



THE TURNING POINT

The Turning Point

OAK HILL ACADEMY



W E L C O M E T O T H E T U R N I N G P O I N T

IF you're reading this, you've probably been concerned about your child's social and academic situation for a while. We understand and congratulate you for acting on those concerns.

You want your child to be happy and to have healthy, positive relationships. You know your child can achieve more in school. You want your child to have a promising future and to care about what happens next in life. We understand. And we can help.

For more than a century, Oak Hill Academy has served as a turning point for young men and women in grades 8–12 at all levels of academic ability. Teenagers, like yours, who are good deep down inside but have encountered situations in school, peer or family relationships that have hindered their ability to succeed.

Our highly structured curriculum and environment, which challenge the brightest students and encourage those who are underachieving, are based on four beliefs:

1. Deep down inside, all children are good.
2. Regardless of academic ability, every child is capable of success.
3. All children would rather succeed than fail.
4. Once a child gets a taste of success, he or she will want more.

Four simple beliefs. One dramatic result. A Turning Point in your child's life. And, maybe, in yours.



Oak Hill offers all general and college preparatory courses required by the Virginia Department of Education for completion of high school, including a complete fine arts program for students interested in art, music and drama. Our faculty consists of dedicated and well-trained teachers, several of whom have advanced degrees. Well over 90% of Oak Hill Academy graduates continue on to college and a college counselor is on staff to help students find—and be accepted by—the right school.



THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE



YOU may be able to look back on a moment of discovery in your life. A moment when something murky and complex suddenly became clear. A moment when you discovered that you had solved a problem—and realized you had the ability to solve others. Everything we do is designed to replicate that moment for every Oak Hill student. Over and over and over again.

It's why we have small class sizes so teachers can build relationships and offer personalized instruction serving as personal academic mentors and teaching beyond classroom management.

It's why we have a rigorous study schedule to build discipline and push our students toward good habits.

It's why progress is closely monitored and extra help and academic support are always readily available.

It's why our students and teachers celebrate moments of discovery. Together.

Slowly but surely, our students—and their parents—notice things they haven't seen before. Like discipline. Self-confidence. Motivation. Pride. Things that clearly mark a Turning Point.

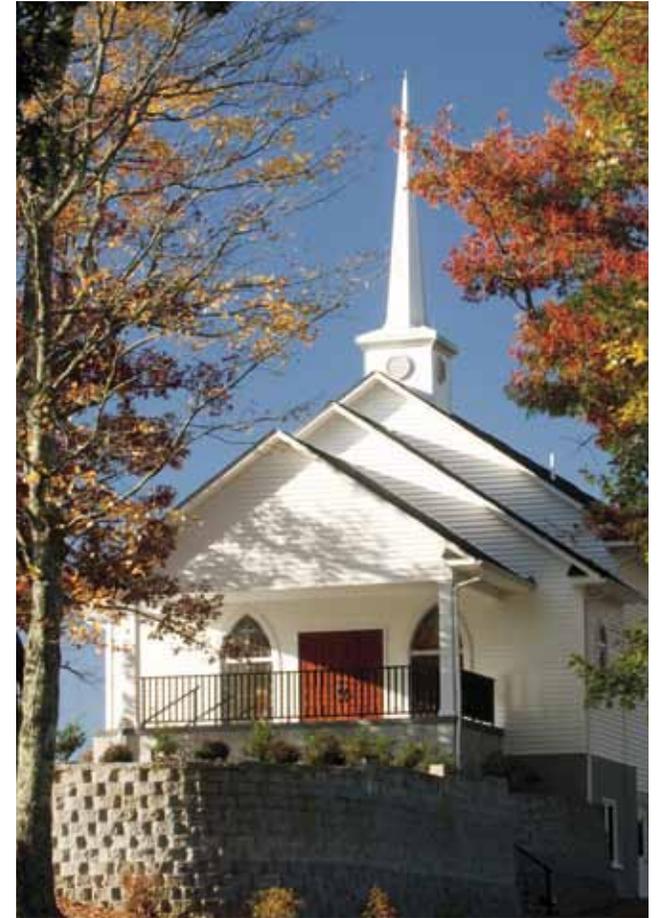


On class size at Oak Hill: "At Oak Hill there is no 'back of the classroom'. You get the teachers' full attention and they have yours."

