

HYDE

schools



College Preparatory
Bath, Maine • Woodstock, Connecticut

Build your Family on principles, not hopes

I didn't see how we were supposed to be a family.

Where was I supposed to put the weight of my **trust**?

Every five minutes my parents *changed the rules*.

I look back from where I grew up and I remember just picking raspberries and lying out in the garden and *being home*.

I don't know what happened.

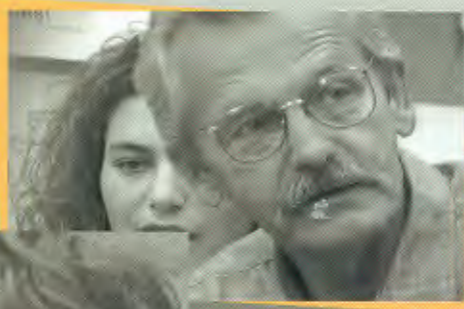
I kept hoping things would **change**.

If I could just get over this edge.

The **FIRST TIME** I ever saw my dad cry, it blew me away.

And then this silence:

I saw what he had grown up with.



When my parents brought me through the front gate of Hyde I was kicking and screaming inside.

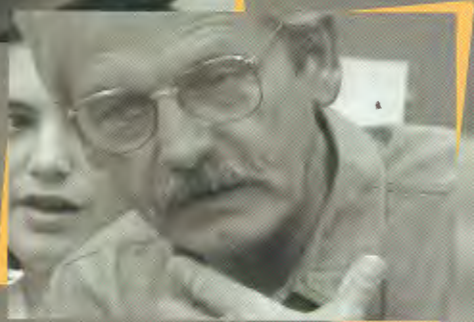
But gradually I began to transcend my self-absorption.

I let go of a lot.

I reached out to my family.

I got a glimpse of what I am capable of.

I learned to value the truth.





What is the center of your family?

Is it a person?

When one person holds
the focus of a family,
the whole structure collapses.

Crisis.

Do you want to be a real family?

Then go after the truth.

Raise the expectations.

Set your sights high
and don't go backwards.

You can repattern what happens.
But it won't come to pass
without struggle.

The truth isn't negotiable.

If it's not your issue, don't solve it.

Rebuild your family on principles,
not hopes.

Be vulnerable.

Live your principles.

Inspire change.

I think we've **done** enough.

My son is trying to live life
ON HIS OWN TERMS and it
just doesn't work that way.

Sometimes I just want to shake him
and shout, "*Hello! Hello! Is anyone in there?*"

We don't know what happened.

It seems like she was just a kid,
out in the garden with berry stains on her face.

I've been a parent since I was about two years old.

Such a responsible person,
RESPONSIBLE for the whole world.

I don't know who *I am*.

And a year from now we won't be on the same page.

Can we **care enough** to challenge each other?



graduation

"As I look over my past four years at Hyde, I have seen myself achieve goals I never thought possible. I have gotten a glimpse of what I am capable of. I now view myself as a strong, motivated young woman with some direction in life. I don't worry about what the road ahead will be like, because I have learned to value the truth. I hope to hold my own integrity sacred once I pass through these gates."

hyde schools

At most schools, the goal is simple: Teach kids what they need to know to get into college. Strive for high academic standing. Get good test scores. Round out the picture with some varsity sports and community projects.

Works great in theory, but it bypasses a central truth: All kids are different. Abilities, obstacles, inner strengths and family dynamics all play an ongoing part in shaping and defining personal success. What looks good on a test score doesn't necessarily translate into a confident, truthful, intelligent human being operating at his or her fullest potential.

That's where Hyde Schools come in. We believe that school is a very personal proposition and that character development must form the deepest framework for education. Schools which value standardized ability over individual character cheat the student of chances to gain confidence and self-knowledge.

Hyde Schools are college preparatory schools where individual needs, challenges and dreams form the blueprint of education. Here, attitude is valued over aptitude, effort over ability, and character over talent. We have a highly structured curriculum and a demanding code of ethics. We choose students on the basis of their commitment to uncover and nurture their highest potential—whatever that may be.

We ask that entire families take part in this awe-inspiring process of character-based education, believing that parents are essential role models for character. We make a distinction between academics and intellectual development. While we help students learn historical dates and algebraic equations, we also help them filter ideas through their own minds and help them develop moral reasoning. At Hyde, it is more important to "get smart" than to be "born smart."

Athletics, performing arts and community service aren't in the margins of education; they are co-curricular measures of personal achievement. Because Hyde is a place of pushing limits, all students become athletes and performers, academicians and wilderness explorers.

