Harrisburg Academy is the area’s flagship independent school and is widely considered to be the best private school in Central Pennsylvania. We partner with families who value education as a priority and desire an alternative to other educational approaches. With a strong, college preparatory-focused liberal arts program, we provide a rigorous core curriculum of math and science, fine and performing arts, and world language, supplemented with hands-on learning opportunities and our Centers for Experiential Learning & Innovation. Our institution may be over 230 years old, but we proudly operate as a school of the future, putting great emphasis and value on the intentional personal connections forged between student, teacher, parent, and school.

Our school is proud to be organized in a fundamentally different way — not on the economic efficiencies of large public schools and school districts, but rather on the basis of best learning practices. The Academy’s educational options are an advantage to 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.

We are so proud of our hardworking, talented students and their success! These outcomes from both in and out of the classroom are our “Points of Pride.” These accomplishments make our community something more and something different than mainstream education, and we’re sure you will agree.

Discover your points of pride at Harrisburg Academy by visiting us online at harrisburgacademy.org or contacting the Admission Office at 717-763-7811.
Our Commitment

Our small school community allows for rigorous learning with a teacher-mentor who understands each student’s individual strengths and abilities. At Harrisburg Academy, each student is truly “known” through these intentional connections. Additionally, in an educational climate in which local private and public schools are cutting programming, the Academy continues to add academic and co-curricular opportunities for our students. From hands-on lab science starting in Kindergarten to multiple world-language offerings in Middle School and the International Baccalaureate Diploma program in Upper School, the Academy is committed to setting the bar for teaching and learning in Central Pennsylvania.

By the Numbers

• Enrollment for 2016-17: 370
• Nearly 40 percent of students come from diverse ethnic or international backgrounds
• Enrolled students represent six counties and 27 school districts; 12 school districts provide daily transportation to and from the Academy free of charge.
• Over 35 percent of students receive tuition discounts (based on financial need or merit)
• Male/Female Ratio: Approximately 50/50
• School-wide Student-to-teacher Ratio: 7:1; Average Teaching Class Size: 12 students
• 31 fine and performing arts courses with classes beginning in preschool
• 3 World Languages (French, Latin, and Spanish) taught

College-Bound Graduates

• Academy students apply and are accepted to a variety of colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and Europe. In the Class of 2017, students were accepted to 52 different institutions of higher education.
• National Merit Scholar and National Achievement Programs: For 15 years, Academy seniors have been recognized by these prestigious programs based upon their 11th grade PSAT scores. The Class of 2017 has two students recognized for achievement on the PSAT.
• Seventy-five IB Diplomas have been received by Academy seniors in the past nine academic years.

Athletics

• Colors - Blue and Gold; Team Name - Spartans
• 24 teams, including PIAA, club, and co-op sports for Middle and Upper School boys and girls

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is a preschool through 12th grade, coed, independent school known for an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts curriculum. Founded by John Harris, Jr., the Academy is proud to be the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma program, and the only school offering scholarships for international summer travel experiences for IB students.
Harrisburg Academy rose in the rankings of best schools as presented by Niche (a feedback website that tabulates rankings, reviews, and statistics on 250,000 U.S. colleges, K-12 schools, and places to live). For 2017-18, the Academy was graded as an A+ school, and was ranked as follows: #13 Best College Prep Private High School in Pennsylvania; #18 Best Private K-12 School in Pennsylvania; and #24 Most Diverse Private High School in Pennsylvania.

The Academy was named as the #1 Top Private School for the sixth time by readers of Central Penn Parent magazine in its annual Family Favorites Awards competition.

An Academy Upper School student received a first place award for his “Seeing Green” frog photo in the Susquehanna Greenway Photo Contest. He also won one of the “BEST SHOTS!” awards in Ranger Rick magazine, with his photo appearing in the April 2017 edition. His photo has won or placed in nine local and national photo contests, winning five first place awards, one second place, and three honorable mentions.

One senior was selected by a committee of medical students to participate in Penn State College of Medicine’s PULSE program. The topic of study was orthopedics and the musculoskeletal system.

One Middle School student qualified for the WITF Grand Championship Spelling Bee, televised in February.

A Middle School student won second place, Junior Fiction, in The Hershey Story History Contest. The student’s story was selected from 390 category entries and was published on the Hershey Story website.

An 8th grade student was named a finalist in the World of 7 Billion contest.

