UNDERSTANDING
THE WAY BOYS
LEARN
WELCOME LETTER
It is my honor and privilege to serve as the ninth Head of School at South Kent School, a special place we will introduce you to in the following pages. I had the great fortune of being a part of this School and community for many years during different stages of my life and career. As the son of two former South Kent School faculty members, I was raised on campus and am a proud member of South Kent’s graduating class from 1973. While I have witnessed and been a part of many changes during my time at South Kent, the institution’s core values have not wavered since our founding a century ago. We have always been, and will always be, a community guided by our Trinity of Values: Simplicity of Life, Self Reliance, and Directness of Purpose.

We also look to our Mission and take an innovative approach to teaching and caring for young men. This starts with a foundational understanding of the way boys learn. This understanding has helped fuel the evolution of our campus, facilities, and programs over the decades to support and prepare our students to succeed in college and thrive as thoughtful and engaged citizens in this rapidly changing and intensely competitive world that we live in.

We enter the second century of our School with the recognition that to succeed in the future, students must embrace curiosity and change to adjust to the 21st-century world. To help with this, we have created and implemented some new foundational elements, like our Mastery curriculum, which we are excited to share with you. These innovations, combined with our founding principles, allow us to be deliberate in our teaching, not only in the classroom but in all areas of life, to ensure that we will always remain steadfast in our Mission.

LAWRENCE A. SMITH
CLASS OF ’73, HEAD OF SCHOOL
OUR MISSION

South Kent School prepares young men to succeed in college and thrive as thoughtful and engaged citizens in a rapidly changing and intensely competitive world.

TRINITY OF VALUES

In 1923, when South Kent School was founded nearly one hundred years ago, the School’s first headmaster Samuel S. Bartlett established three guiding principles, the Trinity of Values.

SIMPLICITY OF LIFE

SELF-RELIANCE

DIRECTNESS OF PURPOSE

These fundamental principles, along with the lessons and traditions passed down by our earliest leaders, form the foundation of the School. Throughout the years, as the School has changed and grown, our Values and Mission remain relevant and continue to serve as a guide for all we do.
GET TO KNOW SOUTH KENT SCHOOL

- 150 STUDENTS FROM 19 STATES AND 20 COUNTRIES
- 94% BOARDING STUDENTS
- $3.5 MILLION OF FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE
- STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO: 4 TO 1
- 90% OF FACULTY LIVING ON CAMPUS
UNDERSTANDING THE WAY BOYS LEARN

South Kent School’s academic program is one part of our comprehensive, singular curriculum designed to provide our boys with the opportunities to find their passions and the skills necessary to explore those passions deeply. By prioritizing what boys need in order to learn best, we have created an interdisciplinary, multifaceted academic program that values the mastery of skills as much as content management and retention.

The Mastery learning curriculum encourages curiosity and diversity of thought in our students through a broad range of courses taught at various levels. As a result, our students gain the knowledge and know-how that distinguishes them during the college admissions process and allows them to find success during and beyond their undergraduate years.

AT SOUTH KENT SCHOOL, WE STRIVE TO INSPIRE THE FORWARD-THINKING MINDS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.
BLOCK SCHEDULING

Classes at South Kent School are concentrated into 8-week courses in either Humanities (English and History), or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Courses stress project-based learning with an emphasis on group work and collaboration. The school year is divided into four quarters, with students receiving a half credit for each of these block courses. Students can also take up to two additional electives per quarter. South Kent School’s block schedule emphasizes uninterrupted time in the classroom, deeper interactions with topics, individualized instruction from faculty who truly know their students, and an interdisciplinary curriculum that better reflects the world around us.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PROJECT ADVANCE (SUPA)

South Kent School is a proud partner of Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA), one of the nation’s leading dual enrollment programs offering college-level classes in select high schools across the country. South Kent School was the first independent boarding school to partner with SUPA over a decade ago to offer its top-level students the opportunity to deeply explore and interact with academically challenging courses that increase their college readiness and earn them college credits before finishing high school. South Kent School students who participate in SUPA learn the rigor and expectations of taking a college course in a familiar, supportive high school setting, developing the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.
ELECTIVES AND ARTS

South Kent School’s elective and arts course offerings provide our students with additional opportunities to expand and develop their interests and passions and cultivate their futures literacy. The block schedule provides our students with greater flexibility to explore offerings outside of the school’s compulsory courses such as visual art and music, engineering and design, finance, entrepreneurship, and computer science.

