THE ADVANTAGE MEANS EVERYTHING

HARRISBURG ACADEMY
THE ADVANTAGE

FAQ

THE HARRISBURG ACADEMY COMMUNITY ANSWERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

WHY HARRISBURG ACADEMY?

Is an education at Harrisburg Academy worth the expense?

Since many of the students have been at the Academy for years, how will my child fit into that group — academically and socially?

What are the advantages of a small school community?

Is diversity valued at the Academy?

How does a liberal arts education, such as that offered at the Academy, benefit my child?

We live so far from the Academy — is it really worth it when schools nearby seem good enough?

How do Academy students measure up when it comes to standardized tests, college admissions, college scholarships, and academic and artistic competitions?

What will my child gain at the Academy that he/she won’t gain at other schools?

How do I know that my child will be well-prepared for life beyond high school?

MY ACADEMY FOUNDATION - ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

PARENT AMBASSADORS

DISCOVER THE ADVANTAGE

We look forward to sharing our community with your family.

INTRODUCTION

Harrisburg Academy’s community of parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and trustees, invite you to review this booklet for valuable information about the advantages of an Academy education — in the words of our own community members. Supported by research and statistics where appropriate, these testimonials provide important responses to “frequently asked questions” that parents often ask about the Academy, and further define the dynamic classroom experiences, strong learning outcomes, and character building that happens here each and every day.

An important part of preparing this “Academy Advantages” booklet involved the Academy’s Parent Ambassadors — a group of Academy parents and alumni parents who volunteer their time to not only learn more about the Academy, but choose to share their passion and goodwill with friends, family, co-workers, and community members. We know the value of a personal referral and why the Parent Ambassadors are such a vital part of our school community. Parent Ambassadors routinely connect with current and prospective families to share their personal experiences as Academy parents and why they are proud to be a part of the Academy community.

Harrisburg Academy’s academic curriculum encourages the arts, languages, and physical activity rather than cutting those programs sometimes viewed as “expendable” by other schools because they don’t readily support standardized test score results. Our students learn about and live in a diverse community with an eye towards what it means to be a responsible global and local citizen. Our students score higher on standardized tests even though no class time is allotted to “teaching to the test” or test preparation.

The questions presented herein may only be some of those that you have, so we encourage you to contact the Admission Office for more information. Alternatively, you may contact our Parent Ambassadors who can share their personal experiences with you; their information is provided at the end of this book.
Harrisburg Academy proudly serves the greater Harrisburg-Hershey-Carlisle area as the only preschool through 12th grade independent school. But our reach extends far beyond this. We attract students not only from Dauphin, Cumberland, and York counties, but also Lancaster, Lebanon, and Perry counties, as well. In fact, our students hail from over 25 midstate school districts.

As a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Academy joins over 1,100 schools in the United States and abroad which provide high-quality and individualized education. Although each independent school is driven by a different educational mission, we all share a commitment to providing a safe environment in which young people not only pursue academic excellence, but also learn the importance of hard work, leadership, personal responsibility, and good citizenship. A perfect example of this is the Academy’s International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, an academically challenging and balanced program of education that prepares students throughout the world for success at university and beyond.

At the Academy, education is a personalized learning journey — one that is challenging and nurturing at the same time.
“Although charter schools and religious schools might seem to be an option because of their lower price tag, once we visited Harrisburg Academy, we made a commitment to sacrifice in any way to send our child to the Upper School. While our family retained the primary responsibility of financing our child’s education, the Academy’s scholarship program went a long way to making her dream of attending the Academy a reality.”

“I don’t place a monetary value on my son’s safety, happiness, academic success, passion for learning or ability to succeed, but if I did, an education at Harrisburg Academy would be a bargain.”

“My wife and I are both committed to the education of our children. Consequently, several years ago, we decided to find a school to nurture their intellectual and social development. We selected Harrisburg Academy over many other schools. To say the least, the Academy has delivered for our children!”

“Children cannot get an Academy-level education at any public school. It is more important than ever to provide our children with the best education possible. The Academy is committed to every aspect of my children’s education now and down the road.”

Harrisburg Academy knows that quality education is more than a value-added proposition. Schools such as the Academy prepare students not just for this year’s standards-based tests, but for all of life’s tests — in school, college, and beyond.

According to a recent Higher Education Research Institute survey, students who graduate from independent schools are more able to adjust to, and excel at, academic and social life in college. When compared with their public school peers, independent school students are more academically prepared for college, more likely to participate in internship programs, and more likely to have post-collegiate employment.

