



Houghton Academy Boarding School Profile

2021-2022

Onsite | Online | Streaming



Houghton, New York, USA
houghtonacademy.org

Introduction & Overview



Houghton Academy (HA) was founded in 1883 and is one of the oldest continually operating Christian, college-preparatory boarding and day schools in America. The mission of Houghton Academy is to offer young people a college preparatory education within the framework of a Christian worldview. **HA is characterized by high academic standards and strong character development that results in students getting into the universities of their choice and succeeding throughout life.**

HA graduates are prepared for success in university, career and throughout life because our emphasis on what we call the **the 5 C's and Leadership**. Since most highly successful people possess these attributes, we make them a priority at HA.



Life Skills

HA is also aware that most students are still working on some basic life skills when they come to us. Accordingly, HA teachers, staff and dorm parents all work together with the students on the individual life skills that need attention:

- getting organized
- meeting deadlines
- replacing excuses with taking responsibility
- developing strong consistent work ethic
- demonstrating grit
- resolving conflict
- respecting everyone
- establishing healthy living patterns
- using proper etiquette
- learning how to use technology appropriately
- showing empathy towards those in need
- building healthy friendships
- managing emotions
- advocating for oneself
- establishing personal values
- establishing a personal plan/life direction

The development of the 5 C's & Leadership and Life Skills happen because of the following HA distinctives and opportunities:

- Nearly 100 class offerings and valuable activities including music, art, athletics, clubs
- Both academic support (tutors, TOEFL) and advanced academic opportunities (APs/dual credit)
- Comprehensive university guidance program with 100% placement for applicants
- Mentors and Internships offer unique real-world opportunities
- Small, interactive classes led by caring teachers with high standards
- A small town with local university access that is both safe and free from distractions
- A family friendly school community that welcomes new students and fosters deep friendships





School Credentials & Facts

Accreditation

Middle States
ACSI
NY State since 1907

Grades

6-12

Grades 7-12 open to
boarding students

Enrollment

120

Recent historical average
60 during COVID 2020-21
school year

Ratio

1:3

International students to
American students

Average Class Size

8-10

Students

Average Test Scores

26.5 ACT
1225 SAT

USA Average
20.5 ACT / 1051 SAT

Calendar

36

Weeks

Late August to early June
(2 semesters)

Location

Houghton, NY

One hour from Buffalo and
Rochester



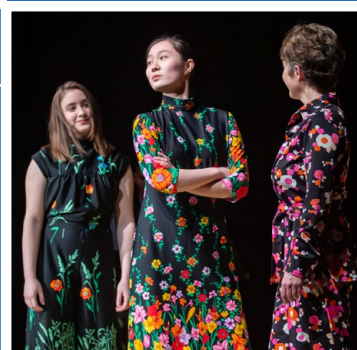
Universities

100%

of university applicants
accepted

Technology

**School-provided
computer for
every student**



Academic Offerings & Support

Academic Support

HA seeks to support all boarding students regardless of their English or academic levels. When a student is accepted, a Personalized Education Plan (PEP) is created to address their current and future needs:

1. Teachers take a personal interest in each student.
2. Tutors available for extra English practice or specialized help in individual classes.
3. English Language Learner (ELL) teacher available for further specific support.
4. TOEFL & SAT/ACT preparation support available plus help with scheduling & transportation.

Academic Offerings

HA offers an expansive (live & online) high school curriculum that includes both AP (typically 18-20 annually) and dual credit (from 6-8 US universities). Middle school offers a tradition American Curriculum focused on high school preparation.