You can't hide from yourself at Hyde. But, if you are willing to do the work, you can *find* yourself here.

family curriculum

Character First™ education unfolds uniquely for each family. However, without deep parental commitment, most Hyde students won't reach their fullest potential. That is because parents are the greatest teachers and the family is the most influential classroom. To model and inspire character, each member of a Hyde student's family is asked to continually address their attitudes, issues, values and deeper purpose in life—just as the students are doing.

To support families in this process, we have created a Family Program that helps build committed partnerships between family and school. The program includes a wide base of engagement for parents—both on campus and in their own regions. There are four components to the Family Program:

1. Hyde parents attend one three-day seminar at the Family Learning Center on campus, participating in the same kinds of activities and personal reflection as their children. Family Learning Centers are also conducted at the Black Wilderness Preserve.
2. Regional Meetings of Hyde parents are held monthly in locales across the country, to allow parents to follow the parent curriculum together.
3. Each year, two weekends are set aside as Family Weekends, a rich, structured opportunity for parents to interact on campus with children, other family members and faculty. A Sibling Program offered during Family Weekend gives young family members a taste of the Hyde experience through arts and hands-on activities.
4. Regional Retreats are held yearly in each region—providing parents with a relaxed, natural environment to further the personal work they have begun in regional groups.

It can be a challenging idea to let go of traditional notions of parental responsibility. However, since the Family Program began in 1977, countless parents have said that Hyde's family curriculum gave them relief from dead-end patterns of miscommunication and helped them build stronger relationships with their children based on mutual respect and honesty.



two campuses

Hyde operates two private boarding campuses. The original school in Bath, ME was founded in 1966 by educator Joseph Gault. A second campus, in Woodstock, CT was founded in 1996, in response to a growing demand for Hyde's character-based education. Each campus uniquely reflects the local environment. The academic programming and day-to-day activities that support Character First™ education are equally in action at both.



core curriculum

A typical academic program might look like this:

freshman

English 9, Algebra 1, World Cultures, Language 1, Earth Science, Art 1 (photography, video or art)

sophomore

English 10, Geometry, World History, Biology, Language 2, Art 2 (pottery, painting, printmaking)

junior

English 11, Algebra 2, U.S. or Twentieth Century History, Language 3, Chemistry, Philosophy, Art 2 (advanced photography, advanced video)

senior

English 12, Government and World Religions, Calculus, Physics or Advanced Biology, Advanced Language, Philosophy, Advanced Art

curriculum

Character isn't something you develop in isolation. You carry it with you into the classroom, onto the playing field, into the cafeteria. Accordingly, the principles of *Character First™* education pervade all pursuits at Hyde. Self-confidence, discipline, motivation and honesty are inspired through a rigorous curriculum of academics, athletics, performing arts, community service and personal development.

Governance at the campuses is based on a student-fueled democracy. Students take responsibility for the performance of their peers as well as themselves. Some of Hyde's most valuable lessons occur in the athletic program, which affords all students the opportunity to participate in competitive sports, regardless of natural ability, in an atmosphere where personal effort and team unity count just as much as winning.

The performing arts program encourages creativity and risk-taking among everyone at Hyde. Each year, faculty and students together audition, rehearse and perform a stage production. Parents also get a moment in the spotlight, performing a short skit for the whole school during Family Weekend.

All students belong to Discovery Groups—small, weekly counseling groups, composed of students from mixed class levels. Facilitated by experienced faculty members, these forums are the place where personal issues are shared and lessons internalized.

Hyde's rigorous curriculum requires students to work together in daily jobs, contributing to some aspect of the school's maintenance. As students witness each other's struggles and victories on a daily basis, a very close-knit community develops.



academics

Students at Hyde don't learn subject matter in a vacuum. We ask kids to bring their deepest selves into the classroom, believing that intellectual growth is connected to the soul's journey. In journal-writing assignments, personal portfolios and team-learning projects, students learn to value their own experiences and those of their classmates as a filter for understanding global ideas.

We also believe that knowledge is an instrument, not an artifact. Our academic discipline reflects the interrelatedness of knowledge and its connection to the world. *System Phoenix™*—our academic skills program developed in a partnership with Alberta's Calgary Academy—



is a systematic approach to learning based on the knowledge that every student can master a foundation of academic skills, no matter his/her innate ability. Hyde students learn to break down intellectual work into essential skills—interpretive, analytical, visual, memory, judgment—and to apply them to all courses. In the process, perceived divisions about subject matters begin to dissolve and limiting beliefs about one's own ability fade. Students prepare for the transition to college by learning practical, transferable skills, such as note-taking, outlining, memorization, computer literacy and composition.