A 12th grade student was a Semifinalist in the 2017 National Merit® Scholarship Program. She was one of 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide.

Three Upper School students each earned an Outstanding Delegate award at the Penn State Harrisburg Model United Nations Conference.

A 12th grade student was awarded a Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship and received a $1,000 grant. This program recognizes high school seniors, from Comcast communities, for their commitment to community service, academics, and demonstrated leadership.

A Middle School student won a High Honors award for academic excellence from the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY). The student was recognized for scoring exceptionally high on a rigorous, above-grade-level test. Approximately 25 percent of the 27,000 Talent Search participants (representing 65+ countries) earned the High Honors designation.

An Academy freshman achieved a perfect score on the 2017 National Latin Exam. Only 813 students out of over 135,000 from 17 countries across the world achieved this distinction.

In this year’s national language exams for Spanish, French, and Latin, 23 Academy students received recognition at the gold, silver, or bronze level.
STUDENT PROFILE: CAMERON CLARK ’17

Harrisburg Academy senior Cameron Clark excels not only year round in the pool and on the field, but also in the classroom and in the community. Clark, the son of Keith and Linda Clark, holds a 3.48 GPA, is a National Merit Scholarship commendation recipient and a multi-sport athlete. If that were not enough, Clark also recently received the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, something he considers his greatest accomplishment.

“...so, having it completed feels great. I know how much work I put into it with the big project and the years of experience in the program.”

For his Eagle Scout project, Clark gave back to his school. “I built a trail in the environmental science area that loops around to the main area and put in trail markers along it,” he said.

Clark competed on the Harrisburg Academy Varsity Boys’ Soccer team throughout high school years, earning the designation as MVP his junior year and captain his senior year. He also holds the school record in the 50-, 100- and 200-meter freestyle in Varsity Swimming. Clark served as captain of the Harrisburg Academy swim team in 10th through 12th grade and competed at districts in 11th grade.

Despite his accomplishments in swimming, Clark said he prefers playing for a team. “I would rather be out there working with the team to complete the goal than swimming back and forth for myself,” Clark said. Clark also competed on the Harrisburg Academy lacrosse team in middle school and the Trinity High School lacrosse team during his freshman through junior years.
Several Academy Upper School students earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America. Each completed valuable projects that benefitted their communities.

• One student completed a neighborhood beautification project at a park in Beacon Hill, a neighborhood in New Cumberland. With the help of scouts, leaders, and parents from Troop 54, they constructed four benches and a recycling unit for holding garbage cans, planted trees, and spread mulch around other trees at the park. The student will later place tree identification markers and a historical sign to mark a radar beacon used to guide commercial planes across Pennsylvania.

• Another student made improvements to the Academy's arboretum and outdoor classroom space. With the help of his troop and the Academy community, the student created a trail path and a second outdoor classroom space in the wooded area behind John Crain Kunkel Athletic Complex. He also added identification markers for trees in the area.

• A third Academy student chose Caitlin's Smiles, a Harrisburg non-profit that provides children in hospitals with “Bags of Smiles” or bags filled with individual arts and crafts kits, homemade cards etc., as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout project. He planned, organized, and led 16 scouts and adults to construct warehouse shelving to enable volunteers to more efficiently organize donated items.

Clark has taken that desire to teach and incorporated it into his time in Boy Scouts by helping teach classes in swimming during summer camp.

“My favorite part of working at camp was teaching the lifesaving merit badge,” Clark said. “It was skills that meant something to me. Being a lifeguard, I actually used these skills and I understood how important they were in a survival situation and they could help someone’s life.”

Clark said his parents have been a big influence on him and have helped him get to where he is now. He said he has taken bits of what he has seen from both his mother and father to shape his personality. “My dad’s a really serious guy,” Clark said. “He likes to work in order. He’s a very orderly person. My mom’s not so orderly. She’s a bit more chaotic. I’ve gotten both of their traits where I will panic where I need to but up until that point I’m really calm.”

Cameron is now attending the University of Colorado at Boulder as a mechanical engineering major.

ACADEMY EAGLE SCOUTS
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Three Upper School Varsity Soccer players were selected to the Harrisburg Christian Girls' and Boys' All-Tournament Teams.

