

School Profile

TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Administration

Dr. Howard J. Eberwein, Superintendent
Douglas McNally, Principal
Anthony Simonelli, Vice Principal
Gracemary O'Connell, Dean of Students

Guidance Department

Susan R. Pivero, Director
Jessica Iorio, Counselor
Sarah Maddalena, Counselor
Christine Salvie, Counselor
Diane Hunt, Registrar
Cindy Albert, Secretary

Mission Statement

The mission of Taconic High School is to provide a safe learning environment where students are challenged to work to their academic and social potentials in striving to become responsible global citizens.

Community

Pittsfield is a city of just under 45,000 residents located in the western part of Massachusetts. It is 37 miles east of Albany, NY and 130 miles west of Boston. Pittsfield was once almost completely dependent on industry. The decline of the manufacturing sector has dramatically changed the local economy and employment opportunities. Division Headquarters of SABIC Innovative Plastics (formerly GE Plastics) is located in Pittsfield as well as KB Toys National Headquarters. Other significant employers include Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Life Insurance Company, General Dynamics, Canyon Ranch of the Berkshires, Kimberly-Clark, and a number of small plastics firms. The city of Pittsfield has two public high schools and one alternative high school serving grades 9-12, two middle schools serving grades 6-8, and eight elementary schools serving grades K-5.

Taconic High School

Taconic High School has an enrollment of approximately 975 students. It is a comprehensive high school, fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Graduation Pathways

Students at Taconic High School explore pathways that are based on broad career areas of interest. All students take the same core academic subjects, letting the pathway direct their elective choices and community based activities to enhance their school experience. Pathways are generally grouped as follows:

Liberal Arts, Fine Arts

Academies offering concentration in Science and Engineering, Business Management, Information Technology, or Human Services

Technical/Vocational programs include Graphic Arts, Auto Mechanics, Auto Body, Carpentry Construction, Manufacturing Technology, Metal Fabrication, Culinary Arts, and Health Technology.

Work-Based Learning combines structured work experience in the community with academics.

Grade and Credit Information

Students are required to complete a pathway program, achieve passing scores on the MCAS exams, and achieve 244 total credits to graduate from Taconic High School.

Course grades and grade point averages are reported on a 100-point scale. The grade reported on the transcript is the actual grade the student receives in the course.

Grades are not weighted until they are used to compute the cumulative GPA each quarter.

Taconic High School uses a differential weighting system for calculation of GPA, honor roll, and rank in class that reflects the level of difficulty of the course. Advanced Placement (AP) courses have an add-on of six points, Honors (H) courses five points, and Intensive (I) courses three points. Non-labeled courses have two points added on if the final average is above an 88. The GPA required for quarterly high honors is 92 and honors is 88. Summer school and courses taken outside of Taconic High School, such as college courses, are recorded on the transcript, but are not included in the computation of the GPA.

Students receive credit for classes in which they have achieved a grade of 60 or higher. For every period that students are in a class each week they receive two credits. For example, if English meets one period a day, five days a week, a student earns ten credits.

Quality points are computed by taking the student's weighted grade and multiplying it by the number of credits received for the course. GPA is computed using the following formula:

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Total Quality Points}}{\text{Total Number of Credits}}$$

A student's rank in class is based on the GPA as computed using the above formula. In order to be officially ranked in class a student must be enrolled in the Pittsfield Public Schools for at least six consecutive semesters. Class rank is calculated to the nearest whole percentile.

Activities and Opportunities

A full range of extra-curricular options is offered to students at Taconic High School to encourage diverse experiences. The Taconic athletic program is comprised of nearly 30 teams competing in 20 varsity level programs and numerous junior varsity sports, and is proud of an excellent record of competition at the local, regional, and state levels. Our drama and music departments have garnered wide recognition for successful programs and productions, and academic and foreign language clubs have enjoyed travel opportunities nationally and worldwide. Activities are offered in school and after school to accommodate the varied interests of our students, ranging from academic groups such as Quiz Team and Business Professionals of America, to community service organizations such as Berkshire Youth United and the Environmental Club, to special interest clubs including WTBR Radio Club, Yearbook, Jazz Band, and Fly Fishing! The options are many and flexible to change each year as students express their unique interests.

PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2008

Graduates: 235		To 4-year State (Massachusetts) Supported Colleges	29
Attending 4-year colleges:	31.9%	To Other 4-year Colleges	46
Attending 2-year colleges:	47.2%	To 2-year State (Massachusetts) Supported Colleges	103
Other post-secondary education:	05.1%	To Other 2-year Colleges	8
		To Other Types of Post-secondary Schools	12
Continuing education beyond high school	84.25%	Total pursuing formal education beyond high school	198

Testing

PSAT: 191 students of the class of 2008 took the 2006 PSAT/NMSQT as juniors.

SAT: In the class of 2008, 124 students of the 235 graduates took the SAT. Mean scores were as follows:

	<u>Crit Read</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>
Taconic Class of 2008	477	496	486
Massachusetts	514	525	513
National	502	515	494

SAT II: Of the 235 graduates, 19 took one or more SAT II tests, totaling 38 tests. Average scores were:

Eng Lit	619	Math Lev 1	611	Math Lev 2	601
Chem	727	US Hist	585	Biology (E)	565
Span/Lis	490				

Advanced Placement: In 2008, 131 students at Taconic High School completed 201 AP exams. 36% scored 3 or higher

AP Course Offerings:

Biology	Calculus AB	English Lang/Comp
English Lit/Comp	European History	Latin – Lit.
Psychology	Spanish Language	Studio Art 3D Design
US History		

MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment)

54 students in the class of 2008 were recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

Post-Secondary Enrollment for the Class of 2008

Baran Institute of Technology	Herkimer County Community College	Southern New Hampshire University
Berkshire Community College	Hudson Valley Community College	Springfield College
Berkshire School	Husson College	Stark State College of Technology
Boston University	Johnson & Wales University	Suffolk University
Bryant & Stratton College	Lasell College	Universal Technical Institute
Bryant University	Marist College	University of Massachusetts
Champlain College	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	University of New England
Columbia-Greene Community College	Merimack College	University of New Hampshire
Connecticut Culinary Institute	Midwestern State University	University of New Haven
Elms College	Mount Holyoke College	University of Vermont
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Nichols College	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Emmanuel College	Northeastern University	Westfield State College
Endicott College	Rochester Institute of Technology	Williams College
Fairfield University	Seton Hall University	Williston-Northampton School
Fitchburg State College	Skidmore College	Winchendon School