On the teacher that has impacted her most: "My math teacher has opened up the world of math to me with her patience and high expectations. I now have the confidence to even like math!"

On the biggest difference she has found from her previous school: "The biggest difference between my old school and Oak Hill is that teachers hold you accountable for completing assignments—they won't let you slide. They know who you are and what approach works best for you."

*Ali P., Freshman
Chillicothe, Ohio
Plans after Oak Hill: College*



Regular interaction with people from other walks of life, countries and faiths is an important part of the Oak Hill Experience. Our diverse student body has included students from across the country and around the world, including students from England, Korea, Canada, Japan, France, Switzerland, China, Africa, and the Carribean. And, while Oak Hill is a Baptist-affiliated school, our class schedules, weekly chapel services and foodservice facilities accommodate the needs of students of all faiths.





At Oak Hill, respect is very important. Not just respect of teachers by students, but also respect of students by teachers. When it comes to students from different cultures and faiths, we are experienced at accommodating their needs and helping them adjust to life in their new climate. We're proud of our Baptist heritage and experience with our diverse student body and believe both greatly enhance the growth of our students. You can trust that when you send your child to Oak Hill Academy, he or she will receive a warm welcome and find a new home that is structured, comfortable and accepting.

Dr. Michael Groves

President

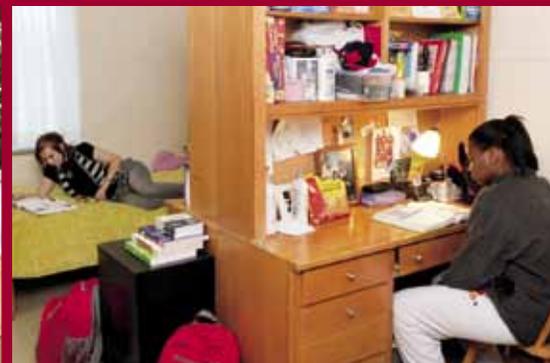
LIFE AT OAK HILL:



There are five dorms on the Oak Hill campus, complete with live-in resident managers. Weekend activities that take advantage of the natural surroundings include hiking, canoeing, tubing and picnics on the nearby New River. The campus features horseback riding trails, athletic facilities and Noonkester Park, with its own lake and covered cookout/social area. Three dances, a Fall Festival, movies and several home baseball, basketball and soccer games round out the Oak Hill social calendar. The A.J. Fletcher Chapel hosts a variety of cultural activities including visiting musicians and dance troupes.



DISCIPLINE, RESPECT AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME



THERE'S something special that happens to a teenager when he or she goes to live away from home for the first time. Once the shock of the change in surroundings wears off, students look around and find themselves part of a community.

A community of peers who live together and share the same responsibilities—from doing their own laundry to cleaning their rooms, preparing for class and being on time. A community where getting along doesn't end with the day's classes and where tight friendships are forged as students help each other grow intellectually and morally.

A community of administrators and resident managers who become actively involved in each student's life, setting clear, caring boundaries for behavior—and consistently delivering consequences when those boundaries are violated. The boundaries demonstrate that they care; the consistency demonstrates they can be trusted. At Oak Hill, administrators are seen as authority figures, but they're also seen as supporters.

Living at Oak Hill means growing at Oak Hill. It means learning personal responsibility and integrity. Respect for authority and an understanding of how to interact with it. Understanding the difference between self-expression and self-destruction. And getting a head start in life as an independent adult.



On life at Oak Hill: "Living at a boarding school has helped me build a sense of educational confidence as well as a strong dedication to reach the goals I have set for myself. As always, it was difficult leaving home for an elongated period of time. Yet in a short amount of time you easily become integrated into the family of the Oak Hill student body."