A 10th grade student qualified for and competed in the USA Shooting's 2016 Progressive Position Air Pistol National Championships at the U.S. Army's Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) in Ft. Benning, Georgia in July. He represented the Palmyra Air Pistol team from the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association. During the two-day event, he shot a personal best score and became nationally ranked. A 10th grade student competed in the 2017 National Rifle and Pistol Junior Olympic Championships at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado in April. Only the finest junior athletes in the nation are invited to attend, and he was one of 40 men nationwide who qualified for and competed in the Sport Pistol event.

Two Upper School students were selected to the All-Tournament Basketball teams during Tip-Off Weekend at the Harrisburg Christian and Mount Calvary Tournaments.

An 11th grade student was selected to First Team All-Midstate Athletic Conference Team. Two more Upper School students received Honorable Mention. Both the Varsity Girls' and Varsity Boys' Basketball teams were voted Sportsmanship Team of the Year.

The MS Lacrosse team is 2nd place in U15 A Division at Mid-Penn Championships. This team has the best record and finish in Academy U15 lacrosse history, with a record of 16-2. Additionally, the MS B Lacrosse team also had a winning season, with a record of 7-3.

The Middle School Boys' Basketball team won the Central Pennsylvania Basketball League Championship. The boys defeated the Jewish Community Center with a score of 56-19.

Two Academy Upper School students set the pool on fire, breaking several school records (and each other's records!) during the 2016-17 Varsity Swimming Season:

- The 50 Free, with a time of 23.22
- The 100 Free, with a time of 53.23
- The 100 Fly, with a time of 1:01.81
- The 100 Backstroke, with a time of 1:08.55
- The 100 Breaststroke, with a time of 1:22.26
- The 200 IM, with a time of 2:19.57
- The 200 Free, with a time of 2:06.80
- A Lower School student broke his personal swimming record in the 100 Free with a time of 52.51.

Of the nine Academy swimmers who participated in Central Pennsylvania Aquatic League Divisionals, seven qualified to swim in All-Stars in March.

Two Academy Upper School students were awarded for their performance in PIAA District 3 Swimming Championships. One student placed 11th in the 50 Free and 22nd in the 100 Free. He improved his time with a new Academy record of 23.22 for the 50 Free. Another student medaled in the 100 Fly, finishing 8th. She also finished 17th in the 100 Breaststroke.
STUDENTS AND THE ARTS

• Six Middle and Upper School girls performed with the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras during their 2016-17 season.

• One of the lead role actors in the Academy’s musical was nominated for “Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical” through the Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards. The Apollo Awards are modeled after the Tony Awards on Broadway, and honor achievement by local high school students in theatrical endeavors.

• Many Upper School students participated in regional music events during the 2016-17 academic year, including PMEA County Chorus, Orchestra, and Band, and PMEA District Orchestras.

• A Middle School student won the Under 11 Championship at the McCinley School of Irish Dance Annual Feis in Harrisburg and the Under 11 Special Trophy at the Felix la Noaith Pading in Mechanicsburg.

• Six talented students danced and sang at the Pennsylvania Regional Ballet performance of "The Nutcracker." Another talented six students performed in the Snowflake Chorus.

• Seven students were award winners at the 43rd Annual Capital Area Classics Festival held at Dickinson College. Awards and categories are as follows:

  2nd Place - Mosaic
  2nd Place - Needlework
  2nd Place - Vocabulary Bee (Beta)
  2nd Place - Veni Vidi Scripsi (Beta)
  2nd Place - Veni Vidi Scripsi (Alpha)
  2nd Place - Historical Wanted Poster
  1st Place - Veni Vidi Scripsi (Beta)
  2nd Place - Vocabulary Bee (Alpha)
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STEM SUCCESS

Three 10th grade students created the Spartan VEX Robotics, and they and their robot, “El Diablo,” competed at a regional competition. The Academy’s team successfully placed in the top 6 of 28 teams advanced them to the VEX Robotics Eastern PA State Championships in Norristown, Pennsylvania. At States, they went 5-3 in the qualifiers, advanced to the semifinals, and finished 4th place in the state!
Harrisburg Academy celebrated several Middle and Upper School winners at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) Region 4 science fair competition. Three students were 1st award winners; four students earned 2nd awards.

All 1st award winners advanced to the state competition at Penn State (University Park) in May. The best of best science research projects were presented at States, where more than 2,000 students across Pennsylvania participated. Academy students finished strong, with two students earning 1st awards in their division and the third student earning a 3rd award in her division!

