



Global Education

Global-minded

At Harrisburg Academy, we define global education as the study and discovery of worldwide culture and philosophy including the subject areas of art, science, music, and history. 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 and our global outreach.



"I like that Harrisburg Academy is very small - there are about 25 students in one grade, so there are more opportunities for students to talk to teachers and get more attention. I like higher levels of academic programs, such as the IB program, a program composed of very challenging courses and works. I believe that through this program, students will be more prepared for college."

Seung Hyun L., Korean International Student

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. Students are not permitted to belittle one another; we teach and model 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. In some cases, teachers are able to develop curriculum based on cross-cultural comparisons and communicate with contacts in other countries via email and the web. Learning Links eventually will include teleconferencing and service learning.

International Students

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 124 international students from 26 countries, including Finland, Denmark, Spain, Taiwan, Latvia, Kenya, Italy, Germany, China, and Turkey, to name a few. Additionally, we have graduated students from each of those countries and more. Our students and faculty / staff have attended programs throughout the world, on each 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 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.



20/20 Challenge

In addition to reading world literature, the Academy's IB World School culture is host to other internationally-oriented activities, including those of the 20/20 Challenge Club. The 20/20 Challenge Club, led by Upper School history teacher, Amy Miller, will have the opportunity to work with a school (yet to be determined by the National Association of Independent Schools) on a global problem. Here is a sample of the topics in the program as developed by Jean Francois Rischard in his book "Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them": Sharing our planet: Issues involving the global community.

- Global warming
- Biodiversity and ecosystem losses
- Fisheries depletion
- Deforestation
- Water deficits
- Maritime safety and pollution

Sharing our humanity: Issues requiring a global commitment

- Massive step-up in the fight against poverty
- Peacekeeping, conflict prevention, combating terrorism
- Education for all
- Global infectious diseases
- Digital divide
- Natural disaster prevention and mitigation

Sharing our rule book: Issues needing a global regulatory approach

- Reinventing taxation for the twenty-first century
- Biotechnology rules
- Global financial architecture
- Illegal drugs
- Trade, investment, and competition rules
- Intellectual property rights
- E-commerce rules
- International labor and migration rules

The students, working in collaboration with a "sister" school in another country on one problem, will develop a solution and make a joint presentation to the Academy student body. Although the students will focus on only one of the above issues in the 20/20 program, an international program such as the IB has many of these topics woven into the fabric of the curriculum.

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.

