

Founded in 1784

CEEB Code 391-648

Fall 2011

Accreditations and Memberships: NAIS, PAIS, ERB, SSATB, CEEB, and MSACS

## COLLEGE ADMISSION PROFILE

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Harrisburg Academy is the 17<sup>th</sup> oldest secondary school in the nation under continuous operation. As the only independent preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade college preparatory day school in the Harrisburg/Carlisle/Lebanon metropolitan area, we serve a seven-county school population. Founded in 1784 by John Harris, Jr., the Academy was originally housed in the John Harris Mansion in Harrisburg, the state capital.

**Academy Demographics:** Total # students enrolled: 396    Upper School: 100    Class of 2012: 32

**Faculty: Upper School Faculty/Student Ratio: 1:5** with over half of the faculty holding advanced or terminal degrees in their fields.

**Diversity:** Harrisburg Academy admits academically qualified students without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin. Financial awards of \$785,850 (2011-2012) help to support the students who attend.

The Academy welcomes both international students who enroll to matriculate and foreign exchange students. Since 1989, we have welcomed more than 125 students from 25 countries, as well as several international families who have moved to the Harrisburg metropolitan area. This year, we have 12 students in grades 9 through 12—from China, Germany, Israel and South Korea. Our 24% U.S. multicultural diversity in grades 9 through 12 further enriches our community.

**College Admission Record:** Last 17 years: 98% to 4-year colleges (462 students); 2% to 2-year colleges (10 students).

*100% of our seniors have reached their desired level of post-graduate education.*

**Curriculum of the Upper School:** All courses are college preparatory, equivalent to Honors or Accelerated courses at most public high schools. As the first school in the area to have established the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Certificate Program, recognized as the most rigorous preparation for college, **all of our IB HL courses\* and Mathematics SL- Year 2 course, are college level courses using college texts. Starting in 2007-08, such courses receive a 0.333 weight.** Each credit equals a year-long course meeting six times during a seven-day, rotating cycle. **\*Courses titled Advanced or Honors are co-seated with an IB HL Year 1 course and are therefore also weighted 0.333.**

Graduation Requirements:	English	4 credits
	History	3 credits—including United States and Pennsylvania history
	Mathematics	3 credits—including algebra II and geometry (4 recommended)
	Laboratory Sciences	3 credits—biology, chemistry, and physics required
	World Languages/Latin	3 credits—or 2 credits of 2 Languages with permission
	Fine Arts and Skills	1 credit —2 preferred
	Required Minors	0.25 credits each in health, college prep and physical education
	Non-credit Enrichment	CAS, Senior Speech, and Senior Internship

**All students must take five major courses and physical education (or play a sport) every semester.**



Challenging our students in an environment that nurtures and inspires.

**International Baccalaureate Diploma Program:** This is our fifth year as an authorized IB World School. Harrisburg Academy applied for and received authorization to offer the Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, along with individual IB certificates, starting in 2005; this will be our fourth graduating class of diploma candidates. Unlike the also-esteemed AP courses which are independent of each other, the IB offers a coherent, interrelated, globally integrated program; a variety of assessments other than single final exams; and options to select areas of depth and breadth of concentrations in different subject areas. The IB program is the fastest growing educational program in North America and is increasingly recognized as the strongest possible preparation for college—and lifelong learning—by U.S. colleges and universities and by international institutions. The Academy has adopted the IB CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) program in all four grades.

### IB Courses Offered

<p><b>Group 1: First Language:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English HL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 2: Second Language:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French B SL</li> <li>• Spanish B SL</li> <li>• Spanish ab initio</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 3: Individual &amp; Society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History HL</li> <li>• ITGS (Integrated Technology in a Global Society) SL</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 4: Laboratory Sciences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology HL</li> <li>• Chemistry SL</li> <li>• Physics SL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 5: Mathematics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathematics SL</li> <li>• Math Studies SL</li> <li>• Computer Science HL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 6: The Arts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Arts HL or SL</li> <li>• Music HL or SL</li> </ul>

Students may elect to become a Full Diploma Candidate or take an IB course by earning a B– in the preceding course or through teacher recommendation. All students who take an IB course must take the IB exam in that course. Some students will elect to take the AP exam following the completion of an Academy course.

