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## School Profile 2016-2017

Upper School: 57B Armstrong Road, Plymouth MA 02360  
 Middle School: 6 Resnik Road, Plymouth MA 02360  
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 CEEB Code: 221788

Accreditation: Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
 MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Accountability and Assistance Level: **Level 1**  
 Overall School Performance Relative to Other MA Public Schools in Same School Type: **95th Percentile**  
 2016 Best Charter Public Schools in the Greater Boston area by Boston Magazine: **Ranked #2**

### School Overview

Rising Tide Charter Public School (Rising Tide) is a college preparatory public school serving grades 5-12. Located in Plymouth, MA, Rising Tide is approximately 38 miles south of Boston. Founded as a middle school by a group of Plymouth community members in 1998, Rising Tide is in the sixth year of an expansion to include the upper grades. Students in the class of 2017 will be the school's third group of high school graduates. In January 2013, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the third renewal of the school's charter. Now in its nineteenth year of operation, Rising Tide is in its fourth charter term. Rising Tide provides students with a structure of supportive relationships in a small-school environment that is physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe. In such a setting, students develop a love of learning and high achievement, take creative and intellectual risks, build increasing personal and academic responsibility, and develop an understanding of themselves and others.

### Approach to Teaching and Learning

At Rising Tide, teachers use an inquiry and skills-based approach to foster personal and academic growth in students. This approach encourages students to reflect, take responsibility, ask questions, and think critically. Through curriculum design and implementation, Rising Tide fosters the development of skills, the exploration of content knowledge, and the deepening of understanding. The curriculum at Rising Tide is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and guided by the school's Mission, the four Schoolwide Objectives and Benchmark Skills, the Grade Level Guiding Questions, and Essential Questions within each discipline. For further explanation of the curriculum at Rising Tide, please see the Program of Studies on the website.

### Schoolwide Objectives and Benchmark Skills

<b>Communicator</b>	<b>Self-Directed Learner</b>
Receptive Skills	Self-Awareness Skills
Expressive Skills	Skills in Taking Responsibility

<b>Investigator</b>	<b>Community Steward</b>
Inquiry Skills	Skills in Awareness of Others
Innovation Skills	Collaboration Skills

### Upper School Guiding Questions

Overall: Who am I?  
 Grade 9: How can we recognize and demonstrate courage?  
 Grade 10: How can we recognize and demonstrate integrity?  
 Grade 11: How can we be mindful of and prepare for the future?  
 Grade 12: What is my place in the world?

### 2016-2017 Student Enrollment

Total Enrollment, Grades 5-12: 665  
 Upper School Enrollment, Grades 9-12: 307  
 Size of Senior Class: 69

### 2016-2017 Upper School Teaching Faculty

Student-Teacher Ratio: 10:1  
 Teachers with Advanced Degrees: 80%

### Class of 2016 (41 Students) Test Scores

SAT; class participation: 93%

SAT Scores	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
RT 75th Percentile	600	610	590
RT 50th Percentile	550	530	540
Rising Tide Mean	542	529	537
MA Mean	517	530	506
National Mean	494	508	482

<b>SAT Subject Tests</b>	<b>AP Exams</b>
Class participation: 17%	Class participation: 32%
(7 students completed 19 tests)	(13 students completed 32 tests)
566 Average Score	3.32 Average Score

### Class of 2016 National Merit Scholars

1 National Merit Scholar Finalist  
 1 National Merit Scholar Commended Student

### Class of 2016 Graduates

College-Bound: 93%  
 Attending 4-Year Colleges: 76%  
 Attending 2-Year Colleges: 17%  
 Career, Military, Gap Year: 7%

**Graduation Requirements**

Twenty-eight (28) credits are required for graduation from the Upper School at Rising Tide. Full-year courses are one (1) credit; semester courses are a half (.5) credit.

Unique to Rising Tide, the Arts is considered a core discipline that supports student growth toward the Schoolwide Objectives and Benchmark Skills.

Each student must meet the Competency Determination standard set by the Massachusetts DESE in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science & Technology/Engineering. Students must also complete two (2) credits of Physical Education.

**Core Courses**

Arts	3 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
World Languages	3 credits in one language

**Schedule**

The Upper School operates on a four-term rotating block schedule. Students are expected to take eight (8) courses per semester. Each day consists of four (4) 85-minute blocks with courses meeting on alternate days.

**Program Rigor and Grading**

All students are held to high standards and are provided with a rigorous program. We consider the majority of the courses at Rising Tide to be honors-level courses in comparison with courses at traditional public schools in the region; however, courses at Rising Tide are not leveled and therefore have no designated level on the transcript.

Each student is able to participate in more rigorous course pathways in Mathematics, Science, and Latin. A student may also choose to participate in courses that extend beyond the minimum graduation requirements of a discipline, and choose elective courses that demonstrate individual interests.

A student's grade point average (GPA) is not weighted, and students are not ranked. A grade of B+ or above exceeds standard expectations for a course. All completed core and elective courses, for grades 9-11, are included in the GPA.

**Grading Scale**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+
4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3
C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

**Additional Program Components**

**Academic Support**

All students are provided two 45-minute blocks each week in which they can meet with faculty members for additional support or extension. During the block, students can engage with teachers in one-on-one work or small-group practice and exploration; students can also engage with one another through peer tutoring or academic collaboration. Academic Support is not a credit-bearing course.