With the inclusion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in the Academy’s Upper School, Academy students have the ability to receive not only merit scholarships for college, but actually receive significant college credits — increasing their access to advanced courses while also offering the possibility of reduced expenses to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Is an education at Harrisburg Academy worth the expense?
“What has surprised us most about the Academy? That the children, their parents and the staff are so warm and welcoming. My daughter, one of only two new children in her grade level, was immediately taken in by her classmates and included in all activities and conversations, a point made even more remarkable because it occurred amongst middle schoolers!”

“I was very nervous about the transition from our public school to a college-prep private school — especially workload, peer group, and yes, Spanish class! The academics were an adjustment, but his teachers have been so communicative and easy to work with. I feel very lucky to have my son enrolled here!”

“Academy teachers tell us that their students — our children — are some of the most welcoming, accepting young people whom they, as teachers, have ever encountered. Since we are a small community in comparison to most other schools, Academy students are excited and curious when new students arrive. New students contribute valuable gifts to the Academy family.”

“Our daughter came to the Academy mid-year in 7th grade, a hard time to infiltrate a new social group. She was welcomed by her peers without any problems. Students and teachers alike helped get her quickly up-to-speed on academic work, and she became part of the social fabric of the class right away. We feel lucky that we found a group of students mature and kind enough to accept a new student so easily.”

Since many of the students have been at the Academy for years, how will my child fit into that group — academically & socially?

Harrisburg Academy’s admission process seeks to admit students who, first and foremost, have the potential to be successful in our program and fit academically and socially into the group of students with whom they will be placed.

The Responsive Classroom® approach used in Early Childhood and Lower School programs and the Developmental Designs® approach used in our Middle School help to ensure students are welcomed in the classroom, on the playground, in arts and athletics, and throughout the Academy community as a whole.

Each faculty member, through daily interactions as well as more structured advising programs, is committed to student success and positive outcomes at the Academy.

Faculty and staff partner with parents to ensure that each student’s individual needs are evaluated during the process of first joining, then thriving, in the Academy’s educational community.

An age-appropriate focus on character education at the Academy is an important underpinning to the successful transition of new students — whether it is “generous” kindergarteners, “respectful” 3rd graders, or “open-minded” 8th graders. Each student in our community benefits from the sense of inclusion and acceptance, including those from diverse socio-economic, geographic, racial, and cultural backgrounds.

“Since many of the students have been at the Academy for years, how will my child fit into that group — academically & socially?”

Harrisburg Academy’s admission process seeks to admit students who, first and foremost, have the potential to be successful in our program and fit academically and socially into the group of students with whom they will be placed.

The Responsive Classroom® approach used in Early Childhood and Lower School programs and the Developmental Designs® approach used in our Middle School help to ensure students are welcomed in the classroom, on the playground, in arts and athletics, and throughout the Academy community as a whole.

Each faculty member, through daily interactions as well as more structured advising programs, is committed to student success and positive outcomes at the Academy.

Faculty and staff partner with parents to ensure that each student’s individual needs are evaluated during the process of first joining, then thriving, in the Academy’s educational community.

An age-appropriate focus on character education at the Academy is an important underpinning to the successful transition of new students — whether it is “generous” kindergarteners, “respectful” 3rd graders, or “open-minded” 8th graders. Each student in our community benefits from the sense of inclusion and acceptance, including those from diverse socio-economic, geographic, racial, and cultural backgrounds.

“Since many of the students have been at the Academy for years, how will my child fit into that group — academically & socially?”
At Harrisburg Academy, our small school setting allows a personal focus for each student during his or her learning journey — whether three or 13 years old. The personalization of each student’s education is an advantage for students, teachers, and parents alike, and the benefits are seen not only in standardized test scores — like the ACT and SAT — but also in each student’s individual learning outcomes, including creative thinking, time management, and research and writing skills.

Most students feel more comfortable within a smaller group and therefore are willing to speak up in class or talk with the teacher without feeling embarrassed or ignorant. Particularly in a school such as the Academy which serves average, above-average, and gifted students, a small class ensures teachers the ability to provide necessary support for each student to reach high academic expectations.

To reach our students individually, ensure they are learning the essential skills needed for the future, and allow them to explore interests of their own, we believe a small-school setting is crucial. Students do best in places where they can’t “slip through the cracks”. Our school is not organized on the economic efficiencies of large public schools but rather on the basis of best learning practices. Individual student outcomes are achieved through classroom experiences and character building.

