

Local School Comparison for Tuxedo Residents

A Summary of Findings

Overview

- This comparison uses the most recent data collected by *US News & World Report's* annual survey of high schools across the United States
 - All data can be found on the website: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools>
- This comparison looked at four “local” schools within a 15 mile radius of Tuxedo
 - All distances and travel times were measured using Google maps, starting from the Tuxedo Library
- The following issues were of importance at the focus groups I attended:
 - Quality of school
 - Number of students
 - Class size
 - Advanced placement course availability
 - College preparation/readiness
 - Distance from Tuxedo
- This comparison looks at the following schools:
 - George F. Baker School – Tuxedo, NY
 - Suffern High School – Suffern, NY
 - Monroe-Woodbury High School – Woodbury, NY
 - Northern Highlands Regional High School – Allendale, NJ
 - Ramsey High School – Ramsey, NJ

Quality of School

- *US News & World Report* ranks schools on both a state and national level
- Since the schools observed are in New York and New Jersey, I looked at the national rankings
 - Rankings are based on state proficiency standards, how well they prepare students for college and other factors
- The study looked at nearly 22,000 schools in 49 states
- National in order from best to worst:

<u>School</u>	<u>Rank</u>
○ Northern Highlands	397
○ George F. Baker	741
○ Suffern High School	934
○ Ramsey High School	1027
○ Monroe-Woodbury	N/A (not ranked by the study)

Average SAT Scores

- The New York Times regularly publishes high school SAT scores by individual school across the country
- SAT scores are used by colleges in the admission process to determine the student's level of achievement in three areas: Math, Verbal and Writing
- The maximum score one can achieve is 800 on each section, for a possible total score of 2400
- Here is how the schools matched up, highest to lowest, for 2007 (most recent data available):

School	Math	Verbal	Writing	Total
Northern Highlands	576	552	573	1701
Ramsey High School	566	551	550	1667
Monroe-Woodbury	547	520	502	1569
Suffern High School	531	519	517	1567
George F. Baker	487	494	488	1469

Number of Students and Teacher/Student Ratio

- In focus groups I attended, many parents wanted both a small class size but an overall larger student body
- Total number of high school students (smallest to largest)
 - George F. Baker 387
 - Ramsey High School 958
 - Northern Highlands 1313
 - Suffern High School 1495
 - Monroe-Woodbury 2425
- Student/Teacher Ratio (smallest to largest)
 - Northern Highlands 12:1
 - Suffern High School 13:1
 - George F. Baker 15:1
 - Ramsey High School 15:1
 - Monroe-Woodbury 16:1

AP Course Availability and College Readiness

- Parents enjoy the opportunity their children have in participating in Advanced Placement courses that, in theory, prepare them for college-level study
- Some schools are very selective in who they allow to participate in AP courses
- Others are less selective in allowing AP course participation
- The following chart shows:
 - The overall participation rate at each school (the percent of the total student body allowed to take AP courses)
 - The exam pass rate (the percent of participants that pass the AP exams)
 - College readiness index (based on AP exam participation and percentage of students passing at least one exam)

AP Course Data	Northern Highlands	George F. Baker	Suffern High School	Ramsey High School	Monroe-Woodbury
Participation Rate	51%	52%	39%	37%	22%
Exam Pass Rate	92%	55%	82%	86%	77%
College Readiness	49.2	37.8	33.2	31.4	18.5

Distance from Tuxedo

- The following chart shows the distance of each school (in drive-time and mileage) from Tuxedo Library
 - All data collected from Google maps

<u>School</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Distance</u>
• George F. Baker	< 1 minute	0.4 miles
• Ramsey High School	13 minutes	11.1 miles
• Suffern High School	14 minutes	10 miles
• Monroe-Woodbury	15 minutes	10.7 miles
• Northern Highlands	17 minutes	12.7 miles

Summary of Statistics

- The evidence to attend Northern Highlands Regional High School is compelling
 - Highest national rank among these schools
 - Appropriate number of students so kids can be socialized in the “real world”
 - Best student/teacher ratio among these schools
 - Highest college readiness index among these schools
 - Highest SAT scores among 2007 graduating students
 - Appropriate drive-time distance from Tuxedo

Statistics	George F. Baker	Northern Highlands	Suffern High School	Ramsey High School	Monroe-Woodbury
National Rank	741	397	934	1027	N/A
Number of Students	387	1313	1495	958	2415
Student/Teacher Ratio	15:1	12:1	13:1	15:1	16:1
College Readiness	37.8	49.2	33.2	31.4	18.5
SAT Scores (Total)	1469	1701	1567	1667	1569
Drive-Time	< 1 minute	17 minutes	14 minutes	13 minutes	15 minutes

A Better Option for Tuxedo

- In looking at the previous slide, what parent would not want their child educated at Northern Highlands?
- Not addressed in this study is the profound number of extracurricular activities offered at Northern Highlands:
 - Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Fencing, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - Student Council & Class organizations
 - Other Clubs
 - 4 separate publication clubs
 - 39 language/arts/social interest clubs
 - 10 music/theater clubs
- Being allowed to send Tuxedo students to a school with the caliber of Northern Highlands would be a dramatic improvement to the quality of life in our town
 - Maintain our small-town feel and great K-8 school(s)
 - Offer our high school students a top-quality, nationally recognized education
 - Keep families from leaving town and/or sending Tuxedo kids away to school
 - Attract new families to our town