

The Nightingale-Bamford School

SCHOOL PROFILE • CLASS OF 2026

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CLASS OF 2026
56 students

GENERAL INFORMATION

Founded in 1920, Nightingale is a K-12 school for girls on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

Total Enrollment: 720 students
Upper School: 248 Students
Class of 2026: 56 Students
Total Number of Faculty: 200
Percentage of Students of Color: 47%
Average Class Size: 12
Students receiving financial aid: 18%
Faculty to Student Ratio: 6:1

Our students come from throughout New York City as well as Long Island, Westchester County and northern New Jersey.

Our academic calendar runs from early September through early June on a semester system.

Our transcript reflects a final grade for each course, whether the course runs for the full year or a semester. Our grading scale is A-F, with some minor courses graded as P/F. We do not award a grade of A+.

We do not calculate a class rank and we do not report a GPA.

A Nightingale education begins a remarkable journey as students’ lives become filled with genuine relationships, a supportive community, and a unique sense of belonging. From Lower School, where students learn to think independently, to the self-discovery of Middle School, to the global citizenry of Upper School, we seek to educate both mind and heart.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English: 4 years
History: 3 years (including 1 year of American History)
Mathematics: 3 years
Arts: 1 year (visual and/or performing arts)
Physical Education: 4 years

Science: 3 years (2 of which must be a laboratory course)
Health and Wellness: 3 courses
World Languages: 3 years (or 2 years in each of two languages)
Community Engagement: Individual sustained service both to the school and the broader community required for Classes X–XII

Required Courses

Class IX Agents of Change*
Class IX Programming*
Class X Arts and Digital Design Sequence
Class X Leadership Seminar

Class XI Public Speaking
Class XII Financial Literacy
Senior Capstone

Students take five major courses per semester, with the exception of students in Class IX who are enrolled in two language courses.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

Upper School courses at Nightingale are designated as “majors” or “minors” based upon how often they meet within each ten-day cycle. Major classes typically meet seven times per cycle and minors classes meet three or fewer times per cycle.

Major courses are delineated on the transcript by credits. A full year major course awards 1 credit while a one semester course awards .5 credits.

Students in Classes IX–XII generally take five majors with the option (but not required) to take six majors. Students are expected to complete twenty major courses during their time in Upper School which typically amounts to five major courses each semester.

Nightingale does not offer AP courses. AP courses were eliminated to provide more curricular freedom and flexibility for our faculty and students. Instead, Upper School students have the opportunity to enroll in advanced courses designed by Nightingale faculty. All advanced courses represent our highest level of academic rigor and intensity. Courses in math, science and foreign languages with an “A” designation are equivalent to honors level courses, illustrating an elevated level of rigor in that particular course of study.

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UPPER SCHOOL

Global Education

One of the pillars of our Upper School program is the Class IX trip to London, which is the capstone to months of study linking literature, history, science, and art. Students also have the opportunity to participate in semester-away programs.

Community Engagement and Leadership

At Nightingale, community engagement is integral to educating students as global citizens. In Class X, all students take a year-long leadership development course taught by the head of school. All students in Classes X–XII must demonstrate a sustained service commitment. In addition to this sustained commitment, students must participate in one cross- divisional event that supports our school community

Senior Capstone

Seniors are required to develop their own Capstone projects during the spring term of their senior year. Each student will submit a detailed research proposal stating the topic and scope of their study, their specific objectives and methods of research, and a sample bibliography. Upon approval of their topics, they work on their projects under the guidance of a chosen faculty mentor. **This project replaces one course in the spring semester** and culminates in a paper and presentation at the end of the academic year.

Independent Science Research Program (ISRP)

The Independent Science Research Program is a selective program open to highly skilled, motivated, and dedicated students of science in Classes XI–XII. Students apply to the program during the spring semester of Class X, indicating an intention to commit at least six to eight weeks of intensive science research during the summer between Class XI and Class XII. While most research placements involve a lab setting, field placements are also possible. In addition, students in the program must enroll in the *Advanced Science: Biotechnology* course during the spring semester of Class XI, and they must enroll in the *Science Seminar* course every year that they are in the program. Each year, around 10–12 students are chosen to participate in the ISRP program.

CURRICULUM

An “A” designation after the title of a math, language, or science (21–22) class indicates the student was in an accelerated section.