What are the advantages of a small school community?

“Harrisburg Academy is not just a school that provides quality education, it is also an inspiring community of teachers, faculty, students, and parents who all care deeply about quality education and the well-being of the students.”

“The Academy’s small school community ensures that student learning is maximized. The small teacher-to-student ratio allows students to get consistent, individualized attention from expert teachers. A student is never a number at Harrisburg Academy.”

“One of the major draws for me was the visibility of the faculty and administrators. I love seeing staff in the mornings. I think it is invaluable how they interact with the students. The “good mornings” walking in and teachers meeting the students in the Gallery are reassuring to me as a parent. They set the tone for the student that the parents and school are in communication with each other, and often the students are also included.”

“My daughter started as a shy little girl and has grown into a teenager with great integrity, creativity, and leadership. The Academy has provided these things for our daughter, as well as a foundation of critical thinking and a safe environment for her to excel.”

“Children at the Academy learn how to make friends and communicate in an optimal manner. Teachers inspire, love, and value their students. This commitment to fostering respect, intellectual growth, and authentic curiosity is what makes the Academy unique from other schools.”
From a personal standpoint, I want to let you know about the level of diversity awareness developing in my son. He not only is aware of the various cultural and religious celebrations his friends value, but he also can tell you what they are and the significance behind them. His range of friends is something that is just a marvel to me. His understanding and acceptance of all people is something that will serve him well in his personal and professional life. I truly feel that the students at the Academy see themselves as a community of learners — as friends. That is simply something I don’t see in other schools. I commend the Academy for its efforts in supporting and facilitating this among its students.

Economic diversity is valued at the Academy and supported by generous donors who provide funds for merit scholarships and need-based financial aid. Were it not for the generosity of the donors who support the Academy, it would not have been possible for my son to complete his education here. For the availability of the scholarships to help supplement our educational costs, we are very grateful.

At Harrisburg Academy, students recognize that being unique is celebrated. Diversity is valued in Academy classrooms, teams, and clubs. More importantly, we recognize that diversity and acceptance are regular themes in academic and social discourse.

As a professor who teaches about and researches in other countries, I understand the value of global education. Harrisburg Academy’s emphasis, from Early Childhood through Upper School, on languages, customs, history, and art of other countries is essential for children in the 21st century. Harrisburg Academy fosters understanding and provides outlets for exploration — be it in language, history, and literature classes as well as in art, music, and coursework throughout the curriculum.
Harrisburg Academy’s liberal arts program includes not just the core curriculum of “reading, writing, and arithmetic,” science, the arts, and technology, but also supplemental, real-world 21st century learning opportunities such as the Centers for Experiential Learning & Innovation and K-12 science labs.

STE(a)M Connect, a respected think tank of scholars, educators, and artists committed to informing about and advocating for STEAM education, states that complex problems are best solved using both hemispheres of the brain. By blending “immersive arts programs with reading, calculation, spatial reasoning, and critical analysis from a high-level viewpoint, educators are able to encourage development of forward-thinking, multi-sensory problem solving abilities in their students,” says the group.

The outcome of being educated through a well-balanced liberal arts curriculum? Individuals who are well-rounded, global citizens who are able to apply their knowledge in inventive ways to conquer new challenges.

How does a liberal arts education, such as that offered by the Academy, benefit my child?

“Each year we recommitted ourselves as Academy parents by enrolling our daughter — for a total of 15 years! We believe a liberal arts education provides our daughter exposure to ideas that challenge her to think, develop problem solving skills, and make responsible decisions consistent with our teachings as parents. This has been enhanced through relationships with other students, teachers, staff, and administrators over time.”

“The Academy classroom is a whole learning environment that is both creative and challenging. Even in kindergarten, the children learn to apply their knowledge, rather than just acquire skills, and this has carried over to every other aspect of our child’s learning. We love the integrated curriculum that bridges the academic areas and challenges the children to seek connections.”

“We would like to thank Harrisburg Academy for the ongoing support of the fine arts program. Without a program such as that which the Academy offers, we would never have discovered our son’s artistic talents. While other schools are cutting back art programs, the Academy remains committed to nurturing students in painting, pottery, and other areas of fine and performing arts. The art program at the Academy is an integral part of our son’s overall education.”
Harrisburg Academy students represent over 25 school districts and six counties. Students arrive by public school bus, Academy-sponsored school bus, car, and carpool. For many of our students, the commute time — especially if by bus — is no longer than if they attended a nearby public or parochial school. The answer to this question is not the logistics; rather, it is the premise that local public schools are “good enough.”

