

A Brief History

Horace Mann School was founded by Nicholas Murray Butler in 1887 as a coeducational experimental and developmental unit of Teachers College, Columbia University. In 1947, it became an independent day school for boys in grades seven through twelve. The reestablishment of coeducation was accomplished through mergers with the New York School for Nursery Years (founded 1954) in 1968, the Barnard School (founded 1886) in 1972, and the enrollment of girls in the high school beginning in 1975.

Horace Mann School is incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the Education Law of New York State and holds a charter from the New York State Board of Regents. Horace Mann School is a 501(c) 3 organization authorized by the Internal Revenue Service. The School is governed by a Board of Trustees whose thirty-four members include alumni and parents.

Horace Mann School stretches the imagination, intellect, and perception of its students while also developing their character. Education in the lower grades, which builds upon the natural desire of children to learn, is designed to teach basic skills and the joy of learning in a supportive environment. The goal of the Middle and Upper Divisions is to provide a sound liberal education through the intellectual, moral, and physical development of each student.

The **Nursery Division** is located in a landmark building on Manhattan's Upper East Side that was originally the carriage house of the Andrew Carnegie estate. The original three-story structure was renovated and expanded to six floors in 1961 and became the New York School for Nursery Years. In addition to the nine classrooms in the Nursery Division, the building houses a library, a studio, a yard with climbing equipment, and a rooftop playground.

The **Lower Division** campus in the Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx occupies the site of the former Barnard School. The main Lower Division building houses classrooms for grades one through five, as well as the library, gymnasium, cafeteria, arts and technology center, music room, Music Annex, nurse's office, modern language classrooms, literacy center, math lab, speech lab, science center, and administrative offices. Kindergarten classes are housed in free-standing "cottages" that are nevertheless an integral part of the Division. Facilities that contribute to the Lower Division program include the "Grasshopper" (a synthetic play surface) and the O'Neil Arboretum. The campus is also home to the Alumni and Development Office.

The 18-acre **Middle/Upper Division** campus overlooks Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Campus buildings include Tillinghast Hall, which houses classrooms, computer laboratory facilities, and the Katz Library. Alfred Gross Hall (1961, rebuilt 2005 as Mullady Hall) contains the 650-seat Gross Theatre, along with Upper Division administrative and guidance offices. Pforzheimer Hall (1956, renovated 1999) and the Gratwick Science Wing (1975) include classrooms and facilities for science as well as Middle Division offices. The current **Middle Division** moved into Rose Hall in September 1999, adding the sixth grade to the existing seventh and eighth grades. Rose Hall contains classrooms, an atrium, and division offices. The College Counseling Office is located in Pforzheimer Hall. Prettyman Gymnasium, the oldest unrenovated building on the Middle/Upper Division campus, contains basketball courts, exercise and training rooms, an indoor track, and a swimming pool. Outdoor facilities include Main Field, Four Acres Field, and tennis and handball courts. Van Cortlandt Park provides additional space for athletics. Fisher Hall (1999) includes studios for the visual arts, music classrooms, the Gallery, Sanders Recital Hall, the Cohen Dining Commons and the Berger Faculty Dining Room.

In 1965, Horace Mann established the **John Dorr Nature Laboratory** in Washington, Connecticut with a gift of 83 acres. The Laboratory now encompasses 275 acres of fields, streams, and ponds in which students can explore nature and engage in outdoor pursuits. Dorr's resident faculty instructs students in environmental science, conservation, and outdoor living. Student visits begin in the second grade, with overnight programs beginning in the third grade. The eight-day program for eighth graders includes a three-day backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail. A recent \$8 million capital project resulted in the creation of a new access road, the purchase of an additional parcel of land on which a new faculty residence is situated, the construction of a second bunkhouse, and the building of a Gold LEED-certified lodge and multi-purpose barn. The project also upgraded mechanicals and utilities. The new facilities insure greater sustainability and provide more space for programming.