	CLASS IX	CLASS X	CLASS XI	CLASS XII
English	Class IX English	Class X English	Junior English (one semester) Public Speaking (one semester)	Senior English (one semester)
			Advanced Elective Courses (spring semester) Electives vary each year. Recent examples include: Literary Heroines, Masterpieces of American Literature, Literature from Hell, The Art of the Short Story, The Bible as Literature, Modern American Literature, Systems of Change	
History	Early Modern World History	Modern World History	United States History: Students must take U.S. History I and can choose one of the following elective courses: U.S. History II, Case Studies in American Public Policy, Alternative Americas, International Relations and its Discontents (the U.S. History requirement may be completed in Class XI or XII) Elective Courses (one semester; each can be taken at the advanced level) May be taken at the advanced or standard instruction level. Recent examples include: History, Gender, and Power, The World Now, History and Theory of Consumer Society, Modern Latin America	
Math	Geometry	-Algebra II -Statistics in the Era of Big Data (Advanced or Standard Level) Minor Courses: -Collaborative Problem Solving, -Chaos Theory -Interschool Math Courses	Precalculus Calculus Minor Courses: -Chaos Theory -Collaborative Problem Solving	Calculus Advanced Courses: -Calculus (A level) -Calculus (B level) -Advanced Linear Algebra: Vectors and Modeline -Minor Courses: Chaos Theory, Collaborative Problem Solving
		Math Electives (one semester): Statistics in the Era of Big Data		
			Interschool Math: Game Theory, Collaborative Problem Solving	
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics (may be taken in Class XI or XII), Accelerated Physics	
		Science Electives (one semester) Environmental Science (X–XII), Public Health Survey (X), Public Health: Special Topics (X), Public Health 1 & 2 (XII), A Sustainable World (X–XI), Astronomy (X–XII), Bioethics (X–XI), Engineering (X–XII), Psychology (X–XII), Science Seminar (full year) (X–XII), Introduction to Bioethics (XI–XII), Anatomy and Physiology (XI–XII), Psychology: Biological and Behavioral Approaches (XI), ISRP (XI–XII)		
				Advanced Courses Adv. Biology, Genetics of Cancer, Adv. Biology: Biochemistry, Adv. Biology: Biology of the Nervous System, Adv. Chemistry: Organic, Adv. Chemistry: Analytical, Neurobiology, Biochemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Modern Physics, Physics with Calculus
Classics	Latin teaching in the Upper School has two separate tracks: one for students without prior knowledge of Latin and one for those who began Latin in Middle School. Advanced Courses: Latin Epic, Latin Lyric			
Modern Languages	FRENCH: French 1, French 2, French 3, French 4, French 5 Advanced Courses (can vary each year): Sample courses include: Culture, Literature, and History; Language and Culture; Cinema, 17th Century France; Survey of French and Franco-phone Writing; French Poetics; French and Francophone Cinema; Love, French Style SPANISH: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4, Spanish 5 Advanced Courses: Advanced Spanish: Culture, Literature, and History; Language and Culture, Spanish Literature, Spanish Art CHINESE: Chinese 1, Chinese 2, Chinese 3, Chinese 4 Advanced Courses: Advanced Chinese			
Computer Science	Programming I	Design and Digital Fabrication I	Advanced Programming II Design and Digital Fabrication II Advanced Robotics and Engineering	Web Application Development (one semester) (Entrepreneurship) Business Development (one semester) (Entrepreneurship)
Visual Arts	Electives: Ceramics, Darkroom Photography, Digital Imaging, Drawing, Ceramics, Life Drawing, Painting, Photography I, Photography II Studio Art Courses: Studio Ceramics, Studio Painting, Studio Photography Advanced Art Courses: Projects in Art: Advanced Ceramics, Advanced Drawing, Advanced Painting, Advanced Photography Art History Courses: Introduction to Art History, Advanced Art History			
Music	Music Appreciation Electives: Upper School Chorus, Upper School Chamber Chorus, Upper School Ensemble, Intermediate Guitar, Advanced Guitar, Introduction to Music Composition, Advanced Composition, Private Music Instruction			
Dance	Students may audition to be part of the Nightingale Dance Collective. The program teaches contemporary technique and culminates in a student-choreographed show in February. Introduction to Dance History is an optional course in Class X, and elective courses are also offered.			
Drama	Theater I, Theater II, Fall Play, Spring Musical			
Physical Education	The goal of our program is to provide students with a foundation on which to pursue lifelong fitness. Enjoyment of—and appreciation for—physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle are the fundamental components of our curriculum.			

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 2022–2025

281 students

Amherst College (7)	Chapman University	College of the Holy Cross	Occidental College (2)	The Ohio State University
Auburn University (1)	University of Chicago (2)	Indiana University–Bloomington	Ohio University	University of Toronto
Bard College (2)	Colby College (5)	John Cabot University	University of Pennsylvania (9)	Trinity College (3)
Barnard College (5)	Colgate University (4)	Kenyon College (3)	Pitzer College (3)	Tufts University (6)
Bates College	University of Colorado–Colorado Springs	Lafayette College (3)	Princeton University (5)	Tulane University (4)
Bennington College	Columbia University (7)	Lehigh University (4)	Purdue University	University of St. Andrews (10)
Binghamton University	Cornell University (13)	Macalester College	Queen Mary University of London	Vanderbilt University (7)
Boston College (3)	Dartmouth College (2)	University of Maryland at College Park	Reed College	Villanova University (3)
Boston University	Davidson College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Rice University (2)	University of Virginia (3)
Bowdoin College (3)	Dickinson College	McGill University (6)	Rochester Institute of Technology	Wake Forest University (6)
Brandeis University (3)	Denison University	University of Miami	Rutgers University–New Brunswick	Washington and Lee University (3)
Brown University (7)	Duke University (7)	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor (4)	Scripps College	Washington University in St. Louis (9)
Bryn Mawr College	Emerson College (2)	Middlebury College (6)	Skidmore College (4)	Wesleyan University (3)
Bucknell University (2)	Emory University (6)	University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	Smith College	Whitman College
Cal Poly (2)	Fordham University	New York University (3)	University of Southern California (2)	William and Mary
California Institute of Technology	Georgetown University (7)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)	Swarthmore College	Williams College (5)
University of California–Davis	Hamilton College (2)	Northwestern University (7)	Syracuse University (3)	University of Wisconsin–Madison
University of California–Los Angeles (2)	Harvard University (3)	University of Notre Dame	Temple University (2)	Yale University (9)
Carnegie Mellon University	Haverford College (3)	Oberlin College (2)	University of Texas–Austin	
Case Western Reserve University (3)			The George Washington University (3)	