



SOUTH KENT SCHOOL

Excellence  
for **BOYS**

# Why A Boys' School?



**“Education must be based on what works for each gender. Boys are hardwired differently from girls. Anecdotally, we’ve known this for years. Now, research from the frontiers of neuroscience is proving why this is so.”**

Andrew Vadnais  
Head of School

**“As our schools have become more feelings-centered, risk-averse, collaboration-oriented and sedentary, they have moved further and further from boys’ characteristic sensibilities.”**

Christina Hoff  
Sommers  
*“The Boys at the Back”*,  
NY Times, Feb. 3, 2013

Research is showing that boy brains develop differently from girl brains. Schools that ignore these differences put boys at a significant disadvantage. At South Kent, we embrace these differences to create a boys-centered curriculum that leads to excellence.

## Reading List on Boys’ Education

*Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*, Dan Kindlon, Ph.D, and Michael Thompson, Ph.D. (Ballantine Books: 2000)

*The Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries about the Teenage Brain Tell Us about Our Kids*, Barbara Strauch (Anchor Books: 2004)

*Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences*, Leonard Sax, M.D, Ph.D. (Three Rivers Press: 2006)

*Boys Adrift: The Five Factors Driving the Growing Epidemic of Unmotivated Boys and Underachieving Young Men*, Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D. (Basic Books: 2007)

## @ South Kent

we’ve been educating boys since 1923. We’ve learned that boys need:

- Academic Intensity
- A Tribe-Belonging to a Band of Brothers
- Structure and Discipline
- Meaningful Work and a Spiritual Life
- Loving Parents and Guardians
- Physical Activity and Appropriate Competition

We give South Kent boys all these things in addition to a rigorous, gender-appropriate college preparatory curriculum.

Honors, AP, and college-level courses are widely available and strongly encouraged.

Our college list reflects our continued success.





## We See **Boys** As Heroes

At South Kent, the process of education is more than rigorous academics, although serious inquiry makes up a large part of what we do.

Education must include personal transformation—finding the hero within and developing the courage and strength of character to set out on the Hero Path.\*

Following the Hero Path is necessary before a young man can become a successful college graduate, discover a meaningful career, lead others, and become a loving spouse and father.

\*Our concept of the hero is based on the writings of historian Joseph Campbell whose works include *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, *The Power of Myth* and *The Inner Reaches of Outer Space: Metaphor as Myth and as Religion*.

The Hero Path leads to an inward journey of transformation that always encounters definite stages, but it all begins with an acceptance of the call to adventure and a departure from the familiar. Other stages include challenges of different types, a quest of sorts, a fulfillment, and a return.

For boys of high school age, the journey along the Hero Path looks like this:



### Stages of the Hero Path

**I** The young hero accepts the call to adventure and departs from the familiar.

**II** The young hero learns to navigate in a new community of learners; he begins the process of identifying and developing his unique talents.

**III** Tests and challenges will be encountered – academic, personal and spiritual. Are the talents chosen for development the right ones? Will they lead to fulfillment and happiness?

**IV** The young hero must demonstrate that he can use his newfound knowledge and wisdom to help others.

The Hero Path is not linear, as it contains curves and switchbacks. The time it takes to complete is never set. It may take four years or one year, depending on the individual's strength of character and willingness to learn.



# Academic Excellence for Boys

At South Kent, the focal point of each boy's Hero Path is rigorous academic challenge. Our goal is to challenge each boy academically, physically, and spiritually and then place him in the college or university that best meets his needs.

South Kent's unprecedented integration of 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology into the classroom places us as the leader among prep schools. We've been featured nationally in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. In fact, many top schools from around the country visit our campus to learn best practices in digital classroom and curriculum development. [*The New York Times*, *ESPN-the Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *SLAM Magazine*, and *60 Minutes-II* have all covered our athletic excellence.]