BUT WHAT IF “GOOD ENOUGH” REALLY ISN’T?

Harrisburg Academy’s Upper School consistently ranks above even the “better” public schools with outcomes “metrics” such as:

1. Seniors attending a 4-year College or University: Harrisburg Academy, 98%; Derry Township, 76%; Camp Hill, 74%
2. College Counselor-to-Student Ratio: Harrisburg Academy, 1:105; National, 1:457

“We live so far from the Academy — is it really worth it when schools nearby seem good enough?”

— Patrick R. Gibbons

“I’m sure that the public schools in our home area would educate our girls well on the basics, but the educational experience they receive at the Academy is above and beyond what I hear from friends and neighbors about the curriculum in our local schools. The music program, art program, Spanish lessons, concerts, class plays, science lab… I can go on and on listing the “extras” that make the education at the Academy so much more than a public school education. There was absolutely never a question of whether or not the Academy is worth the drive. The miles we drive are filled with priceless memories for me.”

“We are very impressed with Harrisburg Academy’s academics, small class size, and caring teachers. It’s definitely worth the drive from Carlisle to send our daughter to the Academy! Our daughter loves it, and we do, too!”

“At the Academy our family enjoys small class sizes, close parent-teacher partnerships, and a diverse student body. The Academy sets expectations high and works closely with students to ensure those expectations are met. We value this mutual investment in our children’s education, and don’t mind the extra minutes in the car each day.”

“The positive impact Harrisburg Academy has had on my daughter’s education truly has turned highway miles into golden miles and memorable moments. We can’t imagine having had her at another school. Kindergarten was a long time ago, and graduation is coming soon, but it has definitely been worth the investment of time to provide her with this amazing gift of education.”
In examining nearly a decade of standardized testing data for all Middle School students at Harrisburg Academy, we can proudly report that the “average” Academy student scores near or above the 85th percentile on nationally normed tests — and unlike the test-prep at other schools, Academy students achieve these results through regular instruction.

For more than 10 years, the average SAT score of Academy juniors has been about 20 percent higher than the national average. The average International Baccalaureate points score of Academy students who pursued the International Baccalaureate Diploma and passed is 32, which exceeds the international average, too.

Colleges recognize the quality of Academy students, as well. In addition to credits received via successful completion of International Baccalaureate classes, Academy graduates report receiving an average of $100,000 in college grants and scholarships. A college acceptance rate of 100% means each graduating senior reaches his or her desired level of postgraduate education. In the Class of 2014, Harrisburg Academy students were accepted to 65 colleges and universities in 18 states and Washington D.C.

How do Academy students measure up when it comes to standardized tests, college admissions, college scholarships, and academic and artistic competitions?

“How often, over half of Academy Middle School students qualify for the Johns Hopkins Talented Youth Program by scoring at or above the 95th percentile on standardized tests. These students are then invited to take the SAT or ACT early and often qualify for additional academic programs for middle school students at top colleges and universities in the region.”

“When moving through the college admissions process, we were so pleased that many of the admissions representatives were very familiar with the outstanding reputation of Harrisburg Academy and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Colleges commented on the rigor of the Academy’s program and the abilities instilled in Academy alumni. Our daughter’s first-choice college was very interested in what she would add to their program and campus and was very generous with a scholarship offer.”

“As Academy students, my sons have thrived both in and out of the classroom, including academic competitions, showcases, and publications. Recently, Academy students — as individuals and as teams — achieved high results in many local, national, and international competitions, including MathCounts, the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair, the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition, and the national Scholastic Arts and Writing Contest. Clearly, the education my children are receiving at the Academy is empowering them to pursue their education at the highest level, both in high school and beyond.”
What do Harrisburg Academy students experience? Something more. Something different. The tangible and intangible experiences of Academy students far exceed those of their public and private school peers.

For example, Harrisburg Academy has a one-to-one computing program for 6th through 12th graders to allow students effortless access to research and electronic resources to complement their coursework. The Academy’s 1st through 4th grade students have physical education every day. All students in Kindergarten through 8th grade participate in art, computer, and music classes. Academy students receive foreign language instruction each year beginning in Junior Kindergarten.

At the Academy, more than 75 percent of all Middle and Upper School students play at least one sport — and participate, thanks, in part, to our “no-cut” policy. This engagement often continues in college with many students competing as NCAA athletes.