The Hyde classroom is a unique place. Hyde teachers possess both high academic credentials and a deep fluency in interpersonal dynamics. Passionate and demanding, they bring their honest selves into the classroom, serving as dynamic role models for both the personal and academic curricula. Our 7-1 student/teacher ratio enables us to individualize each student's

program with challenges and benchmarks. Hyde students take a lot of responsibility for what happens in the classroom—organizing tutoring sessions for classmates who are falling behind, evaluating their own work, helping to develop the curricula that will determine their progress through the different class levels. The “we-they” mentality of students at war with teachers simply doesn't exist here.

At least seven hours a day are devoted to academics, including a mandatory two-hour evening study hall. Class sizes are small, personalized and uniquely focused on the potential of each student. Depending on a student's individual academic program, either four or five courses are required per semester.

Starting junior year, students meet regularly with the Director of College Placement to begin shaping the college application process. By senior year, each student has a carefully defined application plan.



Character is inspir not taught



I realized I had a huge ego.

I didn't want any help from anyone.

And then *I felt* the person on the inside.

THAT WAS HUMBLING.

I realized **there's a lot more in me**
than the person I portrayed.

I watched my parents hit rock bottom.

They *inspired* me by pulling through.

I began to see obstacles as
opportunities to grow.

Painful, but always leading to a
better place.

No matter how dismal things have gotten,
deep down I have had the
strength to make it.

EVERY SMALL VICTORY

I always had a rebel spirit.

It saved me.

Wrapped in sarcasm, I laughed off my mistakes.

*I fought invisible battles
of ego and fear.*

Surrender came reluctantly.

*A dazzling humility
to be so exposed*

*And win
respect.*



ed,

I was stuck and I used to say to myself,
"Why am I here?
Why can't I get out of this?"

It's because I did the same thing
over and over again.

My desire for instant results made
me shortcut my integrity.

If we're going to **grow**,
we owe each other the work
it's going to take to get there.

I realize this is **TOUGH**,
the bar keeps getting raised.

We can't help what we're given,
but we can **choose** what we own.

That's what character is about.

We're going to hold you **responsible**
for your part and you hold us
responsible for ours.

I'd never know anything about you if all
we ever did was go to the beach.

Sometimes it's the smallest realizations that
fill me with awe.



*Character disintegrates
in the smallest ways:*

Sidestepped conflict.

A feeling squelched.

Truth avoided.

Because there isn't enough time

or enough of you

or even the words

to insist on what you believe.

And after a while,

you forget what you believe

until you're unbelievably tangled.

**Retracing your steps to find your
beliefs takes COURAGE.**

**INTEGRITY is something
that can be recovered
one piece at a time.**

**It takes the tough and loving
CONCERN of others to bring
you back to yourself.**

**When pride is disarmed, your
natural CURIOSITY will take over.**

**LEADERSHIP flows from a deep
sense of life purpose.**



"No one ever asked more of me than when I was on the Hyde basketball team. I couldn't understand why everyone expected so much, because I'm not really built for the game. But when I asked the coach to let me leave the team because I didn't believe I had the ability, he wouldn't let me. He made me realize how hard I could work by betting on my potential. That gives me a lot of pride."

athletics

Hyde Schools look at athletics as the perfect laboratory for character development. Since students learn to value best effort over performance, "the bar" is always set higher than what can be accomplished. This on-going challenge instills a true respect for competition, whether the opponent is a classmate, another school's team, or your toughest challenger—you.

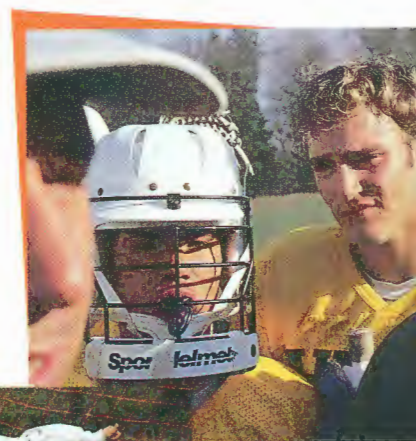
All students participate in competitive athletics, at levels commensurate with their individual abilities and attitudes. In the athletic arena, evaluations are based on effort, team unity and personal achievement, so every athlete has the opportunity to be successful at Hyde.