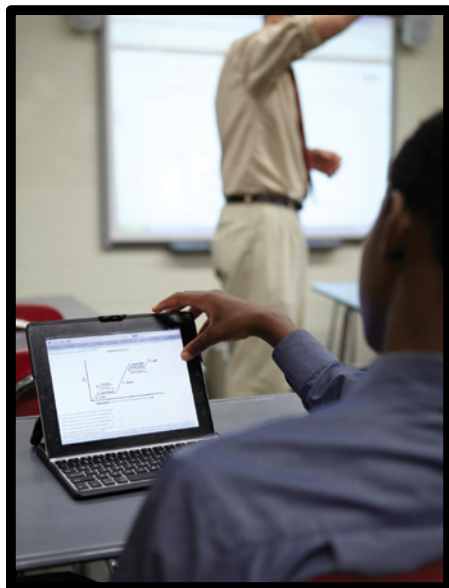
## Engaged

- Small class size: committed educational professionals; 1 to 6 ratio.
- Teachers live on campus and teach students from the first day of campus life.
- Teachers assume the roles of advisor, coach, mentor, dorm parent, college counselor and more.



## Challenged

- Development of integrated English, History, Science, and Mathematics programs to run four years in conjunction with SAT prep.
- 99% adoption of digital curriculum, highest in the country.
- 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills with an emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.
- Courses are posted on iTunesU and provide the student with access to the content when and where they need it.
- AP and Honors level courses



## Prepared

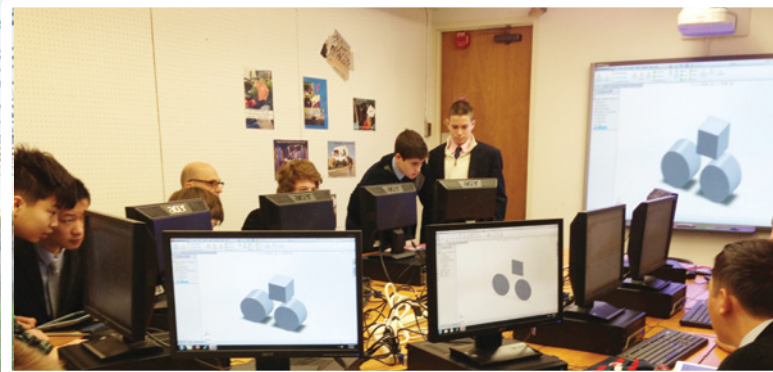
- Academically and emotionally.
- Honors and AP sections in addition to college classes through our partnership with Syracuse University.
- One-to-one college counseling .
- Extensive mentoring to prepare students for the college and university application process.



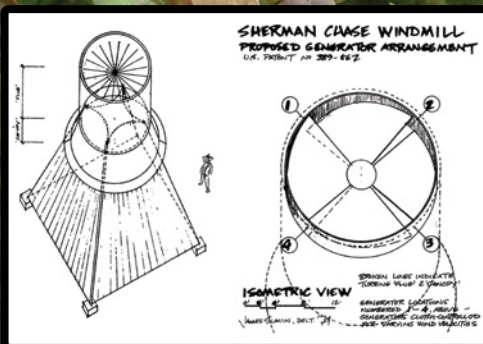
“One-third of our students in grades 9-PG are enrolled in college-level math courses--calculus and above.”

J. Scott Farley  
Math Department Head





# The Center for Innovation (CFI)



The CFI is one of South Kent School's signature academic programs.

Its mission is to engage South Kent students at all grade levels in guided inquiries designed to reveal humanity's innate connection to all things.

Program areas of concentration include Sustainable Systems (focusing on food, water, and energy), Applied Science & Mathematics, and Social Entrepreneurship.

Within the focus areas students learn to transform South Kent's beautiful 500 acre campus into renewable, seasonal supplies of fresh organic produce; construct and maintain timber framed buildings; research and restore a 1741 farmhouse; produce renewable, green electricity; and engage in freshwater restoration and timberland management. The CFI is an outdoor laboratory where boys work to solve real world problems, not theoretical ones.

Students are part of every aspect of the CFI, installing a production-scale greenhouse, constructing a New England-style timber frame barn and a large classroom building, and planting orchards and raised-bed organic gardens on our 130 acre farm.

Determining ways to develop clean renewable wind, solar, and biomass power and restoring Hatch Pond in partnership with Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection are some of the challenges that await students.



***“It's always easier to learn and master knowledge when you have an appreciation for what that knowledge can actually do.”***

Dr. Jed Struckus  
Ph.D., Neuropsychology  
South Kent Faculty



# Nurturing Creativity



“The world is but a canvas to our imagination.”

Henry David Thoreau

At South Kent, each boy's journey along his Hero Path is aided by nurturing creativity in the arts.