Academy teachers guide and inspire their students, making our school a true community of learners. The faculty members provide an academically challenging yet nurturing environment that is the backbone of each child’s personal learning journey at Harrisburg Academy.

What will my child gain at the Academy that he/she won’t gain at another school?

“We believe education plays an essential role in developing children into confident, well-rounded individuals who can function in today’s competitive workplace. The Academy provides an education and an environment that fosters such development. The academic environment at the school is rigorous, which prepares them well for the challenges of higher education. The school curriculum is broad, offering the students deep exposure to the core subjects in addition to foreign languages, art, and music, among others. In addition, students will learn that their opinions matter as they are encouraged to share their views throughout their years at the school.”

“Sometimes you don’t know how good it is until they graduate. My two kids worked hard in Upper School and it paid off. They knew how to write papers and were exempt from English and foreign language courses in college. Looking back, they appreciate the hard work they put in and the close relationships they had with their teachers. It truly cannot be duplicated.”

“When we reflect on our experience at Harrisburg Academy, we expected the school would do an excellent job in preparing our son for college, but we didn’t realize how important his experiences in athletic and extracurricular activities would be for him and his long-term success. Our son would not be the person he is today without the totality of those experiences.”
Enrolling our daughter at Harrisburg Academy was the best way for us to help her achieve her high academic goals. The Academy offers foreign language instruction for all grades, Latin starting in 7th grade, delightfully small classes, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in the high school — none of these are available to her in our local public school district or any of the surrounding school districts! And with 100 percent of Academy graduates going on to higher education, we know our daughter is surrounded by like-minded, serious students who have college aspirations — an academic motivator in and of itself!

As a 2012 Academy graduate, I have experienced first-hand the benefits of an Academy education. The Academy develops students who can reflect and analyze critically, while providing colleges with candidates who have solid foundations in diverse knowledge bases that ease the academic transition. Beyond the academic foundation and a love for learning that is fostered at the Academy, I learned the skills and work ethic that I continue to apply to be successful in college.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma program, and the integrated curriculum upon which it is built, provides our students with critical thinking skills to learn the how and why of their education, and not just the facts they need for the next test. The International Baccalaureate Diploma program is based upon worldwide standards — something that ensures our students are being prepared not only to succeed in college but compete on a global level in the 21st century.

How do I know that my child will be well-prepared for life beyond high school?

"Enrolling our daughter at Harrisburg Academy was the best way for us to help her achieve her high academic goals. The Academy offers foreign language instruction for all grades, Latin starting in 7th grade, delightfully small classes, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in the high school — none of these are available to her in our local public school district or any of the surrounding school districts! And with 100 percent of Academy graduates going on to higher education, we know our daughter is surrounded by like-minded, serious students who have college aspirations — an academic motivator in and of itself."

"As a 2012 Academy graduate, I have experienced first-hand the benefits of an Academy education. The Academy develops students who can reflect and analyze critically, while providing colleges with candidates who have solid foundations in diverse knowledge bases that ease the academic transition. Beyond the academic foundation and a love for learning that is fostered at the Academy, I learned the skills and work ethic that I continue to apply to be successful in college."

"The IB Diploma offers colleges a chance to recognize the Academy’s fabulous education and gives students a chance to get college credit for courses they’ve taken in high school. This program also offers a global perspective so students are not just learning facts but new ways to view the world."

"The International Baccalaureate Diploma program, and the integrated curriculum upon which it is built, provides our students with critical thinking skills to learn the how and why of their education, and not just the facts they need for the next test. The International Baccalaureate Diploma program is based upon worldwide standards — something that ensures our students are being prepared not only to succeed in college but compete on a global level in the 21st century."

Like many independent schools, Harrisburg Academy is fortunate to have graduates return to our hallways to share their news and experiences.

Recent graduates share a sense of relief when discussing their transition to college. In fact, most students report that college academic courses are manageable, and oftentimes, easy. Our alumni report that they’ve “aced” course placement tests, and not just in their favorite subjects. Another area where our alumni give themselves high marks compared to their fellow college students is time management.
Harrisburg Academy graduates measure success in many different ways.

Some see it as rising quickly to the top of their chosen field. Others find it deeply satisfying to work quietly for an important cause. Still others find success in creative expression. A few find their way to careers that are truly unique.

