

INDEPENDENT
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STATEN ISLAND'S ONLY
**INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL**

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**An independent school education
is the experience of a lifetime.**

Since 1884, Staten Island Academy has been the only independent school on Staten Island. Yes, we are a “private school,” but we are more than that. We are co-educational and non-religious. We are governed by a board of trustees, independent of any other organization. We are an intentional community of over 300 families, 75 educators and staff, and over 3,000 alumni nationwide — all of whom come together to provide a transformative experience for each student. Our independence enables us to turn school into the experience of a lifetime. Through small classes, a breadth of more than 100 courses and a teaching dynamic that fosters curiosity and confidence, every student graduates ready to become an engaged citizen and a thoughtful leader.



Nothing makes Acting Head of School, Eileen F. Corigliano, happier than spending time with students.



WHAT INDEPENDENT MEANS

Independent means we are free from the restrictions that limit other schools — and that hold students back.

- Independent means that we meet and **exceed** all New York State-mandated standards.
- We are accredited by both the New York State Association of Independent Schools and the National Association of Independent Schools — an important distinction from all other schools on Staten Island.
- We earned an “A+” overall rating from Niche *2021 Best Schools in America*.
- Our entire Pre-K3 through Grade 12 program is proven to provide the best preparation for the nation’s top colleges and universities.
- We are proud that our college guidance program is led by the former president of the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling, who was named by *The Princeton Review* as one of the country’s “20 School Counselors Who Make a Difference.”
- Our students make the most of our incredible 12-acre campus, located in New York City’s “borough of parks” — seven buildings, including a gymnasium, multi-media library, performance theater, sun-filled dining hall, private playground, athletic fields, and tennis courts.



WHAT DOES Independent MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?



Independent means they
really love going
to school.

LOWER SCHOOL

PRE-K3, PRE-K4 & K
GRADES 1-4

The beginning of the Academy journey



A genuine love of learning is what the Academy instills. The kind of joy that only comes when children feel nurtured, happy, and safe, free to explore and embrace challenges. At the Academy, every child receives the kind of meaningful attention that makes them feel at home, comfortable enough to ask questions, pursue ideas, and create solutions. Our classrooms are centers of curiosity, cooperative learning, brainstorming, creating, and refining. A place where mistakes are encouraged — in order that students may sometimes experience failure while understanding that failure and refinement are vital parts of learning. We all know that learning needs to be supportive and engaging but it can also be quite messy. Play. Explore. Question. Discover. We're prepared for all of it, so that your child will be prepared — from their earliest years — for all that school and life will bring.

AN ENCOURAGING ATMOSPHERE

The Academy is a safe and supportive environment, where children develop a genuine love of learning, understanding from Day 1 that school is not to be feared. Rather, it is an exciting — even fun — place to constantly discover. We inspire children to think big and bold, yet feel safe to fail and try again.

A SMALL CLASS

The Lower School is small. That means no one gets lost or left behind in these critical early years. Your child's teacher will genuinely know your child — their strengths, their weaknesses, and their needs, wants, and challenges. They are also able to identify their gifts. Small classes enable our teachers to see students clearly, recognize their individual learning styles and then take steps to both challenge and nurture them.

A DEDICATED HOME ON CAMPUS

The Lower School encompasses its own buildings and playground, so that children have a home base. Yet, with over 200 trees, winding paths and multiple buildings, the Academy campus makes every day a field trip. Children have the space they need to move and grow, but they are accompanied and they are safe.

“

We started to look up different things that she learned in science class, and she would say, 'It's not just about textbooks, Mommy. We explore and we touch it and we feel it.'”

— LOWER SCHOOL PARENT OF TWO ACADEMY STUDENTS



DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ACADEMY STUDENT IN KINDERGARTEN

8:10am

Arrival. We pull into the front circle, still sleepy but ready for a great day.

8:30am

Mathematics. Our Math Specialist joins us and introduces Singapore Math manipulatives.

8:45am

Emotions A-to-Z. Counselors visit our class to discuss ways to reach compromise with friends.

