



Our Mission:

To inspire students to excel and to lead lives of integrity and involvement by nourishing their talents in a community of teachers, friends and families.

Our Core Values:

Demonstrate honesty, integrity and respect; Learn with passion and perseverance; Embrace intellectual curiosity; Care beyond self; Take Personal Responsibility; Work hard; Take risks; Become involved

The School:

Kingswood Oxford School (KO) is an independent, coeducational 6-12 college preparatory day school located in West Hartford, CT. By embracing the academic, extracurricular, and athletic opportunities available here, students discover who they are and what they love to do. In short, they graduate having developed the character, attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in college and beyond. Accredited by the State of Connecticut and NEASC, KO holds memberships in NEACAC, NACAC, ACCIS, NAIS, CAIS, and The College Board.

Diploma Requirements:

To graduate, students must earn a minimum of 20 credits and meet the following distribution requirements: English (4); History (3, including US History); Languages (3 consecutive years of the same language); Mathematics (3, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II); Science (3), and Arts (1.5). Students must also meet KO's after-school sports or sports-alternative requirement and complete 30 hours of approved community service.

Covid-19 Response:

Spring 2020: Campus was closed in March; 4th quarter classes met regularly online with an adjusted schedule and more project-based learning; No final exams but data was available for the semester to award year-end grades.

2020-2021: KO was in-person with Covid-19 protocols; A small minority of faculty and students were remote for personal reasons; Modified academic schedule (75-minutes twice per week) given concern for mental health stressors; Faculty were more flexible with homework, due dates, and assessments; A few clubs were active; most student-initiated clubs remained on pause; Sports were predominantly practice-only until the spring ; No in-person events until May.

2021-2022: KO was in-person; Faculty and age-appropriate students were required to be vaccinated; Campus re-opened to visitors; KO's pre-pandemic schedule returned with thrice-weekly class meetings; Faculty noted an uptick in student stress levels; Some faculty meetings included discussions about consistent academic practices and the issue of student mental health; a committee is now studying possible changes to the academic schedule; Many clubs resumed pre-pandemic activities; Sports returned to pre-pandemic schedules.

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US Quick Facts

Upper School: 357

Senior Class: 84

Students who self-identify as students of color: 119 (33%)

International Students: 27 (8%)

Students receiving need-based aid: 224 (63%)

Martin-Nicholson Merit Scholars: 83 (23%)

Academic Curriculum:

The academic year is divided into semesters with 75-minute classes meeting thrice weekly. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of five full-credit courses or the equivalent each year. Grades (on an A-F scale) and comments are issued each quarter. First quarter grades are available by mid-November; first semester grades are available by late January.

KO offers the following honors, advanced, and AP®

English	History	Languages	Mathematics	Science	Arts
English 4 H English 6 H (fall) AP English Language	AP® US History AP® Economics AP® Political Science	French 2-4 H Spanish 2-4 H AP® Chinese Language AP® French Language AP® Spanish Language AP® Latin	Precalculus– H Multivariable Calculus-H AP® Calculus AB AP® Calculus BC AP® Statistics AP® Computer Science A	Earth & Environmental Science H Biology H Chemistry H Physics H AP® Earth & Environmental Science AP® Biology AP® Chemistry AP® Physics C: Mechanics AP® Physics 1	AP® Art History AP® Music Theory

KO’s AP Program:

Teachers place students in science, math, and language AP® courses; students self-select for English, history, and arts AP® courses. While AP® Biology, Chemistry, and Physics C: Mechanics and Physics 1 are typically “second exposure” courses, teachers place a select group of students for direct entry into those courses each year. The Upper School Head must review and approve any request for more than three AP® courses or more than six total credits each year. (In 2021, 171 Upper School students took 372 AP® exams. As juniors, five seniors were named AP® Scholars; six as AP® Scholars with Honor, and five as AP® Scholars with Distinction.)

Global Online Academy:

KO belongs to the Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of leading independent schools from around the world that fosters new, modern ways for students to learn and teachers to teach. GOA teachers and students share their voice on a global stage, enhancing learning and enabling the pursuit of individual passions. GOA courses are offered at the regular level. Final grades for GOA courses and credits are clearly labeled on KO transcripts.

Distinctive Academic Programs:

Senior Thesis: This graduation requirement demands students to use all of their acquired reading, writing, and thinking skills in an independent research paper with a substantial literary component. English faculty serve as thesis advisors with a small group of seniors during the third quarter to cover topic selection, research methodology, and technical issues while students pursue researching and writing their theses.

Warren Baird English Symposium: The English Symposium brings a noted author to campus annually near the end of the first semester. Seniors in the Honors Senior Seminar class (the most selective senior English fall elective) study the author’s body of work, share their knowledge with the entire KO community, and have a master class with the author. Past guests have included Joyce Carol Oates, Gwendolyn Brooks, Arthur Miller, John Updike, Colson Whitehead, Sarah Ruel, Min Jin Lee, and Tracy K. Smith. Tayari Jones is this year’s Symposium author.

2021-22 Year-end Grade Distribution for Courses Enrolling Primarily Juniors

		A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	Pass
English	AP® English	4	19	22	5	3	1							
	English 5	0	16	11	10	5	2							
History	AP® U.S. History	3	9	10	8	3	2							
	U.S. History	0	18	16	16	9	1	1						
Math	Honors Precalculus	3	7	3	5	4	1							
	Precalculus	1	11	9	14	20	7	1		1				
	Functions & Trigonometry	1	0	11	3	5								
Science	AP® Chemistry	0	3	4	4	1	0	1						
	Chemistry Honors	0	6	2	9	4	2	3	1	1				
	Chemistry	0	17	10	11	12	2	2	0	1				
Languages	Chinese 3	3	1	1	3	0	0	2						
	French 4 Honors	0	1	2	1	0	1							
	Spanish 4 Honors	1	3	3	0	0	1							1
	Spanish 4	0	2	3	2	0	4							
	Latin 3	0	4	3	2	2	1							