

EST.  1893

WALNUT HILL

SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



Do you think your
high school experience
should look different?

We think so.

Walnut Hill School for the Arts educates
and trains creative and intellectually
curious young artists to make an
enduring impact in the world.





HAVE IT ALL AND LET IT TAKE YOU ANYWHERE

At Walnut Hill, you don't need to relegate the practice of your art to an afterschool activity, nor do you need to force your high school education to take a backseat to artistic pursuits. At Walnut Hill, you get to have it all.

We offer unparalleled training in dance; music; theater; visual art; and writing, film & media arts, complemented by a robust and innovative academic curriculum. Every aspect of our program helps you to grow as a bold artist, curious learner, and mindful citizen.





AT A GLANCE

285
STUDENTS

80%
BOARDING
STUDENTS

20%
DAY
STUDENTS

26
STATES
REPRESENTED

18
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

30
ACRES

8
DORMITORIES

17
MILES TO
DOWNTOWN
BOSTON







BE A CURIOUS LEARNER

Our college-preparatory program emphasizes process through hands-on and project-based learning, encouraging you to recognize and value multiple perspectives. Our expert faculty engage you in ways that leverage and foster the habits of mind—careful observation, critical thinking, and a desire for deep and enduring understanding. In our academic classrooms, teachers appreciate and incorporate the arts in ways that allow for lessons to resonate with you. You master both the subject matter and the skills necessary for future academic success, while gaining valuable context for your art-making and your growing understanding of the world around you.

Can an arts school
have exceptional
academics?

We say yes.



BE A BOLD ARTIST

Walnut Hill students from across the country and the world commit themselves deeply to their artistic practice. Dancers, musicians, actors, visual artists, writers, and filmmakers collaborate across art areas and gain inspiration from living and working in an artistic community.

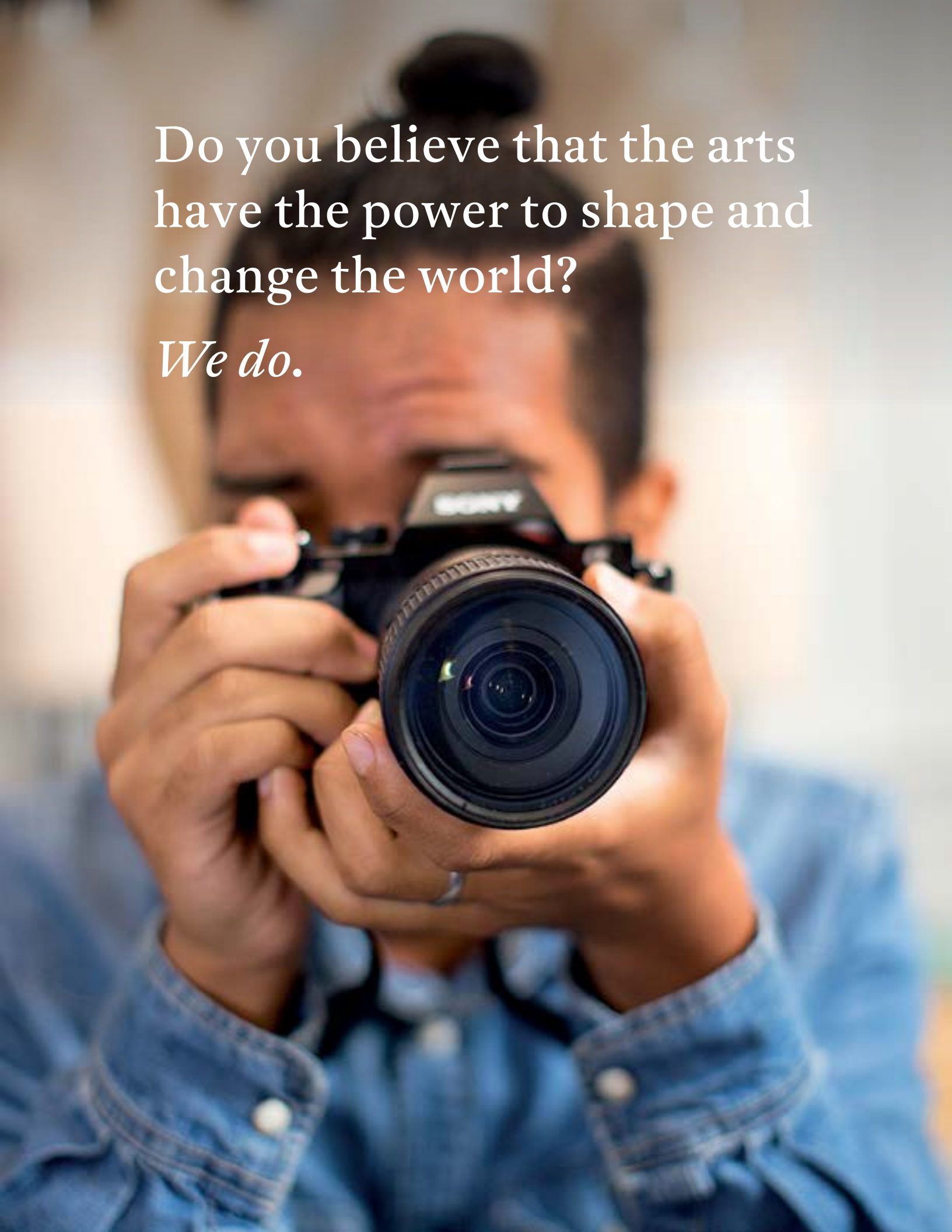
Master teachers serve as guides and mentors, building environments where successes and failures alike are seen as opportunities for growth and learning. You develop as an artist not only through your own classes, performances, and exhibits but also through those of your fellow students.