9:30am

Playground. Even when it's cold outside we race to the slides and climbing wall.

10:30am

Technology & Computers. We use Bee-Bots, which are cool robots, to learn about directions.

11:30am

Lunch. Yum.

12:30pm

Language Arts. We illustrate the stories that we wrote, and we make picture books and title them.

1:30pm

Science. Mrs. Rifi teaches us about magnets. I can't wait to go home and show my family!

3:20pm

Dismissal. We say goodbye, but some of us stay to play soccer in an Adventures program.



AN UNCOMMON CURRICULUM

The Academy curriculum is not based on a Universal Pre-K model, nor is it shaped by “Common Core” for Grades 1-4. As an independent school, we design our own academic program — one that sparks deep curiosity and hands-on, experiential learning. Our teachers use the Lucy Calkins Reading & Writing Program and Singapore Math, and they are trained in Orton-Gillingham — a multi-sensory phonics literary approach. In concert with the faculty of the Middle and Upper Schools, our Lower School educators teach a fully integrated and unified curriculum.

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS

Our teaching team is what makes the Lower School the special place that it is. Committed to collaboration — with students, with each other, and with parents — our teachers focus on “differentiation,” which means they customize their teaching to how each child learns best. Plus, every Lower School student is taught by a wide array of specialists— in Technology and “Makerspace,” Science, Library, Art, Music, Chorus and Instrumental Ensemble (Grades 1-4), American Sign Language, Physical Education, and what we call “Emotions A-to-Z” — a special, team-building advisory.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM, 7am-7pm

Our after-school program is a before-school program, too. It's called “Extended Day.” All students in Lower School may arrive at 7am and stay at school until 7pm — fully supervised and engaged with age-appropriate playtime, snacks and homework support. We include this benefit in our tuition so working families have quality childcare options on a campus they trust.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 5-8

An experience like no other



A very special experience — that's how we can best describe the Middle School at the Academy. In these important adolescent years, we understand it is the experiences kids have that become the very foundation of their personality, their academic success, and their point of view on the world. As an independent school, the Academy offers an experience unlike what students and parents get elsewhere. Each day students are challenged, mentored, encouraged and celebrated by our faculty and staff. Because of this unique approach, students learn that their voices matter, that curiosity is the start of a long-lasting and meaningful journey, that teamwork and collaboration are paramount. Along the way, they learn that freedom comes with great responsibility. The results are impressive.

SMALL BY DESIGN

Academy classes are small — on purpose. The unique size allows students to transform in incredible ways. Attention is on each student's academic and emotional growth. We can do that with real precision at this age. The size also gives our students the opportunity to really know one another. Students bond and form friendships that last a lifetime. Students learn to read music and play a musical instrument. Students take a fine arts class, perform on a stage, play on a sports team. Everyone gets personalized academic guidance. Everyone.

REAL PARENT PARTNERSHIP

The Middle School years can be as much of a period of change for parents as it is for students. As an independent school, we are able to get to know all of our families, so we can partner with parents to find the right balance between independence and involvement in a child's life. We encourage parents to be active and engaged in the life of the Academy — when they can — and to cultivate meaningful connections with other families. This partnership is vital to a strong independent school community.

A UNIQUE SCHEDULE

The school day at the Middle School was designed by a team of educators and counselors to ensure that it is developmentally appropriate for adolescents. The day starts with movement or with singing or the arts — to enable children to get their bodies moving and brains working. The entire 8-day rotating schedule is made to include variety, so that every day is different, school stays dynamic, and students remain engaged. Adolescence is a unique time, so our program is equally unique.

“

In the Middle School, my son began to spread his wings in a safe, supportive environment. His growth was astonishing — he loved school, his teachers became like second parents and most of all, for the first time, he was in a setting where it was cool to care about school.”

— PARENT OF AN ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT



Independent means
school is so much more
than a classroom.



A

**DAY IN THE LIFE OF
AN ACADEMY STUDENT
IN GRADE SIX**

8:00am

Arrival. I start the day by checking in with my advisor and putting my books in my locker.