We encourage students to discover, improve and showcase new artistic talents throughout their time at school, whether this is in a dramatic performance in our theater, in front of the entire school at an assembly, in a juried show for the Kent Art Association, or casually with friends in the dorm.

## Music

We offer classes in music history and music theory.

South Kent arranges private lessons in:

- cello
- drums
- guitar
- piano
- trombone
- trumpet
- violin
- voice

and provides opportunities to participate in an orchestra.

## Art

Students explore projects that are designed to develop artistic ability and instill appreciation for both art history and creativity through a wide variety of opportunities.

## Digital Communication

Our program offers opportunities in:

- Broadcasting
- Computer-Aided-Design
- Graphic Design
- Journalism
- Video Editing
- Videography

Showcased through:

- Cardinal News Network
- Advanced Media Group
- Pigtail Student Newspaper



Keegan McCarthy '12 "Lake Michigan Light House" Pastel

## Kent Art Association's High School Show Awards

*(Includes works from 10 to 15 local private and public high schools)*

**2009 - Best In Show - two awards**

**2010 - Best In Show - three awards**

**2011 - Best In Show - two awards**

**2012 - Best In Show - one award**





# Exploring the Hero Path

## Affinity Programs

Designed to guide young men along their Hero Path, each year students in 5th, 6th, and PG forms participate in all three of our affinity programs.

## Call to Adventure

### Activities:

- Rock Climbing
- Hiking & Snowshoeing
- Tree Planting
- Overnight Camping

### Goals:

- Foster a deeper understanding of the self
- Instill an appreciation for the natural world
- Build a sense of stewardship for the environment
- Develop confidence to handle unfamiliar situations



## Call to Service

### Activities:

- On-campus Service
- Habitat for Humanity
- Helping the elderly
- Working at a soup kitchen

### Goals:

- Develop leaders who act on behalf of the community
- Provide boys the chance to reflect upon the links between their spiritual and communal lives
- Demonstrate the value of helping the less fortunate



## Call to Explore

### Activities:

- Plays
- Musical performance
- Dance
- Video production

### Goals:

- Give boys opportunities to express themselves
- Help young men explore new areas of expression
- Produce individual growth in our students
- Expose our students to new cultural interests



## Leadership

- Prefects
- Student Councils
- Dorm Junior/Senior
- Peer-Led Discipline
- Team Captains

*“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”*

Steve Jobs





# Global Connections

“*You make life-long friends from around the world.*”

Devin Garrison '12

South Kent lives the philosophy of one global community. Boys have a unique opportunity to engage and learn with students from around the world.

Graduating from South Kent ensures lifetime membership in a richly diverse multicultural band of brothers where the friendships forged during years of living and working together transform after college into valuable business networking connections, internship and career opportunities, and travel options for families and children.

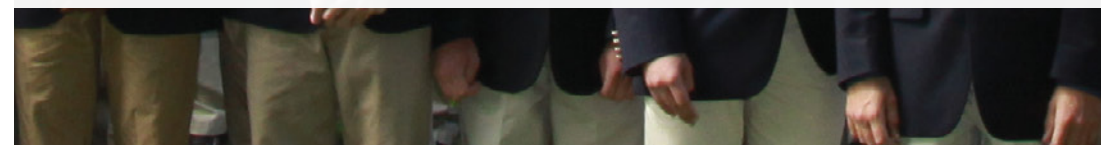
As technology continues to flatten our world, the value of a South Kent education only grows.

Bermuda  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Czech Republic  
DR Congo  
Finland  
France  
Ghana  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Italy  
Japan  
Kuwait  
Latvia  
Mexico  
Montenegro  
Russia  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
South Korea  
Spain  
Taiwan  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
USA  
Venezuela  
Vietnam



“*It's not that we broke the mold;  
we just don't use one.*”

Andrew Vadnais  
Head of School







## The South Kent Experience

develops young men who can **EVOLVE**  
and **ADAPT**, be **GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE** and  
**PREPARED** to meet the challenges posed by a  
changing natural environment.

Global. Learning. Environment.

(860) 927-3539 x201

[admissions@southkentschool.org](mailto:admissions@southkentschool.org)

Follow South Kent School on  
Facebook and Twitter



---

40 Bulls Bridge Road | South Kent, Connecticut 06785 | [www.southkentschool.org](http://www.southkentschool.org)