Math	Science	History	College Prep
Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Algebra 2 Honors Pre-Calculus Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Calculus 1 Introduction to Number Theory Introduction to Proofs	Biology Chemistry Chemistry Honors Marine Biology Physics Anatomy & Physiology AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1 & 2 Forensic Science Earth Science Physical Science 9 & 10 Honors Biology A & B	World History US History Economics US Government AP US Government AP US History AP World History AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics World History 9 World History 10 Survey of American History Introduction to American Government & Politics	College Test Preparation (ACT/SAT) What Colleges Want Understanding College Choices, Test Prep College App Strategy College App Writing Finishing Strong Paying for College Athletic Recruiting
Technology/Business	English	Fine Arts	Religion
Computer Literacy Intro to Computer Languages Introduction to Java AP Computer Science International Business Sports and Entertainment Marketing Computer Science 1 Introduction to Computers & Applications IT Troubleshooting Relational Database Reasoning with SQL & API Use Management Information Systems Scripting for Professionals Graphical Image Manipulation Music Creation Technology	Literature & Composition 1 & 2 British Literature & Composition Analytical Reading Grammar and Comp Rhetoric and Style Argumentation and American Ideology Author Seminars AP English Language & Literature English 1-4 Creative Writing American Literature & Composition Principles of Writing College Principles of Writing Introduction to Literature College Introduction to Literature	Berklee College of Music Course AP Art History Digital Photography Music Appreciation Fashion & Interior Design Studio Art AP 2-D Art AP Art Choir Handbells Band Introduction to Printmaking	"Faith" 1-4 "Faith" Senior Seminar Models of Christian Service in Film Introduction to Faith "Faith" in the World Tough Questions Faith Beyond High School Christian Social Engagement "Faith" Survey A Worldviews & World Religions History of the Global Christian Movement Christianity & the Arts
Languages	Other	Middle School	Graduation Requirements
American Sign Language 1-3 Chinese 1-4 French 1-4 AP French Latin 1-3 Spanish 1-4	Health Physical Education Psychology Early Childhood Education Principles of Leadership Introduction to Sociology Psychology of Personality Medical Ethics Student Publications	Mathematics 1-2 Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Ancient History Medieval History US History English 1-3 Science 1-3 "Faith" in Middle School Orientation to Art 2D Photography Music Appreciation Robotics & Digital Citizenship	English 4 History 4 Math 3 Science 3 Foreign Language 2 Religion 1/yr. PE 2 Art/Music 1 Health .5 Electives 3.5

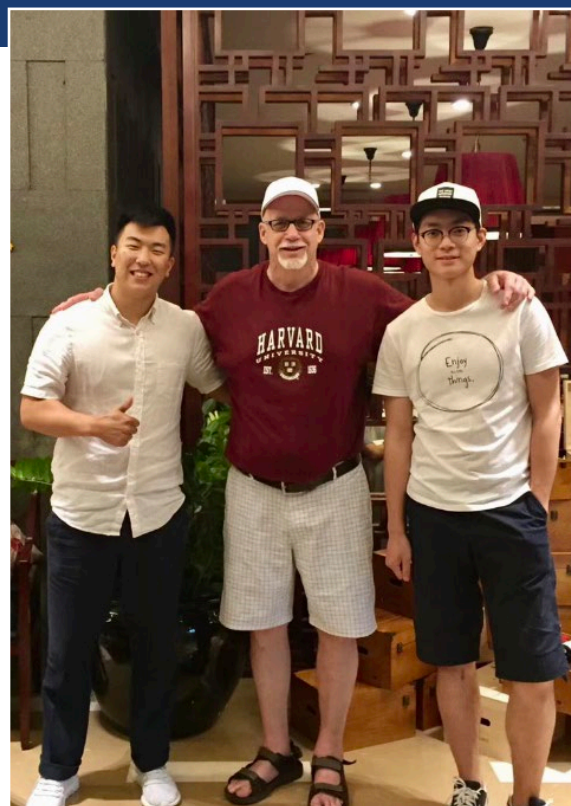


University Preparation

HA understands the critical need for expert guidance through middle school and the four years of high school as students prepare for their targeted universities.

Our Director of Guidance and Student Success, with experience working at the university level, works closely with all students on an individual and group basis. Following are areas of support:

- Develop a personal 4, 5, 6 or, 7-year Personalized Education Plan (PEP)
- Ensure a proper mix of classes and activities while maximizing students' GPA
- Assist with testing, application, reference support through university process
- Provide ongoing support as graduates seek internships and graduate schools
- HA university applicants have a 100% acceptance rate!

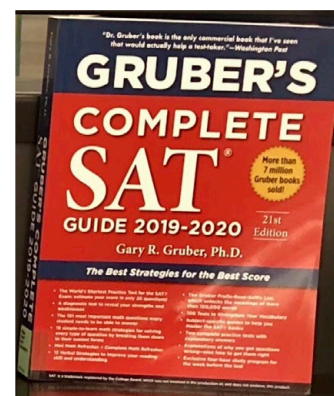
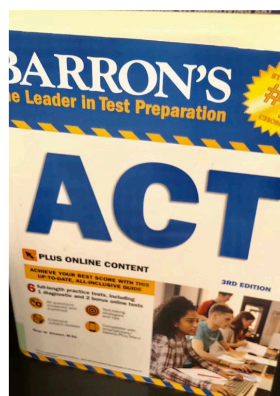
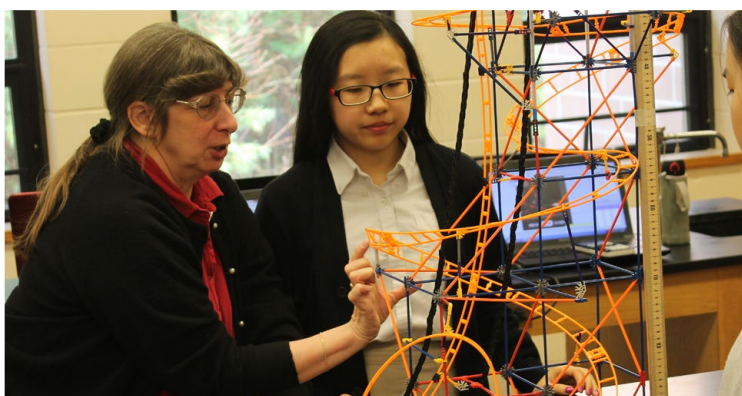