Academy alumni share a common background of self-discovery and challenges not only met, but surpassed due to the many advantages of an Academy education. They all have experienced the benefits of a small school community that embraces the liberal arts and nurtures the “whole child” along his or her education journey. Our graduates’ backgrounds and chosen life paths may be extraordinarily different, yet our school is the unifying place at which they all laid the first bricks of their lives’ foundations, where their passions were ignited, and where their future dreams were born.

Our school helped them build confidence and character, and guided them to the next step — a step they did not merely accept, but actively sought through wisdom and understanding that comes from years of guided mentoring. And now, several years later, each Academy alumnus and alumna is making a unique, definitive mark across the country and the world.

It is important to note that the profiles contained on the following pages is just a small sub-set of a much larger, powerful group. Academy alumni everywhere, not just those featured on these pages, are contributing to the betterment of their global and local communities.
GENE KIM '92, ESQ.
Vice President - Corporate Strategy and General Counsel at Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc.
New York, N.Y.

In an office on the 52nd floor overlooking Grand Central Station in New York City, Gene Kim '92 serves as the vice president - corporate strategy and general counsel for Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc., a privately-held generic pharmaceutical company with partners around the world. Back in high school, if you had asked him what he would be doing today, he definitely would not have said working for a pharmaceutical company. “Yet, here I am, thoroughly enjoying my work, finding business to be surprisingly creative and rewarding… I’m a firm believer if you constantly improve yourself, work hard, follow your interests, and do good for others, you’ll always end up where you are supposed to be,” Gene said.

In his current position, Gene is responsible for overseeing the entire legal functions of the company from corporate, intellectual property, and regulatory and litigation matters. He also manages the legal staff and focuses considerable time on the business-development and corporate functions of the company. More than anything, he is having fun and being creative with his job. Nearly 10 years ago, Gene had the opportunity at Breckenridge to build an entire legal department from the ground up. He embraced this chance to be innovative and approached the process with an analytical yet unstructured mindset — a viewpoint Gene fostered at the Academy.

Without any reservation, I can say that Harrisburg Academy was a major influence in shaping my own unique perspective and outlook. Out of the very specific and distinct culture at the Academy, I was able to hone an uncompromising sense of independent thinking and curiosity, as well as intellectual rigor, at an early, critical age,” he said.

BEN ABRAMS '92
President at Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Harrisburg Academy and the Abrams family have one very important thing in common: legacy. The Abrams family has been in the Harrisburg area since 1904, when Benjamin Abrams emigrated from Lithuania and started peddling recyclable materials and scrap metal. One hundred and ten years later, Ben Abrams ‘92 is now president of Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. (CSR), the company that has evolved from Benjamin Abrams’ vision.

As president, Ben (the current-day one) oversees the processes at CSR, which include metal, paper, and plastic scrap recycling at six locations in Southcentral Pennsylvania. “I really enjoy my work — both the industry and being a business owner, able to control my own destiny,” said Ben, who is an Academy “Survivor” having attended kindergarten through graduation.

After graduating from Harrisburg Academy, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and went on to earn a law degree from Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law in 2001 and a master’s degree in real estate and real estate finance from New York University in 2006. Ben lives with his wife and two children, who he says are his greatest accomplishment. While at the Academy, he played soccer and lacrosse. He was inducted into the Academy’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010 for his many contributions to the Academy’s programs.

The Abrams family continues to stay connected to the Academy. Ben, his parents, Richard and Marilynn, and his brother, Neil ’96, support the school in various ways. Marilynn served on the Academy’s Board of Trustees from 1983 to 2001, was Board president from 1992 to 1995, and received the school’s highest honor, the McCormick Medal, in 2004.
SARAH WALBORN ’06
Professional Ballet Dancer for Kansas City Ballet
Kansas City, Mo.

Enduring strength, poised beauty, and elegant weightlessness only begin to scratch the surface of what it means to be Academy “Survivor,” Sarah Walborn ’06, a professional ballet dancer for Kansas City Ballet. After graduating from the Academy, Sarah entered the San Francisco Ballet’s trainee program and secured a spot in the company. She has also danced with the Washington Ballet, and will be moving on to join Ballet Arizona this summer.

“The hardest part of any career is getting your foot in the door and proving yourself worthy. My first contract with the San Francisco Ballet proved my dream had finally become a reality,” said Sarah, who has performed in George Balanchine’s “Diamonds” and Helgi Tomasson’s “The Nutcracker,” “Don Quixote,” and “The Sleeping Beauty,” to name a few.