On the teacher that has most inspired him: "The faculty member that has inspired me most is my math teacher. She has taught me that if I give respect in time I will earn respect. As well I have learned that if I don't do what I'm supposed to do there will be consequences."

*Kyler R., Senior
Goldsboro, North Carolina
Plans after Oak Hill: College*



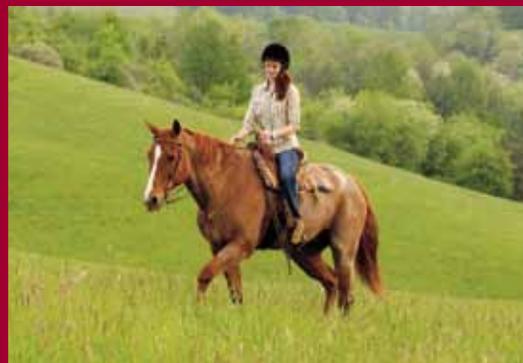
On life at Oak Hill: "Living in a boarding school has made me more independent than before. Especially as an international student I have learned how to communicate with my peers. I have also learned things such as friendship and how to solve problems myself."

*Zeyu J., Senior
Beijing, China
Plans after Oak Hill: College*

In addition to school teams, students can also participate in intramural programs for football, basketball, tennis, weightlifting and running. But extracurricular activities at Oak Hill aren't limited to sports. Our drama program stages its own performances in the campus theatre and takes field trips to performances at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia. Opportunities to have leadership skills are found in several clubs and service groups such as youth group and student government.



PREPARING FOR A LIFE OF COMPETITION



WHEN people prepare for competition in life, they tend to either shrink away from it or rise to it. The athletic and extracurricular programs at Oak Hill complement our academic programs by teaching students the value of meeting life's challenges head on. Whether on the court, in the horse ring, on the field, on stage or in the classroom, every Oak Hill student is coached to believe in his or her own ability to succeed. They're also taught to respect their competitors and to understand that even defeats are rich with opportunities for learning and personal growth.

It's why our nationally ranked men's basketball teams have won several national championships, with players consistently recruited by the nation's top universities and the NBA. And why the Oak Hill women's basketball program is headed in the same direction.

It's why our equestrian program is one of the finest in the southeast. In fact, all Oak Hill teams—baseball, basketball, equestrian, volleyball, tennis, soccer and cheerleading—are highly competitive and can take on the best our brother and sister schools have to offer.

Gaining confidence in personal value and abilities. Giving 100% every time. Celebrating victories and learning from defeats. Whether or not they compete athletically, every Oak Hill student learns how to compete in life—and how to turn any challenge into a Turning Point.



On his growth at Oak Hill: "While living at Oak Hill I've learned to be more independent and handle situations on my own. I've also learned to live with boundaries and this has made me more productive and focused."

On academic support at Oak Hill: "All of my teachers and coaches have pushed me into a stronger work ethic. I go harder than I thought I could. At Oak Hill, all the teachers take your success personally."

On what he'll remember about Oak Hill: "The thing I'll always remember about Oak Hill is being pushed to do more than I thought I could."

King S., Freshman

Munster, Indiana

Plans after Oak Hill: College



On coming to Oak Hill: "Since coming to Oak Hill I don't rely on my parents. I've become more independent and think about my choices."

On academics at Oak Hill: "The structure Oak Hill provides allows me to plan my day and actually do the schoolwork that I set out to do. Since coming to Oak Hill I am now a college bound student. My grades have improved and I was given a second chance to figure things out."