University Preparation

HA offers a series of unique preparation experiences for its students which give an advantage when applying to top universities:

Educational Travel: HA offers a variety of university and cultural visit trips throughout a typical school year such as the Boston or New York areas with visits to Harvard, MIT, Boston College, Gordon College, Yale, NYU, Princeton, Yale and others. Trips also include cultural outings to NBA games, Broadway Shows, visits to Times Square and the Statue of Liberty. Additional trips to specific universities can be planned according to interest. Students have valuable opportunities to meet admissions staff and get a real feel for each university community.

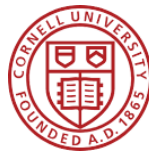
American Seminars: Each seminar targets a specific need many international students often have and can improve in.



University Placement

Over recent years, HA graduates have been accepted into over one hundred different American universities including:

Sample Universities	Rank	Organization, Top Programs
Princeton University	#1	National Universities, Top Business and Medical schools
Cornell University	#3	100 Best World Universities, #1 Law School Ranking. Ivy League Member
U.C. Berkeley	#4	Best Global Universities, #1 Chemistry & Environmental Ecology
University of Michigan	#9	100 Best World Universities, #2 Aerospace Engineering, #8 Medicine
UCLA	#13	Top 200 University Ranking, #5 Management, Public Health
Wheaton College	#1	Christian University Ranking, Top Programs Business and Economics



Cornell University



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



UCLA



WHEATON
COLLEGE
For Christ & His Kingdom



University Access: HA is fortunate to have Houghton College located within a five-minute walk of our campus. The College typically allows HA students access to their library, bookstore, recreation center, pool, musical concerts, drama productions, famous speakers and unlimited food court!

Residential Life

HA provides both dormitory or home stay options to meet the needs of every student. Students receive a safe, orderly and affirming atmosphere that provides opportunities for academic support, personal growth and lifelong friendships. Residence Life at HA is known as family friendly and especially inviting to new students. Evening study hours are structured and supervised. Study supervision within Residence Life is actively coordinated with classroom teachers. HA puts a special emphasis on providing mature dorm parents that have experience working with a wide range of individual student needs. Students living at HA are not only supervised but cared for holistically by dorm parents who treat the students as if they were their own children. Any student need (academic, social, emotional and physical) is important and relevant to the HA Residence Life staff.

On the weekends, residence life is full of exciting and varied activities that frequently involve ethnic restaurants, malls, movies, ethnic supermarkets and local travel! School vacation times offer unique longer trips, like Disney, California and Hawaii, that result in a lifetime of unforgettable memories.



Student Activities

HA believes learning continues after classes end. Experiences offered in recent & current years include: Athletics: Table Tennis, Badminton, Track and Field, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis; Music/Drama: Choir, Band, Musicals, Dramas, Handbells; Organizations/Clubs: Model UN, Math Team, Mock Trial, Business Club, National Honor Society, Equestrian, Chess. Participation by all students is encouraged. HA is also fortunate to share recreational facilities (outdoor trails, field house, work out space, pool, tennis courts, athletic fields) with our neighboring university.



Religious Affiliation

HA is a Christian, college-preparatory boarding and day school. While HA students are not forced to personally accept the school's religious beliefs they are expected to learn about Christianity and be respectful towards it. HA believes that well educated people should understand all religions and then make their personal choice on what to believe. HA students are expected to live by Christian and school standards such as: obedience, respect, honesty, self-discipline, empathy, avoiding bad influences and habits and acting responsibly and reliably. College-preparatory means that HA's programs are intentionally focused on helping students move into the best possible universities upon graduation. Boarding and day reflects the fact that HA is a rich blend of local students, American boarding students from throughout the USA and international boarding students. Those who do choose Houghton Academy frequently mention appreciation for these community characteristics: a safe non-distracting environment, trustworthy & caring teachers, clear, high standards, openness to diversity, a family like friendly culture and great preparation for universities.