The arts and electives curriculum is a critical component in our students’ school experience as it empowers the imagination and enhances the boys’ ability to prepare, adapt, innovate, and thrive in an ever-changing world. Whether they enter with prior knowledge or never having been exposed to the material, South Kent offers a range of courses and options that allow us to meet the needs of all students as they plan and practice skills for the future.
South Kent School recognizes that students thrive in different academic environments. Our Academic Resource Center (ARC) is available to all students during their free blocks throughout the academic day, the required evening study time, and beyond school hours for structured one-on-one or small group assistance. Through academic success programs, faculty and tutoring staff can individualize learning plans that empower the student to practice towards the next level of skill development.

College Counseling at South Kent School helps families navigate the ever-changing college application process while finding the right college that best fits their career goals. Students are introduced to the college process early in their South Kent School career through seminars and conversations with advisors. Together, this program helps distinguish our boys in an increasingly competitive college selection process.
ATHLETICS

At South Kent School, athletics are an integral part of our singular curriculum. Our athletics program has been intentionally designed to teach our student-athletes the importance of hard work, self-discipline, camaraderie, and a passion for the game. We offer a wide range of options to cater to students with various levels of abilities and experience.

For students who have identified soccer, hockey, or basketball as their primary passion, we have high performance programming. The student-athletes choosing to participate in these programs have extensive competitive experience prior to joining the South Kent School community and have aspirations of competing in college and beyond. Our high performance soccer, hockey, and basketball teams train throughout the school year and compete at the highest national level.

South Kent School also offers athletic opportunities for students who are interested in fitness, new to a sport, or those wanting to participate simply for the love of the game. From mountain biking, cross country, and golf to a number of intramural options, our athletic programming nurtures the passions and meets the needs of every type of student-athlete, with the goal of challenging him and building his character in the process.
AT SOUTH KENT SCHOOL, ATHLETICS ARE PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE.
CHAPEL AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rooted in the Episcopal tradition, Community Life at South Kent School is shaped by the Trinity of Values – Simplicity of Life, Self-Reliance, and Directness of Purpose – and designed to ensure that teaching and learning are not limited to our classrooms or playing fields. Our chapel program includes three all-school services a week and welcomes students of all backgrounds and religions. St. Michael’s Chapel is a special place on campus where the school community can reflect upon our place in the world, and find comfort, inspiration, and peace.

Like in all other areas of school life, South Kent’s singular curriculum helps strengthen the community and enhance our students’ skills with frequent feedback from caring peers and adults to ensure our boys are best prepared to make positive contributions after graduating. Our students are encouraged to pursue their passions and contribute to the greater good while cultivating meaningful relationships and forming a better understanding of self.

South Kent’s extra-curricular offerings add energy and discovery to campus life and include everything from Student Government, Finance Club, and the school newspaper to game night, outdoor adventure trips, and dance groups. With a host of clubs, and activities to choose from, our students can expand their knowledge, develop skills, and express themselves creatively, all while having fun.
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Giving back to others and the community is core to the ethos of South Kent School. Our civic engagement programs foster generosity, thoughtfulness, and a sense of purpose among our community members. Whether participating in daily Jobs on campus or volunteering for community service trips, students have many opportunities to answer the call to serve and learn the tremendous impact a single person can have in the world.

SOUTH KENT SATURDAYS

Whether our students are looking for their next outdoor adventure, community service, creative freedom in the studio, or an opportunity for some fun, South Kent Saturdays are designed to give students time to explore activities that interest them while keeping them busy. Our weekend events and activities offer opportunities for students to break from their daily routines and connect with different people and places to broaden their horizons and discover new things about themselves.
APPLY TO
SOUTH KENT SCHOOL

• Visit www.southkentschool.org/admissions to fill out an online inquiry form.

• Contact the Admission Office to schedule your campus visit and interview.

• Admission Application Deadline: January 15

• Need-Based Financial Aid Application Deadline: January 30

• Receive Admission Decision on March 10

• Finalize Enrollment Decision by April 10

Contact Admissions Office:
✉ admissions@southkentschool.org
📞 (860) 927-3539 ext. 201