

EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL

FACT SHEET

Founded:	1814
Brief history:	Born in 1787, Emma Hart Willard founded her school in Middlebury, Vermont, in 1814. In 1818, her treatise, <i>A Plan for Improving Female Education</i> , drew the attention of a number of leaders of the day—including U.S. Presidents James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams—as well as New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, who encouraged Willard to move the school to his state. After a brief time in Waterford, NY, the school moved to Troy in 1821, operating as the Troy Female Seminary in downtown buildings now occupied by Russell Sage College. An accomplished administrator, teacher, and author, Willard died in 1870. The school was renamed in her honor in 1895. In 1908, a \$1 million gift from philanthropist Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage (TFS 1847) funded the construction of the historic Tudor gothic campus on Mount Ida in Troy, which was dedicated in 1910. The school has been in continuous operation since its inception and remains the oldest existing school in the country to offer an academic curriculum to girls.
Current campus:	Located on 137 acres in Troy, NY; listed in National Register of Historic Places
Head of school:	Trudy E. Hall
Student body (07–08):	311 students (204 boarding, 107 day) from 28 states and 23 foreign countries
Grade levels:	Nine through 12 and post-graduate year
Mission statement:	Honoring its founder’s vision, Emma Willard School proudly fosters in each young woman a love of learning, the habits of an intellectual life, and the character, moral strength, and qualities of leadership to serve and shape her world.
Academic program:	College preparatory with Advanced Placement® (continued)

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Average class size:	11
Student/teacher ratio:	5 to 1
Faculty (07–08):	55 full-time, 13 part-time; 73.5% female, 26.5% male; 50 hold advanced degrees, including two doctorates and 48 masters degrees
Tuition (07–08):	\$36,550/boarding; \$23,750/day
Financial aid (07–08):	\$2,427,920
Alumnae (living):	7,600
Prominent alumnae:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elizabeth Cady Stanton (TFS 1832), women’s rights activist• Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage (TFS 1847), philanthropist, founder of Russell Sage College for Women• Jane Fonda ’55, Academy Award-winning actress• Mary Lake Polan ’61, first female chair of clinical department at Stanford University Medical School• Elizabeth L. Colton ’66, founder/executive director, International Museum of Women• Erin Crotty ’84, first female commissioner of New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation• Kirsten Gillibrand ’84, U.S. Congress representative for New York State’s 20th District
Movies filmed at EWS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Scent of a Woman</i>, starring Al Pacino (1992)• <i>The Emperor’s Club</i>, starring Kevin Kline (2002)
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