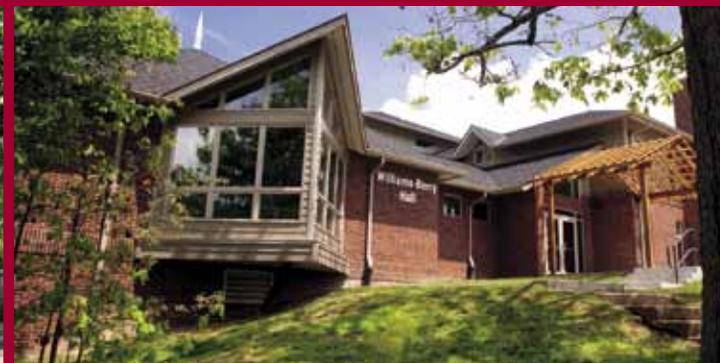
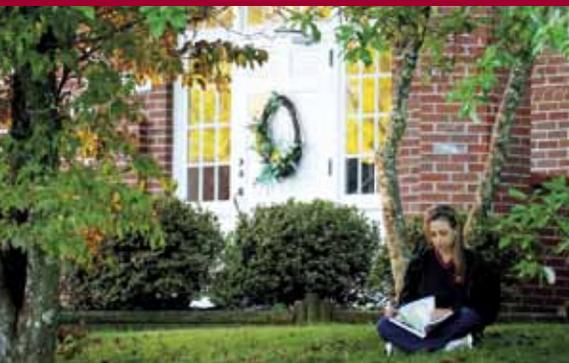
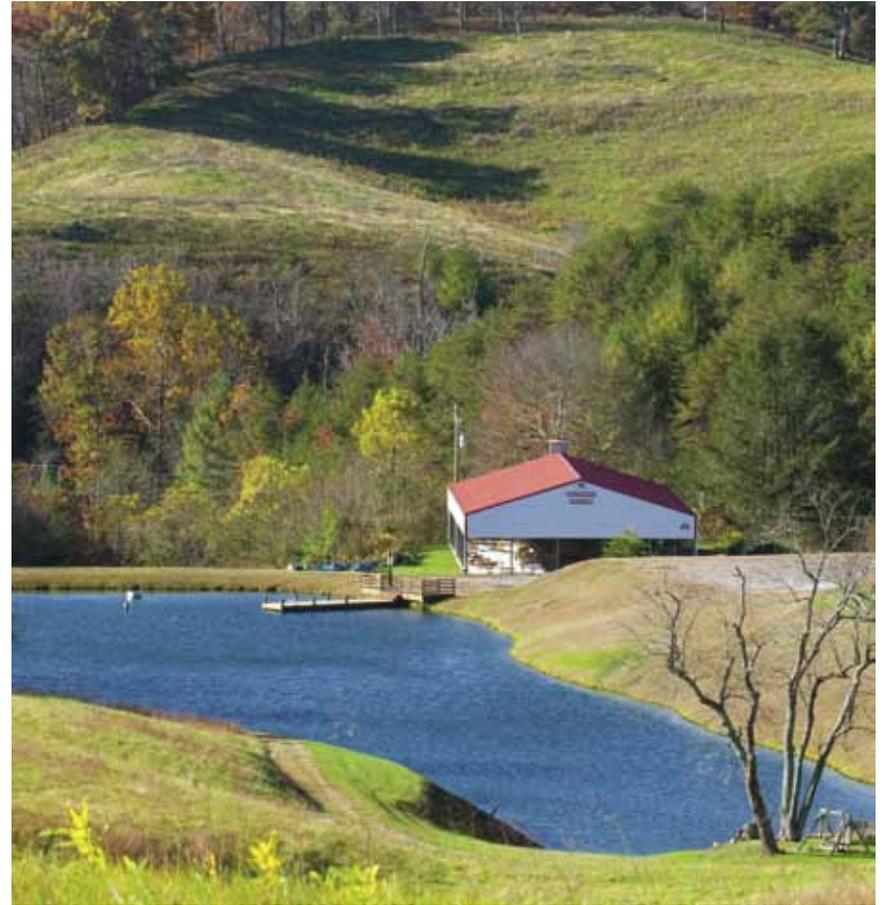
Taylor M., Senior