8:10am

Soccer. Time for soccer practice, during Gym class. Got my cleats to play out on the field!

9:30am

English. Today, we get to choose a book to read for pleasure! Then, we discuss the “hero.”

10:30am

Advisory. We fill-in a template of heads with pictures that describe what bring us joy.

10:55am

Lunch. Chicken fingers and fries! Friday favorite!

11:40am

History. I rush to our classroom and grab my favorite seat to watch today’s news on CNN10.

12:30pm

Science. I have a blast playing *Jeopardy!* as a review for our Science exam on Monday.

1:30pm

Break. I run out to the field as fast as I can to play GaGa with my friends! (It’s a fun ball game!)

1:50pm

Math. I work with a partner to solve algebraic equations and tricky word problems.

2:35pm

Latin. Last period, I turn into a Greek God, sharing my mystical powers.

3:20pm

Dismissal. The day is over! Time to head home!

ACCELERATED STUDIES

The Academy offers an accelerated curriculum for students in Grades 5-8. With a choice of foreign language (Latin, Spanish, or Mandarin) and an array of elective classes, Middle School is anything but standard. Students take Algebra 1 in Grade 8 so that they are prepared for geometry and calculus when they enter high school. In addition to their primary classes, everyone learns Library Science, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, and Technology, which incorporates robotics, design thinking, gaming, and simulation. Outside the classroom, almost every student competes on a sports team as part of the school day.

A VIBRANT SCHOOL LIFE

Middle School is a time for kids to take big steps with increasing freedoms and responsibilities. At the Academy, students can take advantage of the benefits of a 12-acre campus, a long list of extra-curricular activities and clubs, team sports, theatrical productions, and a day-trip and overnight trip program designed just for them. In Grades 5-8, they travel to New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington, DC, and participate in an overnight outdoor adventure that cultivates many memories and lasting friendships.

A DEDICATED “ADVISOR”

Open access to guidance, mentorship and counsel is key to the Academy experience. Every student in Grades 5-8 has their own “advisor,” a faculty member who works with them (and their family) to chart the course forward. Because of our advisory system — and our open-door policy with all of our teachers — no one gets lost in the shuffle. Students learn to openly communicate, debate and trust adults as their advocates and champions. Advisory groups meet during the school day, throughout the week, so that students have ongoing contact with their advisor. It is a unique relationship that students rave about.



INDEPENDENT means
freedom from the usual.

UPPER SCHOOL

GRADES 9-12

Where young men and women
design their future



chance to be the very best version of yourself that you can be — that’s what an Academy education can give you. Academy students go to high school on a 12-acre campus that looks like a college. Students choose their coursework based on their interests. They develop themselves in every way possible — in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, at the podium, in the community — not just so their college applications are the strongest they can be, but so they can be the most dynamic young adults they can be, here at school, at home with their families, in the community, and in the world. Academy students spend their day interacting with adults who respect them, work with them to make smart and strategic choices about their future, and champion their success every step of the way. We’re a small school, and that’s intentional. Our size is our strength. It means the focus is on each student.



I’m so happy that I decided to come here for high school. I really feel like they get who I am and want me to succeed in the ways that I really want to.”

— ACADEMY STUDENT IN GRADE 10

A FULL COLLEGE PREP CURRICULUM

With over 70 courses — both foundational (required) and elective classes — as well as 12-14 AP offerings each year, the Upper School curriculum meets, exceeds, and far surpasses all state standards. All students take four years of English, three years of a classical or foreign language (Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish), a highly advanced math program that begins with Algebra I or Geometry in Grade 9 and Computer Science & Coding.

CURATED SCHEDULES

Every student at the Academy works with our academic and college advisors to chart their own course. No two student schedules are alike, and students are fully invested in their academic experience. Students are not trapped in one lane academically but rather are encouraged to explore their emerging interests in much greater depth. The school follows an 8-day schedule which features several 60-minute periods throughout the week, encouraging deeper classroom discussion and enabling students to take a wider variety of courses.

