

Miss Porter's School

Farmington, United States



In Connecticut's Farmington Historic District, a girls' boarding school since 1843 shaped its curriculum on Yale University influence.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	76/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	78/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At 60 Main Street in Farmington’s Historic District, Miss Porter’s trades on something more substantial than New England polish: a long female-education tradition, founded in 1843, and a programme that ties a conventional American high-school diploma and AP structure to explicit themes of innovation, global education and interdisciplinary study. The school’s own framing is ambitious — solving “humanity’s pressing problems” through an interdisciplinary curriculum — and that tells you a great deal about the pitch. This is not a girls’ school built around quiet compliance or social varnish. It wants intellectually alert, outward-facing students who will use a strong academic base as a platform for leadership, public voice and institutional confidence.

The small-scale teaching is a serious part of the offer. A **5:1** student-teacher ratio and average classes of **12** give teachers room to know students well and to press them hard. That matters in an American boarding school market where plenty of schools advertise individual attention without backing it up numerically. Here, the structure supports close supervision, discussion-heavy teaching and a pastoral net that has a chance of being real rather than rhetorical. The school is non-religious, teaches in English, serves girls aged 14 to 18, and carries NAIS accreditation. Parents looking for published aggregate AP outcomes or college placement data will hit an opaque patch: the school foregrounds college counselling, athletics, creativity, wellness and global education, but no aggregate exam-score set is in public view in the information we have seen. For a school at this price point, that lack of hard outcomes data is a weakness.

The fees place Miss Porter’s squarely in the *premium American boarding-school bracket*: an average of **\$76,800** a year for boarders and **\$60,200** for day students across the full ladder it covers. That buys a *high-touch*, deliberately curated experience rather than breadth on the scale of a giant co-ed campus. The girls who thrive here will want a single-sex environment, close adult attention and a culture that expects them to speak up, lead and engage. Students who want anonymity, a looser academic culture or the social dynamics of a large co-ed school will find it constraining. Students who want an *assertive*, discussion-led education with strong structure, visible traditions and a serious all-girls setting should keep it on the shortlist. The school’s alumni footprint also carries weight: Wikidata records 52 notable alumni, with strength in writing, journalism, the arts and scholarship, which fits the school’s long-standing habit of producing women who occupy public space rather than wait for permission.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1843, Miss Porter's School is one of the oldest and most historically established girls' boarding schools in the United States.
- Small classes and a low student-teacher ratio of 6:1, with an average class size of 12 students, support close academic attention.
- A genuinely international student body, drawing girls from 28 countries and numerous US states, gives the community real geographic diversity.
- The school counts a notable roster of alumnae across politics, science, and the arts, including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and physician-researcher Alice Hamilton.
- A broad athletics program, with roughly two dozen interscholastic sports offered, gives students wide extracurricular choice for a school of its size.

TRADE - OFFS

- Boarding tuition runs to roughly \$76,800 a year (day tuition around \$60,200 for 2025-2026), placing it firmly among the costliest US boarding schools.
- As a single-sex school, it will not suit families seeking a co-educational environment for their daughter or who have sons to place alongside her.
- Admission is competitive, with an acceptance rate of around 40 percent, lower than the boarding-school average, and a fixed January 15 application deadline.
- Farmington is a small Connecticut town some distance from a major international airport, meaning added travel logistics for relocating overseas families.

ADMISSIONS

Miss Porter's School enrolls girls in grades 9 through 12 as boarders or day students, with a standard application deadline of January 15 for the following academic year. The process follows the typical US independent-school format: transcripts, teacher recommendations, an essay, and an interview, generally coordinated through standard boarding-school application platforms. With an acceptance rate of around 40 percent, it is more selective than the average American boarding school, though less so than the most elite New England academies. International applicants should budget for English-language proficiency evidence and note that boarders make up about two-thirds of the student body.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (5 2)

SPORT: Sydni Scott

MUSIC: Mary Knight Wood

DRAMA: Laura Barney Harding, Katherine Carpenter, Dina Merrill, Mamie Gummer, Gloria Vanderbilt, Edith Bouvier Beale, Lee Radziwill, Beth Gutcheon

VISUAL_ARTS: Victoria de Lesseps, Helen Coolidge Adams Isaacs, Gabrielle Banks, Gloria Vanderbilt, Edith Bouvier Beale, Theodate Pope Riddle, Lilly Pulitzer, Lee Radziwill

LETTERS: Q6499369, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Mimi Alford, Polly Allen Mellen, Sarah Blake, Nina Auchincloss Straight, Q75135670, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

POLITICS: Ruth Hanna McCormick

SCIENCE: Mary Anne Mohanraj, Sarah Blake, Mabel Hyde Kittredge, Q57022669, Alice Hamilton

BUSINESS: Dina Merrill, Gloria Vanderbilt

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_cdbacbf077.