

Appleby College

Oakville, Canada



A lakeside Oakville campus where every senior boards by tradition, and leadership training unfolds on a private island in Temagami.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The setting does real work here. Appleby sits on Lake Ontario in Oakville, about 50 kilometres west of Toronto, and it uses that physical separation from the city to create a school with a strong internal culture rather than a commuter add-on to urban life. Founded in 1911, it has the age and continuity parents expect at this level, but the sharper point is its boarding structure: this is a co-educational day and boarding school where boarding is not an afterthought. Your verified context puts the average annual fee at **CAD 53,210** for day pupils and **CAD 88,530** for boarders, which places Appleby firmly in Canada’s **top-fee independent bracket**. For families comparing premium North American schools, that price only makes sense if the school offers a distinctive lived experience. Appleby does.

What marks it out is the combination of a Canadian base, IB accreditation and a boarding tradition that gives the senior school a more residential, self-contained character than many day-dominant independents. The curriculum context lists Canadian, IB and American strands; that breadth matters for internationally mobile families and for parents who want university preparation that is not locked into a single national system. The school also holds CIS and IBO accreditation, which gives it external validation beyond domestic reputation. This is not a loose international label pinned to a local private school; it has a defined global orientation, and the student body extends beyond Oakville, Burlington and Mississauga to boarders from across Canada and other continents. That mix can be **genuinely broadening** for the right child and **socially demanding** for the wrong one.

Appleby belongs on a shortlist for families who want a **structured, high-expectation** education with real boarding culture, not a token residence attached to a day school. The lakeside campus, the university-preparatory frame and the school's liberal-arts emphasis point to an education that values breadth, articulation and leadership as much as examination technique. Its alumni footprint is also stronger than many Canadian peers, with ****33**** notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, business, science, writing, screen and sport. That does not prove teaching quality, but it does show durable reach. The child who will thrive here is ambitious, resilient and comfortable in a school with tradition, polish and a visible social mix. A student who wants anonymity, a loose pastoral culture or a low-pressure adolescence will find Appleby **too tightly drawn**. A student who wants a full-campus life, serious peers and a school that treats boarding as part of the education rather than a lodging arrangement will find a **compelling fit**.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1911 and located on a picturesque 60-acre campus in Oakville, Ontario, Appleby College is a university preparatory, coeducational day/boarding school for Grades 7-12, giving it over a century of institutional history.
- A leading Advanced Placement (AP) and AP Capstone school with diploma specializations in Business, S.T.E.M., Creative Arts, and Global Leadership, offering a structured academic pathway beyond the standard Ontario diploma.
- The school serves students in grades 7 through 12 and enrolls approximately 807 pupils as of the 2024-25 school year, including 537 day students and 270 boarders from 41 nationalities, indicating a genuinely international boarding community.
- Hallmarks of the Appleby experience include a mandatory Grade 12 boarding program, global learning opportunities, and experiential learning at the McLaughlin Northern Campus in Temagami, giving the school a distinctive outdoor-education dimension rare among GTA day schools.

TRADE-OFFS

- Published tuition is high by Canadian standards: Tuition: \$35,900 - 71,700, and third-party estimates put the all-in boarding cost for international families higher still.
- Appleby College's admissions process is more competitive than most, with popular entry grades including 7, 9, and 10, meaning families applying outside these years or later in the cycle may find fewer places available.
- Hallmarks of the Appleby experience include a mandatory Grade 12 boarding program, so day students who wish to remain at home through their final year of school do not have that option at Appleby.
- The school's academic pathway is built around AP and AP Capstone rather than the IB Diploma Programme, which may not suit families specifically seeking an IB credential for university applications abroad.

- The school shows commitment to financial assistance with over \$5.7 million in bursaries, loans and scholarships annually, a meaningful sum for a school of its size.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is possible from Grade 7 through Grade 12, though places are most readily available at the popular entry years of Grade 7, 9 and 10. The process runs through Appleby's online Blackbaud application portal and typically requires a school transcript, a recommendation letter, a written essay and an interview, with SSAT results sometimes requested for older applicants. Day-entry applications generally close in October for the following academic year, and admissions are described by independent school directories as more competitive than most peer schools, so early application and strong academic and extracurricular records are advisable, particularly for boarding places and the mandatory Grade 12 boarding cohort.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (3 3)

SPORT: Bill Gairdner, Phil Mackenzie, Fraser McConnell

MUSIC: Nathan Rogers

DRAMA: Mani Haghighi, Colin Ferguson, Raymond Massey, Dylan Neal, John Kent Harrison, Bryan Baeumler, David Richmond-Peck, Mikhail Svetov

LETTERS: Bill Gairdner, Michael E. Raynor, Tim Footman

POLITICS: Norman Atkins, Dan Hays, Mikhail Svetov

SCIENCE: Evanka Osmak, Mikhail Svetov, Anissa Gamble

BUSINESS: Norman Atkins, Bill Gairdner, Kent Angus

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_1ad3633c49.