

# Fishers Island School

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Dear Prospective Fishers Island School Parents,

I am delighted to invite you to consider the exceptional educational journey we offer for your student entering grades 4 through 9. Fishers Island School is a PreK-12th-grade public school located on Fishers Island, NY. We are committed to cultivating and honoring the gifts and talents of all students within our nurturing, close-knit community.

Our community is proud of our school and our commitment to continuous improvement. We invite you to learn more about Fishers Island School as a unique and affordable option for your child's education at our Open House on Tuesday, January 13th.

## **Updated Facilities: Enhancing Learning and Safety**

We are excited to share information about our recent renovation and construction project, which underscores the community's commitment to supporting high-quality curriculum, programs, and services. The community overwhelmingly supported the capital project referendum in the Fall of 2020, providing the necessary funding for these improvements.

Key renovations and enhancements include:

- **Elementary Classroom Renovation:** The newly constructed section housing the elementary grades has significantly enhanced the learning environment. Classrooms now feature modern technology, reducing distractions from the previous open floor plan and allowing students and teachers to focus more effectively.
- **Library Media Center:** The library has been renovated to include flexible seating, dedicated workstations, and new bookshelves capable of holding our book collection.
- **Safety and Security Upgrades:** FIS has significantly enhanced security by installing key fob access on exterior doors, constructing a secure vestibule at the relocated main office entrance to limit visitor access, and increasing the number of surveillance cameras.
- **Collaborative Spaces:** We developed an outdoor courtyard to provide students with greater access to outdoor learning and recreation. The project also included renovation of the staff lounge, principal's and business offices, a newly designed conference room, and a refreshed art room.

## **Academic Excellence and Personalized Learning**

At Fishers Island School, our student-to-teacher ratio rarely exceeds 10:1, ensuring highly individualized attention for your child. Our commitment to academic achievement is demonstrated through measurable results:

- **Accreditation and Continuous Improvement:** FIS has recently earned accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The accreditation process is thorough, involving multiple steps including self-reflection, the Collaborative Conference visit, the development of a growth plan, and the Decennial Accreditation visit. This process is crucial because it ensures the school aligns with qualitative Standards for Accreditation, such as Learning Culture, Student Learning, Professional Practices, Learning Support, and Learning Resources. Accreditation signals a commitment to continuous improvement as a learning organization.

Furthermore, the NEASC visiting team specifically commended FIS for its commitment to developing a vision of the graduate that is actively reflected in the school culture and guides the school's policies, decisions, and resource allocations.

- **College Readiness:** 100% of our graduates are accepted at their chosen colleges. The Class of 2024 achieved a 100% College Pathway rate (75% enrolling in four-year colleges and 25% in two-year colleges).
- **Superior Test Scores:** Our mean SAT scores for the Class of 2023 significantly exceeded state and national benchmarks, with Evidence-Based Reading & Writing (EBRW) averaging 572 (compared to the NY State average of 516 and the National average of 529). Math averaging 542 (compared to the NY State average of 502 and the National average of 521).
- **College Credit Opportunities:** Students can earn up to 15 college credits while still in high school through partnerships with the University of Connecticut (UConn Early College Experience) and Suffolk County Community College (SCCC).

### **School Culture, Communication, and Community**

The safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive culture at FIS ensures that every student is known, valued, and connected to the school community. Based on the 2024–2025 School Climate Survey:

- 100% of responding parents agreed or strongly agreed that adults at FIS care about their child.
- 100% of parents reported that the school promptly responds to phone calls, messages, or emails.
- 91% of students reported it was easy to talk to adults about their concerns.
- 100% reported feeling safe at this school.

### **Extracurricular and Island-Based Learning Opportunities**

Students in grades 4 through 9 can participate in activities such as student council, yearbook, drama production, broadcast club, and car club. We offer curricular Band, Chorus, Robotics, and Art programs, and interscholastic athletics, such as cross country, basketball, and golf, are available for grades 7 through 12 under a no-cut policy.

Our island location enables unique learning opportunities, including Land Conservation Classes (partnered with the FI Conservancy) and Island Nature Walks/Cleanups. Students participate in field-based learning, such as science students occasionally going out on boats for marine biology lessons or even snorkeling.

## **The Daily Commute for Connecticut Students**

We welcome Connecticut residents as tuition students (grades 4-12). We have established smooth logistics for the daily ferry commute:

- For Elementary Students (Grades 4–6): Students take the 7:00 am ferry from New London, attend a supervised after-school club until 4:30 pm, and depart on the 4:45 pm ferry.
- For Upper School Students (Grades 7–12): Students also take the 7:00 am ferry and return on the 4:45 pm ferry. They can attend Homework Club, a supervised study area, from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. The time after school also provides space for clubs, athletics, and social time with friends.
- A Fishers Island School staff member supervises the ferry during each ride, and yearly safety drills are practiced to ensure safety and comfort for all involved.

We invite you to experience the newly enhanced Fishers Island School firsthand.

### **Join us for our Open House on January 13th!**

Please tour our school and meet our students and members of our devoted faculty and staff.

To learn more, please contact us at 631-788-7444 or email us at [info@fishschool.com](mailto:info@fishschool.com).

My very best,

Christian

Christian Arsenault  
Superintendent/Principal  
Fishers Island School