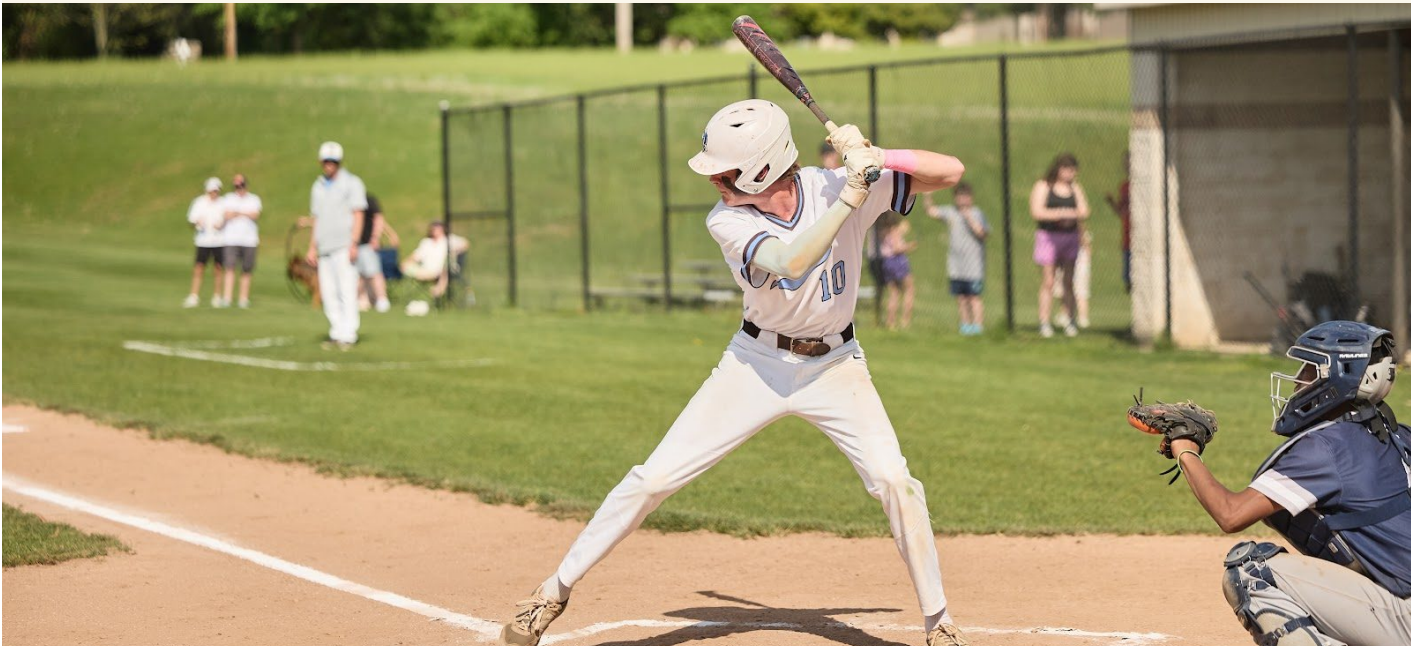


Westtown School

West Chester, United States



Since 1799, America's oldest coeducational boarding school blends Quaker Meeting for Worship with a 600-acre working farm campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Westtown School occupies a rare niche in the US market: a Quaker day and boarding school founded in **1799**, coeducational from the start, and still large enough to offer serious breadth without losing its sense of institutional character. That age matters. Few American schools carry this kind of continuity, and fewer still combine it with a plainly stated Quaker frame. For parents who want an American education without the competitive theatre that dominates many college-preparatory schools, Westtown earns a place on the shortlist. The school’s scale — 687 pupils from pre-kindergarten to Grade 12, with a **1:8** student-teacher ratio — points to strong adult attention. Its 600-acre farm campus adds something more unusual: not decorative grounds, but a setting that gives the school a **grounded, unshowy identity**.

What marks Westtown out is the combination of academic ambition and Quaker practice. Meeting for Worship is not a branding flourish; it sets a different tempo from the norm in US independent schooling. Parents drawn to *intellectual seriousness without bombast* will recognise the appeal. The coeducational boarding offer also matters. In a crowded American market, many schools sell prestige first and values second. Westtown does the reverse, and that will either attract or repel. Families who want relentless polish, social climbing and an overtly transactional route to university have stronger fits elsewhere. Families who value *moral clarity*, *a calmer social atmosphere* and a school culture that gives reflection real weight will find Westtown more compelling.

The school suits students who are academically capable, community-minded and comfortable in an environment that asks for participation beyond the classroom. The broad age range, from **3-18**, creates continuity for local families and a more layered community than a stand-alone senior school can offer. Boarders and day pupils alike need to buy into the ethos. This is not the place for a child who wants anonymity, glamour or a purely results-driven experience. It is a strong fit for the student who wants *room to think*, *space to grow up steadily* and a campus life tied to shared responsibility rather than status. That combination — old Quaker roots, coeducation, boarding, and a working-farm campus — gives Westtown a distinct market position and a clear reason to stay on any serious shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1799, Westtown is the oldest continuously operating co-educational boarding school in the country, giving it a long institutional track record.
- The 600-acre campus includes a 14-acre lake, an arboretum and natural forest, and an instructional organic farm, unusual amenities for a school this size.
- Academics are delivered in small groups: Wikipedia records an average class size of 10 students across the school.
- The school is accredited by, and accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools, giving it recognised independent-school status.
- Boarding School Review notes Westtown ranks among the top 20 boarding schools for Highest endowment/student, Most extracurriculars offered, High SSAT scores and Oldest founding date.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees are substantial: the school's own 2026-27 schedule lists Upper School Day: \$48,600 Upper School Boarding: \$79,500, before additional dining and international fees.
- Boarding is only available from the upper grades; per one directory, our boarding program, optional to those who enter Westtown in seventh grade or earlier, meaning younger children cannot board immediately.
- The school is explicitly faith-based: the school requires all students to attend Meeting for Worship together with adults in the community who voluntarily attend, a structural feature families should weigh even though the school welcomes all faiths.
- Location is rural rather than urban, roughly 20 miles from Philadelphia, per Wikipedia's description of the school as located in West Chester, Pennsylvania, United States, 20 miles west of Philadelphia, which adds a commute for families wanting city-centre access.

ADMISSIONS

Westtown enrolls from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, with boarding available from the upper grades onward. Application deadlines are December 1 for day applicants and January 15 for boarding, with decisions released by December 20 and March 10 respectively; late applications are considered on a space-available basis. SSAT or ISEE scores are used in the review process. One third-party estimate puts the acceptance rate near 53 percent, suggesting selective but not hyper-competitive admissions compared with the most elite Northeast boarding schools.

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_648e582423.