



Global Education



Global-minded

At Harrisburg Academy, we define global education as the study and discovery of worldwide history, science, culture, technology, and philosophy. This approach instills lifelong-learning skills and stimulates a desire and enthusiasm to ask questions and to seek new knowledge from a global perspective. Our emphasis on global education is clearly shown by our adoption and success with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and certification by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) as an IB World School. Our global point of view is evident in our population, our curriculum, our extracurricular activities and our global outreach.

Diversity

Our population is diverse and inclusive, and the school makes conscious efforts to recognize the various religions, cultures, and nationalities represented. We recognize most of the major holidays that Jews, Muslims, Christians, African-Americans and Hindi celebrate. Our faculty is aware of and adjusts for Ramadan, for example, realizing that our fasting students may need accommodations. No student is ever permitted to belittle another and we have a culture of peer enforcement of this respect for the dignity of all.

Learning Links

Every grade in Lower School is linked to a different continent through our Learning Links global-mindedness program in partnership with Dickinson College and others. Teachers develop curriculum based on cross-cultural comparisons and communicate often with contacts in other countries via email and the web. Learning Links eventually will include teleconferencing and service learning.

"Hosting an international student has been a great experience for our whole family. We have the wonderful opportunity to bless a student with a loving, caring home while she attend Harrisburg Academy; in return, our student has been teaching us about her culture, customs and traditions. The exchange student organization has been incredibly helpful and we know they are available to assist us with any challenges we might face. We are already making plans to host another student next year!"

Sarah DelliGatti, host parent

International Exchange

The Academy has a tradition of promoting international contacts. We actively recruit international students and encourage our own Academy students to have valuable experiences abroad. Since fall 1974, we have hosted 117 international students from 26 countries, including Norway, Spain, Italy, China, Russia, Cambodia, and Australia, to name a few. We have graduated students from Denmark, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Great Britain, Finland, Kenya, Italy, and Taiwan. Our students have attended programs throughout the world, on five of the seven continents, and returned to share their experiences, enriching both the classroom and the school culture.

An illustration of our commitment to and interest in international education: In 2009, 22 Middle and Upper School students, parents, faculty members, and

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our Board of Trustees chairman visited Italy together. This week-long trip complemented the Academy's middle school curriculum study of Latin and Ancient Greco-Roman history. Exposure to the country's many historical treasures and its culture helped these adolescents make connections between the history they are learning and our modern-day global society.

Another example of our dedication to discovering connections and creating an environment of global understanding for our students is our relationship with Freiburg, Germany. One of our German graduates is from Freiburg, where his father conducts the town orchestra. The year after his graduation, our musicians and their supporters traveled to Freiburg for a combined concert and a European tour. Two years later, we hosted Freiburg's students and orchestra in a similar exchange – this has become a biennial tradition that offers a wonderful opportunity for international sharing, with friends bound together by the universality of the music they present and the friendships they have made.

In addition to following the IB Diploma Program curriculum, we hope to create more links between our school and international schools throughout the

world. Some Middle and Upper School students have participated in the 20/20 Challenge program, joining with the Kodaikanal International School in south India to generate solutions to various social problems and issues. This group has also presented assemblies on Fair Trade and contagious diseases and raised funds to buy mosquito nets for African families.

We also promote global education by educating ourselves. Within the school itself, every full-time Upper School teacher attended IBO training prior to our beginning the program. In addition, our school offers Trustee Fellowships, some of which have been awarded in the past to faculty doing summer work abroad. The Academy also uses grants to fund and support an Artist in Residence Program with Susquehanna Folk Music Society that has brought us artists from Viet Nam, Canada, Ireland, Japan, and Mexico.

Harrisburg Academy celebrates global awareness: the study of the human family – its accomplishments, its challenges, its discoveries, its triumphs and its tragedies – throughout history and throughout the globe. We, at the Academy, have great enthusiasm for international education, cooperation, and connections within our entire community.