**Advisory Program**

Each student has a faculty Advisor, the primary advocate for the student within the school. Students meet in grade-level Advisory groups of around 12 students two to three times a week. In Advisory, students explore a curriculum connected to a Guiding Question that addresses orientation to the school, student skills, community-building, wellness, and service learning. Advisory is not a credit-bearing course.

**Elective Courses**

Each student can select up to three semester-long elective courses per year. Offerings are based on faculty expertise. Fall 2016 elective offerings are the following courses: Ancient Greek, Chamber Ensemble, Child Development, Computer Programming, Computer Science, Creative Writing, Engineering, Fantasy Literature, Fashion Design, Human Origins, Infrared Astronomy, Journalism, Local Fisheries, Middle Eastern Studies, Movement Studies, Paleobiology, Personal Finance, Playmaking, Poetry, Public Health, Public Speaking, Robotics, and Visual Art Portfolio Workshop.

**Internship Course**

Seniors can participate in a semester-long course that combines academic, skills-based learning with an internship in the field of their choice. Fall 2016 placements are with the following organizations: Bay Farm Montessori, Beacon Hospice, Center Stage Dance, Destination Plymouth, Forefront Systems LLC, Glynn Electric, Guilty Bakery, the Office of State Senator Vinny DeMacedo, the Plymouth Antiquarian Society, and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

**Physical Education**

Each student participates in a semester-long fitness course each year at Plymouth Fitness, a local fitness club and partner organization. Students rotate through modules within the course, including HD Fitness, Spinning, and Pilates, with a focus on setting and achieving individual fitness goals. Fitness is a credit-bearing course.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Athletics

Rising Tide is a member of the Cape & Islands League within the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). The Rising Tide Herons compete at the varsity level in baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, and softball. As of 2016-2017, students also compete at the varsity level in tennis as well as a football cooperative.

### Clubs

Each student can participate in the following 2016-2017 clubs: Community Action, Dance, Debate, Gaming, History, Junior Classical League, Laptop Transport Crew, Math, Model UN, Music, National Honor Society, Newspaper, Philosophy, Rising for Equality, Science, Student Government, and Yearbook.

### Theater Productions

Rising Tide runs two to three after-school theater productions per year and is a member of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild. The Fall 2016 production is *Twelfth Night*; past productions include *The Laramie Project*, *Property Rites*, *Check Please!*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

## Class of 2015 and 2016 College Acceptances

Allegheny College	High Point University	Simmons College
American Academy of Dramatic Arts	International Christian University - Japan*	Smith College
American International University-London	Ithaca College	Springfield College
Anna Maria College	James Madison University*	Stonehill College*
Arizona State University*	Johnson State College	Suffolk University
Assumption College	Juniata College*	SUNY Morrisville State College
Bard College*	Lasell College*	Townson University
Bay Path University*	Lawrence Technological University*	University of Connecticut
Becker College	Lesley University	University of Maine
Bentley University*	Maine Maritime Academy	University of Massachusetts - Amherst*
Boston College*	Marquette University	University of Massachusetts - Boston*
Boston University	Marymount Manhattan College	University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth*
Brenau University	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts*	University of Massachusetts - Lowell*
Bridgewater State University*	MCPHS University*	University of Miami
Brockton School of Nursing	Massachusetts Maritime Academy*	University of New England
Cape Cod Community College*	Massasoit Community College*	University of New Hampshire*
Champlain College	McGill University*	University of North Carolina - Asheville
Clark University	Mitchell College	University of North Dakota
College of Charleston	Murray State University	University of Rhode Island*
College of the Atlantic	Northeastern University*	University of Richmond
College of Wooster	Pennsylvania State University	University of the Sciences
Colorado College	Pine Manor College*	University of Vermont*
Connecticut College	Principia College*	Ursinus College
Cordon Bleu/Cambridge*	Providence College	Virginia Tech
Curry College	Quincy College*	Virginia Wesleyan College
Dean College*	Quinnipiac University	Wellesley College
Delaware Valley University*	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Eckerd College	Rivier University*	Westchester Community College*
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*	Rochester Institute of Technology	Westfield State University*
Emmanuel College*	Roger Williams University	Westminster College
Endicott College	Saint Anselm College	Wheaton College*
Fitchburg State University*	Saint John's University	Wheelock College*
Florida Institute of Technology	Saint Michael's College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Franklin Pierce University*	Saint Olaf College*	Worcester State University
Full Sail University*	Salem State University	Xavier University
George Mason University	Savannah College of Art and Design	
Haverford College*	School of the Museum of Fine Arts	*Denotes matriculation

## Rising Tide Mission

The Rising Tide Charter Public School will provide a strong academic program rooted in the history of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our students will harvest opportunity from the practice of language, the reasoning of mathematics, the analysis of science and the reflection of history. We want children to hone skills through rigorous studies, but skills alone do not make a whole education. The Rising Tide Charter Public School will also cultivate within its students a sense of belonging to our community, a tie with those who have come before them and a seed of continuity between the Plymouth of today and the Plymouth of tomorrow. The Rising Tide Charter Public School will graduate capable and prepared young adults who have already sown within themselves a sense of place and belonging that will be the bounty of the future, whether they remain among us or venture from our harbor.