Unique Features

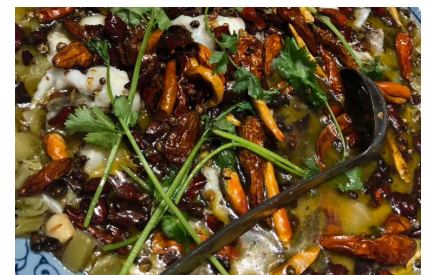
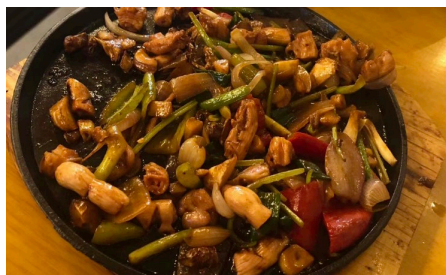
Communication: One of the distinctions of HA is its serious commitment to communicate well. We know how important it is for parents who send their students abroad to have regular information about their children. Accordingly, HA provides the following communication network:

- The Boarding Director is accessible 24/7/365 for any urgent needs.
- HA provides weekly parent and agent updates.
- Students receive daily announcements and face to face encouragement.
- HA invites parents and agents to visit HA and HA will come visit you.

What Makes Houghton Academy Unique?

HA is all about providing exciting and challenging opportunities for every student, especially those who are ready to dream big and build a successful future. In order to fill the needs of our motivated students we offer the following opportunities:

- **Mentors & Research:** We believe students are never too young to benefit from a highly qualified and experienced mentor. Mentors are available to provide guidance and supervision for any research programs in the student's area of interest.
- **Internships:** HA encourages students to serve in a variety of internships in the "real world" throughout the whole year. Students who meet requirements are able to earn academic credit while introducing themselves to careers and professions.
- **100 Club:** HA believes in rewarding excellence. The 100 Club recognizes every international student who achieves a score of 100 or more on the challenging TOEFL examination. Club members receive both a personal plaque and are recognized on a school plaque.
- **Ignite Week:** Each February, HA students are given the exciting opportunity to experience non-traditional classroom learning. Students gather for a stimulating lecture from a guest speaker followed by choices of individual classes such as Chinese cooking, driver's education, horsemanship, model rocketry, photography, pottery, rock wall climbing, wilderness survival, storytelling, water polo and more.
- **Equestrian Program:** HA offers an equestrian experience for horse lovers. Programs can be built for the novice or experienced rider and are available throughout the school year and vacations.
- **Food:** HA knows how important food from a home country is while studying abroad. HA works hard to provide tastes of home and outings to "authentic" home country restaurants. We also provide cooking space and opportunities for students to cook in the dorm.



- **12 Month Opportunities/Vacation Trips:** HA provides year around opportunities including school vacation trips and summer camp experiences. All are optional. A Disney trip to Orlando, FL., a visit to California, and Hawaii over spring break are frequent options.



Summer Programs

- Summer in America:** HA offers a summer program for students who want to stay in the USA between school years. Students can design their own program choosing from a variety of academic and hands-on classes, internships, university connected experiences and trips.
- Summer English Camp:** HA also offers a three-week summer camp designed for international students not yet in America. Interesting classes, outdoor experiences and travel make this an exciting adventure. Camp details are typically available by February.

What We Look for in a Student

Of course, a student needs functional English to be successful but we also care about the student's character. HA realizes no one is perfect and we each have growth areas. But we do look carefully at patterns in our applicant's lives in addition to English levels. HA will work with lower English levels than our targets if the student demonstrates the other important characteristics.

Characteristics
Respectful
Honest
Open to new ideas
Hard working
Empathetic
Determined
Positive Attitude

Target English Levels	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
TOEFL	40	45	50	60	70	80
iTEP	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
CEFR	A1	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1
TOEFL IBT	30	45	65	85	100	115
IELTS	4.0	4.5	5.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
PTE General	L1	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
PTE Academic	30	40	50	60	70	80

Costs & Scholarships

3 options to meet the needs of every family



Onsite

\$43,000 per year

The Inclusive Rate includes the following and makes the cost of education at HA easy to understand and to plan for:

- Tuition, Room, Board, up to two free Online courses per year, Boarding Activity Fee, General Activity Fee, Health/Insurance Fee, Laundry Fee, Transportation Fee, Class Fee, Technology Fee, Yearbook Fee, School Picture Fee, I-20 Processing Fee, Transcript Fee, Graduation Fee

A \$1,500 annual refundable reserve deposit is also required in addition to the Inclusive Rate to cover miscellaneous expenses that may come up during a school year. Unused portions are refundable after graduation.