65

Average number of performances and arts events held at Walnut Hill each year. Whether it's the semiannual Visual Art Department Show or the Spring Musical, there are weekly performances, recitals, readings, and screenings on campus — plenty of chances for students to cheer on friends and hone their craft in front of an audience.

Do you believe that the arts
have the power to shape and
change the world?

We do.





BOSTONBALLETSCHOOL

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION AT

WALNUT HILL

Boston Ballet School's Professional Division at Walnut Hill is a one-of-a-kind education and dance training program that offers world-renowned dance instruction with a best-in-class college-preparatory program to provide you with a holistic educational experience. The joint program will educate and train you for a future with Boston Ballet, the professional dance world, and beyond, including the world's best conservatories, universities, and colleges.



45

Average pairs of pointe shoes a student in the Dance Department wears out each year



ELEVATE YOUR TRAINING

Designed to reflect Boston Ballet's repertory, a carefully crafted curriculum trains well-rounded, versatile dancers to prepare you for the demands of today's dance world—from Petipa, to Balanchine, to Kylián. Curriculum requirements include Technique, Pointe, Men's Class, Pas de Deux, Variations and Repertoire, Modern, Character, Music Theory, Student Choreographic Project, Conditioning, and workshops, such as Forsythe technique. Electives include Jazz, TRX, additional Modern, and ART360.

As a dance student here, you will benefit from the collective expertise of renowned Boston Ballet School and Walnut Hill faculty.



6

AREAS OF STUDY IN MUSIC:

Classical Voice

Composition

Instrumental Jazz

Jazz Voice

Orchestral Instruments

Piano



HIT THE HIGH NOTES

Through innovative performance projects, master classes by dynamic guest artists, and the thoughtful integration of contemporary topics like entrepreneurship and civic engagement, the Music Department provides a comprehensive music curriculum delivered both at Walnut Hill and at New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston. Participating in the only high school program linking a major conservatory with an independent school enables you to study with acclaimed faculty here on campus and also at NEC.

Walnut Hill's proximity to Boston allows you to attend a wide variety of concerts by major ensembles and soloists at the city's world-class concert halls. Our program, offered within an inspiring creative community, prepares you to thrive in a conservatory, university, or college setting.



“Walnut Hill perfectly balances the cultivation of art with a solid continuation of studies in general education. Walnut Hill gave me so much flexibility to really refine my skills, not only as an artist but also as a human being. It was a truly special four years that I’ll never forget!”