“The hard work and dedication are still needed every day, but to show my passion to my community is my ultimate accomplishment.”

Sarah is always looking towards the future, as “a dancer’s career is short-lived.” However, the move to Ballet Arizona is one that could provide many options. Her main goal for the future is to maintain a role in a ballet company by becoming a ballet mistress, who teaches professional classes and is responsible for staging ballets and running rehearsals. “As a ballet mistress, I would be able to use my passion and give back the knowledge that I have obtained over my years of being on stage and performing,” Sarah said.

And passion is something that Sarah doesn’t take lightly, having been taught by others who found fulfillment in their jobs. “There is not one person at the Academy who is unwilling to give advice. Sometimes they may not even realize how much they give to each student every day,” said Sarah, who looked to Dr. [Lee] March and Mrs. [Cindy] St. John for support both at school and in her other endeavors.

Sarah credits the Academy with teaching her the things needed to succeed in any career, not just excellent academics. “It starts from the very core values the Academy has of honesty, integrity, and respect. Without these three things, I don’t know if I could have ever gotten to where I am today or even come close.”

ANNIE STONE ’06
Editor at Harlequin Teen
New York, N.Y.

My greatest accomplishment: Simply stated, I believe my greatest career accomplishment is how far I’ve come in such a short time. I started my career in 2010 as an editorial assistant at HarperCollins Publishers. Through personal initiative and a bit of good luck, I was able to quickly take on editorial responsibilities. Now I am an editor at Harlequin Teen.

In five years: As much as I love hands-on editorial work, I have found I enjoy the business of publishing just as much; the opportunity to help shape strategy decisions as a part of my current job has been fascinating. I’d love to continue to grow into a more strategy-based role (while continuing to edit and acquire!).

My Academy foundation: My instinct not to “color within the lines.” I distinctly remember Mr. [Terry] Bowie expressing his dislike of coloring books. Why color inside lines that someone else has drawn? I’m incredibly grateful to have learned at a young age that just because something has always been done one way, it doesn’t mean that’s the best way.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I was a “Survivor,” so I was benefiting from the amazing Academy education as early as I can remember. Creative inspiration came from Mr. [Randy] Gutwein and Mr. Bowie. Mrs. [Betsy] Rumberger, Mrs. [Charlotte] March, and Dr. [Lee] March fostered my love of reading and writing. Mrs. [Lisa] Nazar helped me launch a newspaper out of her classroom. Madame [Kathleen] Brown was my advisor and was like my second mother. Mr. [Randy] St. John introduced me to the magic that was philosophy and theory and probably is the reason that I focused on literary theory at Harvard. The list goes on!
ETHAN TITELMAN ’97
Vice President of Media and Entertainment at Penn Schoen Berland
Los Angeles, Calif.

Have you ever wondered how movie studios and other media and entertainment companies choose content to develop branding and advertising strategies, create trailers and TV ads, or research current trends? Often they do it with the help of a consultant like Ethan Titelman ’97, the vice president of media and entertainment research at Penn Schoen Berland, Santa Monica, who has consulted on over 1,000 media and entertainment research projects for companies such as 20th Century Fox, The Walt Disney Studios, Universal Studios, Sony, and Electronic Arts.

Ethan, who currently lives in Los Angeles, helped start and build the media and entertainment practice firm and has consulted on marketing campaigns for more than 150 major motion pictures. In the process, he helped create a forecasting model that can predict a movie’s opening weekend box office receipts months before it is released.

After graduating from Harrisburg Academy as a “Survivor,” he attended the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in international relations and political science. Then he earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of California, Los Angeles (Anderson School of Management), finishing at the top of his class.

“Harrisburg Academy provided me with a well-rounded education and extracurricular opportunities that allow me to do what I do today. My job requires me to be both analytical and creative, which are skills that were developed at the Academy. Despite its small size, I have always felt prepared for the large challenges that I have faced both academically and professionally because of my 13 years at the Academy,” Ethan said.
After Academy alumnus Dr. Zach Scheiner ‘93 graduated from Yale University with a bachelor’s degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry, he returned to the Academy as a Middle School science and math teacher for three years. “When I returned to the Academy to teach, Mr. [Steve] Stewart was a fantastic mentor and role model, and I reconnected with Mr. [Randy] St. John who, to me, has always embodied the Academy ethos of lifelong curiosity and love of learning,” said Zach, who exemplified those qualities himself when he went on to earn a doctorate degree in neurobiology and behavior from the University of Washington.