### Special Programs and Activities

#### Theory of Knowledge

Designed to discover connections among the academic and artistic courses in the Diploma Program, this two-year International Baccalaureate course is conducted as a weekly seminar. Using works similar to the Great Books readings, along with seminal works in major disciplines, the students study and discuss **Areas of Knowledge, Ways of Knowing, and Issues of Knowledge.**

#### Senior Internship

Our seniors take their final International Baccalaureate Exams in mid-May, and then spend the final three weeks of school in a self-designed senior internship program. The internship may be an exploration of a potential career or a once-in-a-lifetime experience with a new way of working or learning. Working with their academic advisors, seniors plan the program throughout the school year, finding their own sponsors and designing the activities in which they will participate. Each internship entails thirty hours per week of active engagement (no busy-work, clerking duties, etc.) during which students keep a log and a journal. As a culminating activity, they prepare a presentation for their classmates, sponsors, advisors, and the juniors. A Senior Internship Committee oversees the entire process, ensuring that the students and sponsors are well prepared for their experience and that the internship activities are meaningful.

#### The Senior Speech

The goal of the Senior Speech is for seniors to experience and gain confidence in public speaking. The speech runs 3–5 minutes in length, on a topic of the student’s choosing, and is presented to the entire upper school student body and faculty. Each year students vote on the most powerful and well-presented speech.

### CAS: Creativity, Action, and Service

Full IB Diploma Candidates are required to spend 50 hours in each category over their two years in the program. The Academy has modified its former 20 hours-per-year community service requirement to offer a similar CAS experience for all students in grades 9 through 12. “School-wide” CAS encourages students to spend at least 20 hours per year participating in **each** category. The activities in these areas are to be new experiences, beneficial to others, with productive consequences. Students keep logs of activities, reflect upon them, and, we hope, make creativity, action, and service part of their lives.

## Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Varsity sports (with a no-cut policy) include girls' tennis, basketball, field hockey, and soccer; and boys' soccer, tennis, basketball, and lacrosse. An agreement with a nearby school allows students to participate on teams not offered at the home school (for us, football, track and baseball). There are also options for swimming and golf. Clubs include Drama, Quiz Bowl, Model UN, Outdoor, Diversity Club, SEA (Student Environmental Advocates), Yearbook, Newspaper, Student Council/Student Government, and National Honor Society, among others.

## Class Standing, GPA and Transcript Evaluation

**Ranking:** Because of the size of our graduating classes (20–36) and the variety of individual programs the students elect to take, the Academy does not rank students according to GPA. **In considering an Academy student, colleges should assess each academic course as the equivalent of an Accelerated or Honors course in any public school curriculum and consider the IB courses the most rigorous preparation for higher education.**

**Grading System:** Please see the Grading Table on our transcript for grading system equivalents. IB HL courses, the IB Mathematics SL (Year 2) course and any course titled Advanced or Honors co-seated with an IB HL Year 1 course are college level using college text and are weighted 0.333 per year. Our weighted Academic GPA is on a 4.0 scale, with 4.333 being an A+, and includes all courses with 0.5 credit or more.

## Grade Distribution Percentages for Class of 2012 (Junior Year) by Semester Grades in Major Subjects

A+	6.5	B+	22.2	C+	0.0	D+	2.4	F	0.5
A	12.2	B	13	C	5.4	D	0.5		
A-	23.8	B-	10.8	C-	2.7	D-	0.0		

## Standardized Testing and National Merit Records

Except for students who attend 3 or more years at the Academy, we do not include international students' scores on SAT or ACT as the TOEFL is their major admissions test.