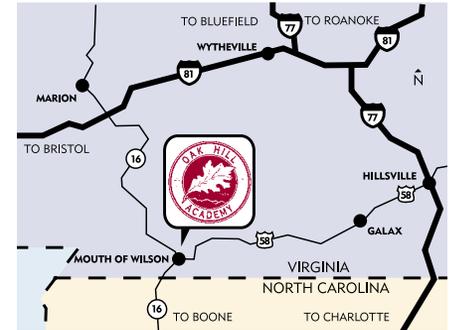
Herndon, Virginia

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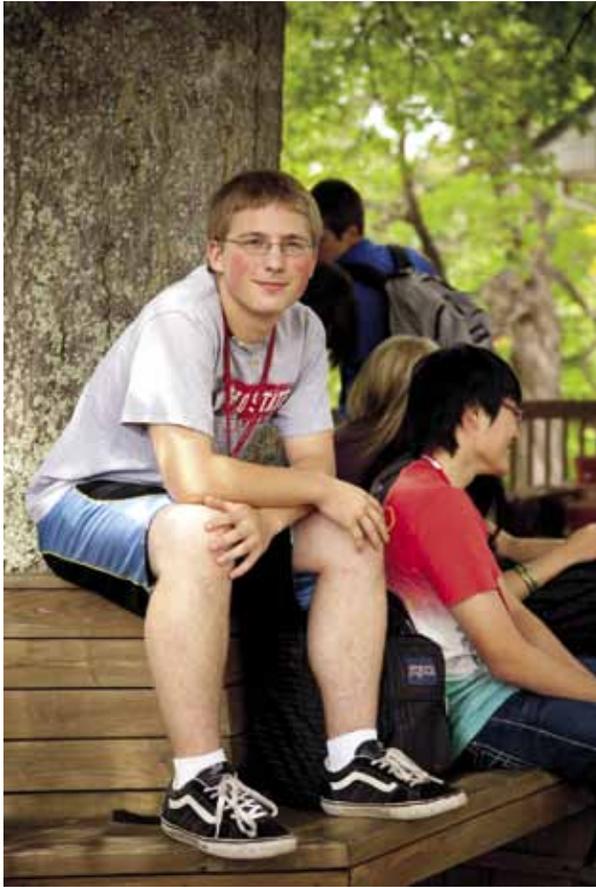
Located in Virginia's scenic New River Valley and surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Oak Hill Academy provides the perfect setting for a Turning Point in life. Far from the chaotic influences of urban life, the crisp mountain air and natural beauty of the campus create an atmosphere that calms and inspires.





GETTING TO OAK HILL ACADEMY

Oak Hill Academy is located in Mouth of Wilson, VA. By car, the campus is 6 hours from Washington, DC, 3 hours from Charlotte, North Carolina, about 7 hours from Atlanta and is easily accessible from Interstates 77, 81 and 85. Galax and Marion, Virginia, and Boone, North Carolina are a 45-minute drive away. Accommodations for visiting parents are available in these towns and at a few local Bed & Breakfast establishments. Depending on availability, limited accommodations are also available at the Halsey House, our campus Guest House. Taxi service from the Oak Hill campus is available. The best flight access is Douglas International Airport in Charlotte.



Oak Hill Academy accepts applications year round and does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, sex or geographic origin. An on-campus interview is highly recommended for prospective students and their parents.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



SOMETIMES, just knowing that others have felt the way you feel and have faced the challenges you face can give you the reassurance and support you need to go on. Many of us at Oak Hill are parents ourselves and understand first hand the love a parent feels for a child and the deep longing to do what's best. With that in mind, we offer a small sampling of thoughts from parents who made the same decision you're considering right now.

"Emma developed close relationships with her dedicated teachers and residence life staff, who provided much needed support, rules for conduct, love and encouragement. By the time she graduated, she saw herself as the smart, competent and confident young woman she had become. As she left for college, we worried about how she would be able to transition from Oak Hill's tiny, personal school to a large, impersonal college campus setting. We need not have. The experiences she had with her teachers at Oak Hill gave her the confidence she needed to make her own way, to sit in the front rows, to engage the teachers and, in general, advocate for herself. We are immensely grateful for not only the education she received at Oak Hill Academy, but for the close friendships, support and solid values that enabled her to grow from a frustrated 15 year-old into the poised and thoughtful young woman she is today."