GEORGE LI '13

Harvard College B.A. and New England Conservatory M.M. joint program

Concert Pianist, Avery Fisher Grant Recipient and
XV International Tchaikovsky Competition Silver Medalist



“My time at Walnut Hill continues to prove to have been an invaluable stepping-stone in my training as an actor. For the rare and fortunate few young people as passionate about art as early in life as I was, it is the highest quality of intensified study this country has to offer.”

CONOR RYAN '10

University of Michigan B.F.A.

As an actor, Conor has appeared in such shows as the off-Broadway revival of *John & Jen* and the 2013 Broadway production of *Cinderella*.



7

Average number of productions each year in the Theater Department. From large-scale musicals to student-directed one-act plays, you have the opportunity to learn a wide range of theater repertoire.



MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE

Using a Stanislavsky-based and actor-centric approach, the Theater Department's expert faculty offer unparalleled artistic training at the high school level. The comprehensive program is designed to engage passionate, dedicated, and curious young artists just like you.

Intensive training of the mind, body, and voice allows you to grow as an actor who communicates an honest, compelling story through the use of text, movement, and song. You also have the chance to foster an appreciation of design and production through coursework and practical application. Studio work, performance opportunities, and one-on-one coaching help you earn the professional skills and attitudes needed to excel as an artist.

PAINT YOUR FUTURE

In the Visual Art Department, process is valued, focus is balanced by fun, and experimentation is celebrated. You acquire foundational skills and hone your creative impulses through personal practice, faculty guidance, and exposure to the work of your peers. You master fundamental artistic concepts while exploring varied techniques and mediums.

Classes ranging from drawing, ceramics, and painting to photography and apparel design are taught by faculty mentors who are also professional artists, attuned to the continual evolution of the arts world. In addition to producing a portfolio of work, purposeful artistic practice allows you to build greater self-awareness and confidence and develop an open mind-set.



“I’ve explored so much more than I ever expected. I came in wanting to focus on painting, and while I love that class, I’ve just finished my first weaving project and it was so fun! My teachers always push me to look at things a new way and bring other ideas into my pieces. I didn’t realize there were so many other types of art that I might love until I came to Walnut Hill.”

GRADE 10 VISUAL ART STUDENT

14

There are more than 14 separate studio classes to choose from—from weaving to painting, from photography to sculpture. Students explore their interests while challenging themselves to explore new mediums and ideas of expression.



TELL YOUR STORY

Our Writing, Film & Media Arts Department offers a possibility-rich environment in which you can develop an original voice and vision. Supportive faculty help you cultivate the skills and habits necessary to approach your work with a creative and technical edge.

Through studio courses, practicums, and master classes with notable guest artists, you invest in the process of creating dynamic stories with words and images. Technique is woven seamlessly into the curriculum in classes such as filmmaking, photography, playwriting, screenwriting, fiction, and poetry. Whether you identify as a writer or a filmmaker, you explore various mediums through core classes and shape your course plan based on your primary artistic interest.



1917

The year *The Blue Pencil* was first published, making it one of the nation's oldest continuously published collections of student writing





44

Average number of inches of snowfall the town of Natick sees each winter. The hill next to our Academic and Technology Center is a favorite with both Walnuts and community members.



FIND YOUR PEOPLE

One of the most exciting aspects of Walnut Hill is that you get to live, work, and study within a diverse and talented community of creative and passionate people from across the country and the globe.

Life in the dorms provides a rich experience. You live and learn with other student-artists, grow through your independence, and develop meaningful and lasting friendships. Dorm Parents create a caring community in our eight dorms. These faculty members celebrate your achievements, help tackle any challenges you may have, and even bake snacks!

Not all of our students live in the dorms. If you are a day student, you still have all of the benefits of boarding school—you just go home at night. Day students have access to dorms, showers, practice rooms, and even dinner in the Dining Hall, just like our boarders do. Your home can even be a home away from home on weekends for your friends who are boarders.

