (emmawillard.org/academics), there are caps on the number of AS classes students are able to take. Ninth graders do not enroll in AS courses. Tenth grade students may choose one AS course, 11th graders up to two, and 12th graders up to three.
- **Signature Projects:** 79
 - Signature is a capstone program that allows students to deeply learn about a topic of their interest. Students utilize individualized instruction to work on project goals for one academic year, and present the results of their work during a special, all-school showcase.
- **Practicum Experiences:** 130
 - Practicum is an independent study program. It offers students opportunities for exploration and enrichment through academic and nonacademic experiences both on and off campus.
- **STEAM 9 and 10:**
 - STEAM 9 and 10 are individualized courses for ninth and tenth graders. Students collaborate on projects aligned with their areas of interest. Projects culminate with poster presentations. (STEAM: science, technology, engineering, arts, math)
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Arts Programs

- **Total Arts Offerings:** 40
 - **Music:** 8 programs
 - **Dance:** 9 programs
 - **Visual Arts:** 12 programs

- **Theater:** 5 programs
- **Emma Artists Program:** 6
 - Emma Artists Program is for both performing and visual arts students who wish to pursue study beyond our advanced offerings in their particular arts discipline. Students work on their individual pieces while meeting weekly for performance classes, group critiques, collaboration, and improvisation sessions. Students perform and show their work throughout the year, with a final culminating arts showing at our all-school showcase.

Athletics

- **Interscholastic Sports:** 14 sports across three seasons
 - **Fall:** Crew, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball
 - **Winter:** Basketball, Crew, Indoor Track, Ski Racing
 - **Spring:** Crew, Lacrosse, Outdoor Track, Softball

Extracurricular Activities

- **Clubs and Organizations:** 39
- **Affinity Groups:** 10
- **Student-Led Publications:** 3
- **Student Leadership Groups:** 5

Tuition and Financial Aid

- **Boarding Tuition:** \$73,995
- **Day Tuition:** \$46,105
- **Financial Aid:** 43% of students receive financial aid from a budget of \$6.2 million

On Campus Life

Application Process

Notable Features and Random Facts

- **Historic Campus:** Known for its architectural features, including six gargoyles and 27 grotesques on the façade of Alumnae Chapel.

- **Recent Developments:** The school is investing \$10 million to construct 12 new faculty homes to enhance on-campus community living
- Emma Willard is the 1st Institution of Higher Learning for Girls in the U.S.
- It currently has 62 Alumni and current student Connections