Deposit and Payment Plans: A \$4,500 non-refundable deposit is required by January 31, 2021 or within 15 days of acceptance in order to reserve your spot. The \$4,500 deposit is put towards your payment of the Inclusive Rate. A variety of payment plans, Jan.-May 2021, are available.

Excellence Scholarships: HA rewards onsite students who can demonstrate excellence with scholarships during their first year at HA Onsite. Scholarships range from \$1,000 - \$3,000. An application is required and awards are based on effort, commitment, personal ownership and level of excellence. Areas range from robotics to cooking, Artificial Intelligence to horseback riding, dancing to woodworking, writing to skydiving!



Online

\$7,499 per year for up to 7 classes

HA Online is asynchronous (limited live time in class) education, with 50+ classes available, making scheduling of study anywhere in the world convenient while offering a quality online education. HA Online uses the Oaks Platform for its curriculum and instruction. Full payment is required prior to beginning classes.

Money Back Scholarships: HA Online and HA Streaming have a unique and significant financial benefit. Any NEW student who pays tuition for HA Online or HA Streaming during 2021 or 2022 receives the same amount in a tuition discount towards onsite attendance at HA in the following year. So, \$7,499 paid for a year of Online or \$10,000 for a semester of Streaming is saved the next year at HA Onsite!



Streaming

\$10,000 per semester for up to 7 classes

Payment plans are available based on need. HA Streaming has the advantage of students joining HA Onsite classes live, Eastern Standard Time, and enjoying the benefits of ongoing participation and interaction with the Onsite Academy teachers and students. Streaming also allows students to have personal and direct access to teachers outside of class during designated contact times. Classes are taped to allow the Streaming student flexibility if their personal schedule dictates missing a live class. Taped classes are also great resources for reviewing material. Streaming students have access to HA's Director of Guidance and Student Success for academic planning and university strategies. With the use of modern technology, state of the art equipment and technology support, learning via Streaming is now a high-quality option if a student is not able to be there in person. Many students use Streaming as an easy and natural transition into attending HA Onsite.



Admission Steps

- 1** Visit the **Houghton Academy website** and contact us at any time. *We are happy to chat and answer questions.*
- 2** **Submit an application.** We have no application fee and we accept alternative applications.
- 3** **Provide supplemental materials.**
HA will communicate what is needed (essay, transcript, test scores).
- 4** **Schedule a video interview and receive an acceptance decision within one week.** In addition, you receive a personalized Egrid, a 40-point preparedness for USA study assessment, within the same week. The Egrid is an incredibly valuable tool for any family as they make education plans for their student.
This FREE Egrid assessment is also available BEFORE you submit an application to us. We strongly encourage any student considering USA study to take advantage of this unique and valuable opportunity. There is no obligation or cost.
- 5** Upon receiving acceptance notice, **make a final decision to attend HA.**
- 6** **Select a payment option,** submit your deposit and turn in a signed enrollment contract.
- 7** **HA will issue your I-20 Form** (legal permission to study in the USA).
- 8** **Obtain your F-1 Visa.** Schedule a visa interview once you've received your I-20 Form. *If after two attempts to obtain an F-1 Visa, you are still unable to get it, HA will refund all your deposit except \$500.*
- 9** Upon receiving your F-1 Visa, notify HA.
- 10** We help you finalize all remaining details prior to arrival.

School Leadership Team



Jonathan Retz

Head of School

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585-567-8115 (office)



Sandy Merrill

**Enrollment Management
Coordinator & Registrar**

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Andrew Silbert

**Director of Guidance and Student
Success**

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585-567-8115 (office)

Meet the Boarding Director



Mr. Jon Keith

CFO/COO/Boarding Director

HA is fortunate to have an international educator with 40 years' experience leading its boarding program. In addition to creating educational programs emulated by schools all over the USA, Mr. Keith has led elite Summer English Camps both in the USA and China and recruited and placed students from 15 countries into a network of 50+ USA schools. Before coming to HA, he divided his time between multiple Chinese cities and Chicago for four years while working for numerous international schools and agencies. He offered USA Prep Programs, taught Communication and English classes and held Vice President, CEO, American Principal and Marketing Director roles. He continues to maintain close relationships with students, alumni, parents, schools and agents throughout the world.

Contact Information



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To dial a USA phone, dial your country exit code, then 1, then the 10-digit USA phone number



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