**Mid-fifties: Class of 2012 Junior Statistics:**

**Class of 2012: Junior Mid-fifty SAT:** Critical Reading = 530–640; Math = 510–620; Writing = 540–600

**Class of 2012: Junior Mid-fifty SAT:** 1600 = 1050–1260; 2400 = 1590–1860

**Class of 2012: Junior Mid-fifty ACT:** 23–29 Composite

**Mid-fifties: Class of 2011 Senior Statistics:**

**Class of 2011 Mid-fifty SAT:** Critical Reading = 570–680; Math = 520–640; Writing = 560–680

**Class of 2011 Mid-fifty SAT:** 1600 = 1110–1360 ; 2400 = 1660–2030

**Class of 2011 Mid-fifty ACT:** 25–30

**Average Score for Harrisburg Academy students 2002–2011 :**

**Class of 2002–2011 SAT:** Critical Reading = 617; Math = 614; Writing = 611 (2006–2011);

**Class of 2002–2011 SAT :** 1600 Scale CR and Math Combined= 1231; 2400 Scale All Scores 2006–2011=1820

**Class of 2002–2011 ACT:** 26

**NATIONAL MERIT:** Over the past 10 years, 1–6 Harrisburg Academy students consistently receive some level of recognition in the PSAT National Merit and National Achievement Programs each year.

## The Academic Program

The table below summarizes current graduation requirements (column one) and the most common courses of study.

Credits Required	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
<b>English: 4 credits</b>	English I– Various Course Titles	English II— Various Course Titles	Literature & Composition 11  IB English HL Year 1  IB Theory of Knowledge Year 1	Literature & Composition 12 IB English HL Year 2 IB Theory of Knowledge Year 2
<b>History: 3 credits (including U.S. History)</b>	World History I	World History II	IB History HL Year 1 U.S. History or IB SL ITGS Year 1	IB History HL Year 2 IB SL ITGS Year 2 or History Electives (sem.)
<b>Languages: 3 credits of one language; 4 recommended.</b>	Latin, Spanish French II  (Latin, Spanish French I for new students)	Latin, Spanish or French III or Latin, Spanish or French II	IB French B or Spanish B, SL Year 1 Spanish ab initio, Year 1 Spanish or French IV or Latin, Spanish or French III	IB French B or Spanish B, SL Year 2 Spanish ab initio, Year 2 Spanish or French V or Spanish or French IV
<b>Mathematics: 3 credits; 4 recommended)</b>	Algebra II	Geometry	IB Mathematics SL Year 1 IB Math Studies SL Year 1 Pre-Calculus or College Algebra	IB Mathematics SL Year 2 IB Math Studies SL Year 2 or Math Electives
<b>Science: 3 credits, each including 1 extra lab period per cycle</b>	Chemistry	Physics	IB Biology HL or SL Year 1  IB Chemistry or Physics SL, one year course (alternating years)  Biology	IB Science Courses Year 2  IB Chemistry or Physics SL, one year course (alternating years)  Science semester electives
<b>Students are required to take at least 1 credit in art or music courses. Most take an additional credit in a preferred concentration</b>	Music Theory I	Music Theory II	IB Music HL or SL	
	Advanced Computer Science I	Advanced Computer Science II	IB Computer Science HL	
	Art Studio Watercolor Drawing	Photo/Video Production Architectural Processes	IB Visual Arts HL or SL	
<b>Phys. Ed. P/F yearly; Health &amp; College Prep (11<sup>th</sup>), each .25 credits Senior Speech &amp; Senior Internship (12<sup>th</sup>), CAS (9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>), 0 credit but required for graduation</b>	Physical Education  CAS	Physical Education  CAS	Physical Education, Health, College Prep  CAS or IB CAS	Physical Education, Senior Internship Senior Speech  CAS or IB CAS