LEADERSHIP

The Upper School program is designed to foster leadership skills in every student. We don’t teach leadership, we cultivate it. We give every student the chance to step forward and lead. Students are also required to take a public speaking class, because no matter where your ambitions take you, there is no substitute for the experience of having your voice heard.

A VIBRANT CAMPUS

Grades 9-12 are not limited to a high-school building. They are the leaders of a full Pre-K3 through Grade 12 student body across the campus. It is common for our upperclass students to interact with our younger ones, together with teachers and coaches, thoughtful mentors and advisors, International students, and a diverse community of families in which as many as twenty different languages are spoken.



DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ACADEMY STUDENT IN GRADE NINE

8:10am

Morning Meeting. The whole Upper School meets in the theater to kick off the day.

8:30am

English. A study of “Heroes and Journeys.” We read with a special eye on irony and symbolism.

9:30am

“Prep.” With an open period to study, we can do classwork that’s due, or meet with a teacher.

10:30am

Break. I can take a walk or grab a bagel and play ping-pong in “the Commons” (our dining hall).

10:55am

Physics. We review scientific notation and learn the Factor Label Method. Super important!

11:40am

Foundations of Shakespeare. We learn the historical context behind many famous works.

12:30pm

Lunch. We eat inside or outside the Commons.

1:05pm

Algebra. I learn easier ways to solve equations. Other classmates of mine are tackling Geometry.

1:50pm

Ancient and Medieval European History. We study the Greeks and their various cultures.

2:35pm

Spanish. We speak virtually no English. Our teacher makes it engaging with online resources.

3:20pm

Dismissal. Or time for sports practice! I change, grab a snack and head to the field for soccer.

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

In its 137-year history, the Academy has developed unique traditions that bring our students to the world and the world to our students. Upper School students go to London, England; they explore New York City on the annual “City Adventure;” and in years past, the school community has been given the opportunity to travel with their families to Europe, China and Morocco.

During senior year, students take part in multiple leadership roles, a dedicated service project, a required job internship and, for some, a comprehensive research paper, the “Signature Project.” Traditionally, there is a senior whitewater rafting trip, a presentation of personalized

senior tributes at an honorary luncheon, class sweaters, chair signings and the memorable Geranium Ball (our unique “senior prom”) capping off celebrations in June.

Along the way, students participate in over 25 clubs, multiple theatrical productions, singing groups, and activities throughout the year. Inspired by the British custom of creating a House System, each student in the Upper School is inducted into one of five houses. House competition provides yet another outlet for students to work hard and play hard, building friendships with other students in every grade of the Upper School while squaring off in academic, athletic, and artistic competitions.

LEADERS ON STAGE

The Academy is a much larger school than we seem when it comes to our Performing Arts program. With productions and performances year-round, Upper School students can act, sing, dance, direct, build sets, run the lights, and even shoot films. For over 25 years, the performing arts program has graduated actors and artists who go onto the nation’s most prestigious programs — some of whom now work on Broadway and in Hollywood.



THE COLLEGE GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Our college guidance program is recognized as the best on Staten Island and one of the leading programs in New York City — the impressive result of our 100% student placement in “selective colleges.” Led by the former President of the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling, who was named by *The Princeton Review* as one of the country’s “20 School Counselors Who Make a Difference,” the Academy’s program simply gets results. Each student works directly with the Director of College Guidance, and a Senior Advisor, to create a unique plan for college, focusing on each student’s individual strengths and aspirations.

Our formal College Night programming begins in Grade 9 and occurs yearly, educating students and their families on grade-specific preparation for college every step of the way. Our students go on to the nation’s top colleges and universities, because when those schools are searching for the very best students — students who are prepared and ready to embrace the future — they turn to Staten Island Academy.