"Our daughter, Alexa, is a student at Meredith College, having graduated from Oak Hill Academy as a member of the National Honor Society. Alexa was not always an honor student. She arrived at Oak Hill Academy as a struggling student in a large public school. We were frustrated and Alexa was lacking confidence and was withdrawn. Alexa's two years at Oak Hill Academy helped transform her into an achieving student and helped restore her love of learning. She developed a sense of community and a belief in the goodness of others. We had hoped that Oak Hill Academy would be a "turning point" academically for Alexa. It was that and much more. It was a turning point in Alexa's life, helping her achieve personal growth and maturity along the way. We could only smile when our college student remarked recently how much she misses "the hill" and is looking forward to visiting again."

"Before we share our experiences with Meredith at Oak Hill Academy, let us say that Meredith would be the first to admit that Oak Hill changed her life in many remarkable ways. She left home her freshman year, a shy, somewhat introverted teenager, and graduated as a confident young woman with a tenacious appetite for college and higher learning. She has to work harder than most, but the study skills, work ethic, and perseverance she acquired at Oak Hill are evident in her demeanor every day. The tears that we shed as freshman parents moving Meredith into her dorm at Oak Hill have turned into tears of joy as we have watched her successes grow by leaps and bounds. Meredith will soon graduate from Virginia Tech with a degree in Human Development and she has been accepted into nursing school. She is an EMT and has volunteered thousands of hours to her community."



On what she will remember most about Oak Hill: "I will always remember the people who made me feel like family and the fun times I had with friends both in and out of class."

*Kelsey K., Junior
King George, Virginia
Plans after Oak Hill: College*



On the biggest difference from his previous school: "The biggest difference between Oak Hill and my previous school is that teachers here want you to do well. Oak Hill is known for revealing a student's capabilities."

*Victor I., Junior
Nicosia, Cyprus
Plans after Oak Hill: College*



On how Oak Hill has impacted her future plans: "Oak Hill and my experiences here have made me excited about college choices both as a student and as an athlete."

*Raven J., Junior
Forest, Virginia
Plans after Oak Hill: College*

"As the structure at Oak Hill Academy provided our daughter with the opportunity to blossom academically, it also facilitated her personal and emotional growth. We noticed the increase in Gabby's maturity as she took responsibility for her own actions to a much greater degree than when she was living at home. At Oak Hill Academy, there was definitely structure to follow and she was encouraged to make positive choices about how she spent her time, what activities and opportunities to take, and how to create a healthy balance between school and play. Gabby's participation in youth group and connection with many faculty and staff, particularly the school guidance counselor, provided her with the ability to make choices that positively impacted her spiritual growth as well. With a renewed passion for arts and passion that was encouraged by her art teacher, Gabby was able to leverage the broad course offerings at Oak Hill Academy to secure acceptance to six reputable colleges before choosing to attend Virginia Commonwealth University where she is currently enrolled."

"Frustrated and filled with self-doubt, our son, Matt, asked us to find a school where he could go away to get a new start. And so it began – the quest for Matt to find a new beginning. Searching the internet, Oak Hill Academy caught my eye. The admission director listened patiently as I poured my heart out about our bright, articulate, warm hearted son who was struggling in school, struggling in life. He then began to unfold the story of Oak Hill Academy and its purpose. The calm and serene environment, intentionally placed far from distractions, encouraged Matt to think and examine his life. Being away from home and his peer group encouraged Matt to develop new friendships and interactions with students from diverse backgrounds and nationalities that helped him broaden his horizon and outlook. The time and distance from his family gave him a unique opportunity for his own personal development. The structured, small-class setting promoted self-discipline, self-reliance, and responsibility. The supportive faculty and staff are caring, nurturing, and encouraging mentors who are committed to the core values and character development of the students. Matt had indeed found a place to start over. For Matt, Oak Hill became the turning point where he made his choice to take a better path for his future. Oak Hill gave him a new beginning, a sense of direction, and instilled the desire and commitment to succeed."

For the children of these parents, Oak Hill Academy truly was a Turning Point. It can be for yours, too.



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