Personal effort can build tremendous team momentum—we call it "synergy"—as ambition spreads to all participants. It has helped Hyde teams to win state and New England championships in wrestling, basketball, track, cross-country running, soccer and lacrosse.

The underlying philosophy is the same at both Hyde Schools campuses, with minor differences in sports offerings. The Woodstock, CT campus includes a hockey program and martial arts, and the Bath, ME campus offers crew and cross-country skiing. Athletics are scheduled from three until five each weekday, with competitions usually scheduled on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

All students participate in athletics at either a Varsity or Junior Varsity level:

- Football
- Soccer
- Cross-Country Running
- Wrestling
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Dance
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Lacrosse
- Crew
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Martial Arts





performing arts

Hyde's inspiring Performing Arts Program was one of the first things to put our school on the map. It began in 1976, when Hyde students staged *America's Spirit*, a salute to the bicentennial. An original portrayal of American history with a message of hope, the show traveled around the country—even playing on Broadway.

Today, the Performing Arts Program takes its cue from the unfolding drama of Hyde families' lives. Each year, students and faculty work together to create an original show, based on the experiences and interests of each group of students. It's a challenging context for overcoming fears and uncovering hidden talents.

Students undertake all aspects of production—from scriptwriting, to lighting design, to choreography, to final performance. They learn to set up and operate lighting and sound equipment. By the time the show is mounted in the spring—usually during Family Weekend—students have spent a full semester in its creation.

Parents get their moment in the spotlight too, creating a short skit with other parents in regional groups during Family Weekend, which they perform for the entire Hyde community. It's inspiring for kids to watch their parents face the same risks that have characterized their own performing arts experience—and the attempt always brings laughter, mutual respect, and new perspectives.

Among the elective classes that support the Performing Arts Program are modern dance, acting, directing, improvisation and vocal ensemble.

"It was incredibly hard for me to get on stage and sing a solo. In my mind, the whole room was spinning. I'll always be proud I did that, but the thing I'll never forget is seeing Dad on stage. If you had told me a year ago that my father would actually do a big show number for 300 people I would have said you were nuts. That's what this place does—it really stretches your ideas about what's possible."



a typical day

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 7:30 Sweep out Student Activities Barn
- 8:00 English
- 8:50 Algebra II
- 9:40 Painting
- 10:30 Announcements
- 10:50 U.S. History
- 11:40 Chemistry
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Discovery Groups, Journal-writing
- 3:15 Martial Arts
- 4:00 Women's Junior Varsity Basketball games vs. Gould Academy
- 5:00 Varsity Wrestling Match vs. Tabor Academy
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:30 Study Hall
- 10:00 In Dorms
- 10:30 Lights Out

bath, maine

The first Hyde School was established in 1966 at the Bath, Maine campus, on the former estate of shipbuilder John S. Hyde. Classrooms and offices are housed in the historic mansion and carriage house, with new dormitories, conference center, student union, recreational activities center and performing arts building nestled around the estate. The campus extends over 145 acres and includes three playing fields, an all-weather track, indoor tennis courts, basketball courts and a gymnasium-field house.

Visiting parents can be accommodated at the Family Learning Center, an on-campus conference center and dormitory. A spiritual center overlooking the duck pond offers a quiet place for meditation.

The coastal city of Bath, Maine is a 45-minute drive from Portland International Jetport and a 2 1/2 hour drive north of Boston.



woodstock, connecticut

The Woodstock, Connecticut campus opened in 1996, in response to a growing demand for Hyde's *Character First™* curriculum. The Woodstock campus includes college-preparatory students as well as 7th and 8th graders.

Situated on the grounds of a former Catholic women's college, the 120-acre campus includes spacious classroom buildings, student union, dining hall, 200-room dormitory facilities, two playing fields and a practice field. A new gymnasium built in 1998 includes weight and wrestling rooms and basketball courts.

One of the Woodstock campus's unique features is a state-of-the-art 1,000-seat theater, former home of the New England Opera Company. The Performing Arts Program benefits from the theater's sophistication.

Set in the rolling farmland of northeastern Connecticut, Woodstock is a haven of open fields and peaceful woodlands. The campus is a 1 1/2-hour commute from Boston, Providence or Hartford and only 25 miles from the Sturbridge Village exit of the Massachusetts Turnpike.

summer challenge

Most incoming students participate in an introductory term, called the Hyde Summer Challenge, which builds a personal and academic foundation for the coming year.