Currently based in San Francisco, Calif., Zach serves as a science officer at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. In this role, he is responsible for a $40 million portfolio of stem cell research grants across a range of development stages and scientific fields, working to improve the lives of patients. For this and other reasons, Zach received the Academy’s Rising Star Award in 2011.

Zach credits the Academy as the place where he laid the groundwork for his current career, learning writing skills that stick with him even today. “The Academy gave me an incredible foundation — I could talk about it ad nauseum. When I arrived at college, I was intimidated by all of the incredibly smart people in my classes but relieved to find that writing was one area in which I had a leg up,” he said. “The Academy also encouraged curiosity and a love of learning, and the confidence that it’s okay to be a geek!”
DISCOVER THE Advantage

1. SMALLER IS BETTER
   - Educating the “whole child” in a safe learning environment is what we do best
   - Highly committed faculty provide students with individualized attention
   - Active parent-teacher partnership
   - Organized on the basis of best learning practices, not on the economic efficiencies of “big”

2. AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE
   - Ongoing commitment to tuition assistance
   - JK through 12th grade, need-based financial aid is available
   - $1.2 million need-based financial aid in 2014-15 to over 35% of our students
   - $160,000 provided in merit scholarships to students 5th through 12th grade regardless of financial need
   - Average tuition assistance awarded is 55%

3. COLLEGE-BOUND PEER GROUP
   - 100% of students are admitted to four-year colleges & universities
   - 60% of students are admitted to top-tier, highly competitive schools
   - It is nearly impossible to choose your children’s friends, but it is easy to choose their peer group

4. UNCOMMON CORE
   - Liberal arts school where we educate the “whole child”
   - Fine arts, music, and drama are required for all students preschool through high school
   - Hands-on lab science from Kindergarten through 12th grade
   - Foreign language begins in Junior Kindergarten, leading to fluency by graduation

5. TOP SCORES
   - Our authentic learning environment yields above-average standardized test scores
   - The Academy’s average SAT score is nearly 200 points higher than nearest competitor
   - We teach to the child, not to the test, yet outcomes show the advantages of this approach
   - An average Academy student is above-average

6. REAL COLLEGE COUNSELING
   - College field trips with faculty and our college counselor begin in 8th grade and continue annually through 11th grade
   - Personalized college counseling is a vital part of our commitment to individual attention
   - Each student receives guidance on coursework, “fit”, and financial considerations — and the keys to completing the college process

7. GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS
   - Students need to be prepared for competition on a global scale
   - Diversity of culture, religion, heritage, and thought are valued, one-third of students represent national or ethnic diversity
   - Our students work side-by-side with students from around the world, gaining insights into other cultures

8. BUILDING CHARACTER
   - Education is not just about academics
   - Knowing our students is as important as knowing the material we teach
   - Use of Responsive Classroom®, Developmental Designs®, and strong advisor programs result in a superior educational environment
   - Our setting provides greater teacher effectiveness, higher student achievement, and increased student self-confidence

9. EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES
   - Highly committed faculty guide students in a small-class setting
   - Active learning is part of the curriculum in each division
   - Centers for Experiential Learning & Innovation supplement classroom experiences
   - Athletics program fosters the development of character, teamwork, sportsmanship, and integrity
   - Student athletes compete together towards a common goal while pursuing success

10. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
    - Our IB program, the longest-standing in the region, is the best preparation for successful college-level learning
    - IB instruction occurs with an optimized student-to-teacher ratio and in small classes
    - College admission officers prefer applications of IB Diploma candidates over students with just AP courses

11. POWERFUL ALUMNI NETWORK
    - Instant professional network is an invaluable resource to Academy graduates
    - Academy alumni are making a difference in their communities, industries, and workplaces
    - Common experiences as students mean an immediate connection
    - Network leads to internships and job prospects

WHY DO FAMILIES CHOOSE THE ACADEMY?
For so many more reasons than just those listed here. Our focus on character, experience, and outcomes will provide your child the advantages necessary to succeed at school, in college, and in life. Contact the Admission Office at Admission@HarrisburgAcademy.org to learn more.

At Harrisburg Academy, education of the “whole child” is our number one priority — and not just for the faculty, staff, and administration, but our parents, students, and alumni, as well. Every family enrolled at the Academy prioritizes education and recognizes the value of the Academy experience. We aspire to set the standard for academic excellence in Southcentral Pennsylvania, and we are proud to highlight these advantages of the Academy experience.