LEADERS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

While competing against the top independent schools in the metropolitan area, Staten Island Academy bolsters its teams’ schedules with contests against powerhouse programs from the public, Catholic, and private school leagues in the tri-state area. With our own gym, playing fields, fitness room, and tennis courts, our campus is the student-athlete’s dream. With a no-cut policy that fosters strong student involvement, approximately 80% of our students play at least one varsity sport. Staten Island Academy is a place for high-achievers who want to succeed both in the classroom and on the court.

Independent
means access to
valuable resources
that maximize
learning.

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THE PARC

The Patrick Academic Resource Center (“The PARC” for short) plays a central role in supporting students and teachers with their classroom needs. Just as the curriculum at all levels at Staten Island Academy focuses on teaching students how to be comprehensive thinkers and problem solvers, at the PARC, specially trained educators work with students — one-to-one and in small groups — to ensure they have the skills and strategies needed to participate fully in class and ultimately become successful independent learners in college.

The PARC program:

- is geared towards children with strong cognitive abilities and academic potential.
- uses a customized approach to provide services to children with dyslexia, dysgraphia, attention deficit and anxiety.
- provides emotional support through counseling.
- is staffed by Orton-Gillingham trained specialists, who are experienced in language-based learning disabilities.
- works with our faculty to ensure that integration with their academic curriculum is seamless.



INDEPENDENT
means the opportunity
for lifelong connection.

We are proud that our students stay in touch — not only with one another but with our faculty and staff.

In a series of formal and informal gatherings — both on-campus and online — our community maintains its strong bonds as students graduate and begin college and their professional careers.

Our alumni network consists of doctors, scientists, attorneys, writers, educators, finance professionals, entertainers. The list goes on. They live down the street and around the world. They are leaders in their fields, innovators in their chosen industries, and voices of change. And we remain incredibly proud of them.

“
I feel deeply grateful to work with
the Academy community, where
kids come first, where colleagues
are generous with their time and
expertise, and where all you need is
a sharp pencil, a good book, and an
open mind to have an
extraordinary day.”

— A PROUD ACADEMY FACULTY MEMBER



INDEPENDENT
means becoming the very best
version of yourself as you prepare to
navigate a complex and
changing world.



**Come feel the
difference at
Staten Island's only
*Independent School.***

1

Visit our website at
www.statenislandacademy.org

2

Attend an Open House.
Learn more about the Academy at one of
our special events — held throughout the
year both on-campus and online. Visit
www.statenislandacademy.org/admissions

3

Schedule a campus tour.
There is no better way to feel the
difference than to visit campus and
experience it for yourself.
Call (718) 303-7803 to schedule a
personal tour for you and your family.

Staten Island Academy
715 Todt Hill Road
Staten Island, NY 10304

Let's talk about tuition.

Independent schools are run on a mix of tuition dollars, annual giving, proceeds from special development events, and a bedrock of major gifts. Tuition prices can be found on our website at www.statenislandacademy.org/tuition.

Financial Aid. There is no more significant investment than that of education. Each year, we award over \$2 million in financial aid, with more than 40% of our families receiving some form of assistance. We privately work with each family to thoughtfully explore options of affordability for families that qualify.

The William Winter Scholarships. Each year, the Academy awards these special merit-based scholarships to students entering Grade 6 and Grade 9. Recipients are chosen following a competitive but satisfying process, including a scholarship exam, teacher recommendations, a campus visit and personal interviews.

Sustainability. We know that running a household and growing a family takes important planning. We commit to our families that although tuition traditionally increases a small percentage each year, their award remains consistent with their demonstrated need so that families may plan with a level of financial confidence.

Parent Network. Our Admissions office maintains a network of parents who are available to discuss their journey to the Academy. Families' stories of growth and transformation can be far more effective than a brochure. Let us put you in touch so that you can hear more about how a real family "makes it work."

“

We had a family discussion to weigh the cost and the opportunity, and we decided we were going to do anything and everything we could so that our kids could go to the Academy. Now that they are there, I can tell you this: it's worth every penny.”

— PARENT OF TWO ACADEMY STUDENTS





www.statenislandacademy.org

**PROUD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

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Statement of Non-Discrimination: Staten Island Academy does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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