Self-confidence, discipline, motivation and honesty are inspired through a variety of hands-on academic and athletic activities. Students unearth their potential while camping, canoeing and hiking with trained faculty members at Hyde's own Black Wilderness Preserve in northern Maine. Musical, dance and dramatic performances are interwoven with intensive personal development during peer counseling groups. At the Bath campus, a ropes course lets students push themselves beyond their perceived limits and develop trust in others.

The program concludes during Family Weekend, when parents come to campus to examine family dynamics and set action steps for the future.

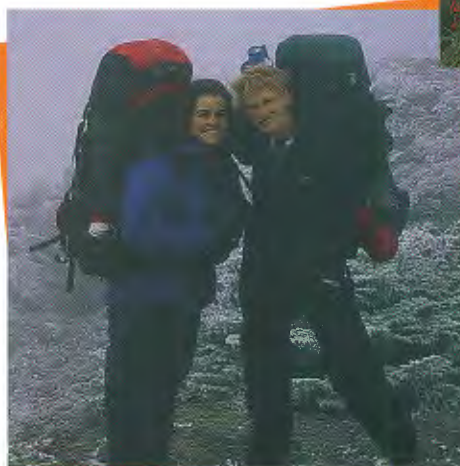
wilderness program

The outdoors is the ideal classroom, where lessons of nature allow us to reflect on our own rhythm and process. Exploration of the natural world also offers a challenging backdrop for developing character—perseverance, ingenuity, leadership and courage are all called into play.

Hyde is fortunate to have an outdoor classroom in our 600-acre Black Wilderness Preserve, a pristine tract of Maine woodlands bordering Flagstaff Lake in Eustis. This wilderness area is an important year-round classroom for all Hyde students and their families, a place where groups meet to deepen the work begun on campus. By the light of stars and campfires some of our clearest truths reveal themselves.

A full-time wilderness program staff assists in several kinds of programs:

- Wilderness Family Learning Centers—Offered several times a year, these programs challenge families to gain new perspectives while hiking, camping and canoeing in the wilderness.



typical wilderness day

- 6:00 Wake up, swim in the lake
- 6:30 Build campfire, assign teams for cooking/cleaning
- 7:00 Break down camp, review day's challenges
- 7:30 Review map and compass, hit the trail
- 9:00 Elevation gain of 1,000 ft.
- 10:00 Moose spotted
- 12:00 Eat lunch, review group goals
- 12:30 Two students tell their life histories
- 2:00 Connect up with Appalachian Trail
- 5:00 Reach designated camp, assemble teams
- 6:00 Cook dinner
- 7:00 Seminar Circle, review what went well, what didn't
- 8:00 Get in sleeping bags, watch meteor shower

- Outpost Programs—These five-day character-building intensive sessions help students focus on priorities and uncover deeper opportunities for emotional growth.
- Adventure Programs—Ambitious treks through some of New England's most beautiful mountains, these programs give small groups of motivated students an unforgettable outdoor challenge.

All seminars and outdoor adventures are led by trained Hyde staff. Base camp includes a colony of yurts—handmade by Hyde students and faculty—which serve as cozy, rustic accommodations year-round.

Academic power is in your attitude

It seemed to me that
school was rigged.

If I couldn't win the game, I'd wreck it.

I got rejected at three schools
and I knew at that point
it was not Dad's **FAULT**.

It took me a long time to
want to make the **effort**.

In a weird way,
it was the rebel in me who's now the leader.

I wouldn't have **pushed myself**
without everyone else.

The deeper I examine myself,
the easier it is to **connect** to a wider world.

The biggest thing I'll take from this place
is that it doesn't matter how smart you are.

What matters is the amount of work you **PUT INTO IT**.

There are some things I'm probably not going to know.

Maybe **purpose** comes
from the quietest **truth**.



Academic success doesn't really mean anything if you don't feel smart. Hyde taught me about discipline and pushing myself and getting my head out of my own way. That's what made me realize how smart I am, and it helped me reach academic goals I never dreamed of.



On the first day,
I see them trying to figure out
what they think I want.

After the next few classes,
most students are fuming

Because the class isn't about **me**, or even about the subject

IT'S ABOUT THEM

learning how to speak the
different languages of thinking,

stretching their **understanding**

a romance with their own minds.

When they experience that spark,
the soul enters the classroom

and **true learning begins.**

Your academic power
is in your attitude,
not your aptitude.

Your attitude expresses
itself in every gesture.

Excellence can be a
chain reaction.

If nothing else,
you can expect fairness.

Your words stay with me.

Once you know something,
you can't un-know the truth.

We're all struggling with fear.

I expect more than you
think you can ever deliver.

I believe in your best.

Do you know what that feels like?