Whether you are a day student or boarder, you develop a consistent connection with a small group of peers and a supportive adult through our advisory program. Your faculty advisor guides you throughout your time here. Advisory groups meet weekly and are comprised of students in the same grade as you. This program reinforces a positive school culture characterized by Walnut Hill's core values of respect, community, creativity, growth, and excellence.

“Living away from home gives you some independence, yet you still have incredible friends and great Dorm Parents to spend time with. Someone is always around to listen to you about your amazing lesson or help you study for a quiz that’s coming up. I am surrounded by people who are my second family here.”


GRADE 9 MUSIC STUDENT



BECOME A MINDFUL CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

Our scenic campus is located just a short train ride from the vibrant arts hub of Boston, Massachusetts, giving you the chance to visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, take in a concert at Symphony Hall, or enjoy a performance by Boston Ballet. You might also find yourself shopping on Newbury Street, eating in Chinatown, or walking around Quincy Market. With New York City just under a four-hour drive, field trips to see Broadway and ballet productions occur throughout the year.

But not everything exciting happens off campus. Despite a busy schedule of academic and arts classes, you can be a leader and explore your interests through clubs and student organizations. You can make a real difference with other students and in the lives of our local community—all while having some serious fun.



Do you think artists
should also be explorers?
We do too.

21

The number of campus clubs that meet biweekly throughout the school year. Led by students and supported by a dedicated faculty or staff advisor, these clubs offer a variety of activities to be involved in.

Academic Olympiad
Audio-Visual Club
Community Service Association
Environmental Club
Fashion Club
Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
Harry Potter Club

Jewish Student Union
Sporty Walnuts
Engaging in Athletic Things
The *Walnut Street Journal* Student Newspaper
Yearbook
& Many More!

LIFE AFTER THE HILL

The college counseling process at Walnut Hill is full of opportunities for you to learn about yourself, to develop critical life skills, and to find an environment in which you will thrive academically, artistically, and personally. Every arts discipline requires specialized preparation throughout the college process, and our team is exceptionally equipped to offer support and guidance in every aspect.

Our student-centered philosophy allows us to approach each student as an individual possessing distinct goals and strengths. Our college counselors pride themselves on being open communicators and cultivating strong bonds with representatives from college and conservatory admission offices. Given all of this, it is no surprise that Walnut Hill students go on to study at the most prestigious and selective colleges, universities, conservatories, and dance companies in the United States and abroad.

RECENT GRADUATES HAVE MATRICULATED TO:

Bard College

Barnard College

Berklee College
of Music

Boston Conservatory

Butler University

California Institute
of the Arts

Carnegie Mellon
University

Central Saint
Martins College
of Art & Design

Colburn School

Colorado College

Columbia University

Connecticut College

Curtis Institute
of Music

Duke University

Eastman School
of Music

Elon University

Georgetown University

Harvard University

Indiana University

The Juilliard School

McGill University

Middlebury College

Muhlenberg College

New England
Conservatory

New York University

Northwestern
University

Parsons The New
School for Design

Pratt Institute

Princeton University

Rhode Island
School of Design

Rice University

Royal Academy
of Dramatic Arts

School of Visual Arts

School of the Art
Institute of Chicago

Skidmore College

Stanford University

University of Chicago


University of
Cincinnati-CCM

University of Michigan

University of
Southern California

Vassar College

Washington University
in St. Louis



“Walnut Hill taught me to have autonomy of thought and action, and instilled in me the idea that I can, and should, always strive for improvement in my pursuits.”

SARAH TOLLMAN '13

Stanford University B.S., Computer Science Major

95

Percentage of graduating students who have received merit-based scholarships or aid from at least one school they applied to

Are you ready
to be a Walnut?

We believe you are.



Walnut Hill School for the Arts adheres to a long-standing policy of admitting students of any race, color, religious belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. Walnut Hill does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs, and other school program.

Photography by: Reena Bammi, Coffepond Photography, Jason Hersom, Tom Kates, Patrick Rogers Photography, Sharyn Peavey, Antonio Viva, and Liza Voll



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