The Middle School MATHCOUNTS team received the Special Recognition Award at the 2017 MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition. Our team finished 4th out of 17 schools. Additionally, a 7th grade student finished 13th, and an 8th grade student finished in 24th out of 139 competitors.

Eight Middle School students participated in the regional Math 24® competition. One student placed in the top 40.

Upper School chemistry teacher, Denise Hurst, was awarded the Allen Floyd Whalen Memorial Award by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society. This award recognizes an outstanding teacher in chemistry at the high school level.

Dr. Jennifer Shannon Pyne ’02 DMD was honored in the 2016 Central Pennsylvania Business Journal’s 40 under 40 for her commitment to business growth, community involvement, and professional excellence. Dr. Shannon is a partner at her dental practice, Locust Lane Dental Group.
Academy K-4th grade science teacher, Carolyn Estill-Shover ’92, received a $4,800 Whitaker Fund for Math and Science grant. The funds provided the opportunity to add 20 Brock Magiscopes to our Lower School science lab. The Brock Magiscope’s durable construction and reduced number of moving parts is designed with young scientists in mind and can be used indoors and outdoors.

Harrisburg Academy honored its 2016 Alumni Achievement Awards recipients and Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, including: Colonel William Dodson ’73 (Professional Achievement Award); Jay Friedlander ’86 (Academic Achievement Award); Kristen Pfautz Woolley ’88 (Service to Humanity Award); William Higgins ’96 (Rising Star Award); Stacy Adler Smith ’83 (Athletics Hall of Fame), and Eric Clark ’03 (Athletics Hall of Fame). Alumni Achievement Award winners are recognized for their academic and professional accomplishments since graduation. Athletics Hall of Fame inductees are recognized for their past achievements as students, coaches, and friends of the Academy’s athletics programs.

David Heisey ’79 was inducted into the inaugural Central Pennsylvania Chapter of US Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Dave is a member of Harrisburg Academy’s Athletics Hall of Fame, and as co-captain for the Spartans during the 1979 season, set the record for most points scored in a game (nine). He went on to play lacrosse and soccer at American University, coach lacrosse and soccer at Harrisburg Academy for 20 years, and has continued supporting both sports in the Harrisburg area for more than 25 years.

Middle school math teacher, Diane Innerst, won the Special Recognition Award for 23 years of coaching at the recent 2017 MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition.

Harrisburg Academy alumna and Carnegie Mellon undergrad, Hannah Shee ’15, performed at the Purnell Center of the Arts in Pittsburgh in Johann Strauss’ comedic opera “Die Fledermaus” (The Bat).

Upper School English teacher, Annette Spahr, was given the exclusive opportunity to participate in the Smithsonian American Art Museum Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. for a “Teaching the Humanities through Art” summer program. As a summer scholar, she was able to expand her current approach of helping her students make interdisciplinary connections that foster their critical thinking skills.

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FACULTY PROFILE:

LINDSAY BOWMAN

MS History Teacher
Middle School history teacher, Lindsay Bowman, plays many roles at Harrisburg Academy. Beyond the focus of her work as a classroom educator, Lindsay runs the Academy’s Center for Global & Local citizenship, serves as a coach (soccer, basketball, running), and is an active board member of the World Affairs Council (Harrisburg chapter). In her spare time, she has demonstrated success in grant writing — which has led to many student and personal travel opportunities within the United States and beyond.

Harrisburg Academy celebrates Lindsay Bowman and her many achievements, which have had a direct impact on her ability to educate our students for the challenges of the 21st century.

What has Lindsay done over the course of this single year?

- Received the Torch of Global Enlightenment Awards from the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg honors individuals and organizations that have demonstrated the highest ideals in advancing issues of global importance.
- Secured a $16,500 travel grant from DSF Charitable Foundation to take all 32 members of the 8th grade class to visit the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana! Only two schools in North America received this grant out of the 100-plus applications.
- Was selected as one of 12 educators nationwide to participate in a nine-day United Arab Emirates Study Tour program. During their trip, the teachers visited the minister of education, model schools, the Federal National Council, and more in Abu Dhabi and Dubai with the ultimate intent of bringing context about the UAE back to their American classrooms.
- Won a $700 travel grant through Target Field Trips to help with the cost of spring field trips.
- Was awarded a position at the “Thomas Jefferson and the Enlightenment” program at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, UK by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Thank you, Lindsay!