

**Contacts**

**Head of School:** Benedict Chant

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**Overview**

**Type:** Independent, coed.

**Grades:** Pre-k–grade 12

**Founded:** 1934

**Accredited:** NYSAIS

**Registered:** NYS Dept. of Ed.

**CEEB:** 334629

**Enrollment:** 210

**Financial aid:** 46%

**Students of color:** 26%

**High school:** 97

**Class of 2019:** 36

**Class of 2018:** 23

**Memberships:** NAIS,

NACAC, NYSACAC,

ACCIS, ICG (Independent

Curriculum Group), ISM

**Program**

The 2-semester year follows a 10-day cycle. Regular courses meet in 70-minute blocks. Each semester, students take one intensive study course that meets for a full day once per 10-day cycle.

Graduation requirement:

English/humanities 4.0 credits	science 4.0 credits
history/humanities 4.5 credits	arts 3.5 credits
world languages 4.0 credits	electives 4.0 credits
math 4.0 credits	phys. ed. 2.0 credits
community service 2.0 credits	

The rigorous academic program is writing intensive and stresses critical thinking and problem solving in all disciplines. Students are encouraged to develop at least one strong ongoing interest, skill or discipline and pursue it independently. Seniors may petition to individualize their programs around areas of special interest. A complete list

of high school courses is available on the school’s website.

The program uses a 1:1 laptop format and is aligned with the maker movement. Evolving technologies are integrated across disciplines.

PDS fields interscholastic teams in girls’ and boys’ soccer, basketball, cross country, volleyball, baseball and softball, tennis and coed Ultimate Frisbee – all members of Hudson Valley Athletic League and Western New England Prep. School Athletic Assoc. Boys baseball and Ultimate Frisbee were each 2017–2018 HVAL league/tournament champions.

Student activities include literary magazine, music ensembles, foreign language clubs, Habitat for Humanity, Model UN, environmental club, beekeeping and other opportunities for community involvement and leadership.

**Evaluation**

PDS uses *comprehensive narrative evaluations in place of letter or number grades*; students are not ranked. Official transcripts list courses taken and credits received. Evaluations address all aspects of student performance, noting strengths as well as areas requiring greater effort and attention. They are written with the expectation that even the most able and accomplished students can enhance their skills and understanding.

**Advanced-Level Courses**

PDS offers many intensive, highly demanding Advanced Topics (AT) courses open to qualified students and taught at a level beyond typical Advanced Placement (AP) curricula. Students who take AP tests generally score at 4 or higher.

**Standardized Tests**

PDS administers the PSAT to sophomores and juniors. The SAT median for the preceding 3 years (new test format) is:

Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing:	638
<u>Math:</u>	<u>642</u>
Total:	1280

Graduating classes typically include NMSQT commendation winners and/or semi-finalists.

Subject test median for the preceding 5 years is:

Biology: 640	Math II 670	Chemistry 600
Physics 660	Literature: 640	World Hist: 720

ACT median for the preceding 5 years is:

English: 30	Math: 25	Science: 26
Reading: 29	Composite: 27	

## Independent and International Study

- Students may pursue independent study, with advisor guidance. Recent examples include: the philosophy of religion, design/implementation of a girls' empowerment curriculum, including publication of a feminist magazine; individual oil portraits of the senior class by one of its members; experiments in the physics of oscillatory and wave motion; composition/arrangement of jazz pieces, leading to a concert of original works; examination of the impact of American court cases on civil rights and liberties in the 20th century; development of an AIDS education program.
- The school's International Program incorporates cultural and academic studies, as well as ESL courses. International study in China, Nicaragua, France, the Netherlands, Ireland and Italy is offered with language, history and art courses.
- Many high school students participate in Model UN and Academic WorldQuest programs and frequently receive commendations and awards.

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## Senior Internship

The senior year culminates in an intensive 4-week unpaid off-campus internship in an area of interest. Placements typically range from social service to politics, environmentalism, medicine, visual and performing arts, journalism and advertising. A sampling of recent placements:

American Media Institute - <i>Washington DC</i>	Mount Sinai Brain Injury Research Center - <i>NYC</i>
American Museum of Natural History - <i>NYC</i>	Panama Coast International School - <i>Panama</i>
Belladonna Productions [films] - <i>NYC</i>	Persea Publishing, <i>NYC</i>
CERN LHC Particle Collider Experiment - <i>Switzerland</i>	Sportstars, Inc. Athlete Management Agency - <i>NYC</i>
Clearwater Hudson River Sloop - <i>Poughkeepsie</i>	Silent Barn Arts Incubator - <i>NYC</i>
Manatee Observation & Education Ctr. - <i>Florida</i>	WorldStage - <i>NYC</i>
Metropolitan Museum of Art - <i>NYC</i>	World Wide Opportunities/Organic Farms - <i>Istanbul</i>

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## Partial List of College Acceptances 2014–2018 (bold = Class of 2018 attendance)

American University	Franklin & Marshall	Oberlin Conservatory of Music	Tulane University
Bard	Georgia Inst. of Technology	<b>Pennsylvania State Univ.</b>	<b>Union</b>
Barnard	George Mason Univ.	Purdue University	U of California/Berkeley, Davis, Riverside, Santa Cruz
<b>Bates</b>	<b>George Washington Univ.</b>	Quinnipiac University	University of Chicago
Bennington	Goucher	Reed	Univ. of Delaware
Boston	Grinnell	Rensselaer Polytech. Inst.	U of Ill./Urbana-Champaign
<b>Boston University</b>	Hamilton	<b>Rhode I. School of Design</b>	U of Mass./Amherst/Boston
Bowdoin	Hampshire	<b>Rochester Institute of Tech.</b>	<b>University of Miami</b>
Brandeis University	Hobart/William Smith	Roger Williams University	University of Minnesota
Brown University	Howard University	San Diego State Univ.	University of Mississippi
Bryn Mawr	Indiana University	Sarah Lawrence	University of Notre Dame
Carleton	Ithaca	School of the Art Inst. of Chicago	<b>U of Rhode Island</b>
Case Western Reserve Univ.	Johns Hopkins University	School of the Museum of Fine Arts	Univ. of San Francisco
Central Saint Martins (UK)	Kenyon	Scripps	U of Southern California
Clark University	<b>Lafayette College</b>	Simmons	<b>University of Rochester</b>
Clarkson University	<b>Lawrence University</b>	<b>Skidmore</b>	University of Vermont
Clemson University	Lehigh University	Smith	U of Virginia/Engineering
Colby	Lewis and Clark	So. Calif. Inst. of Arch.	<b>U of Warwick (UK)</b>
Colorado College	Loyola Marymount U	Stanford University	<b>U of Washington/Seattle</b>
Connecticut	Macalester	St. John's University	U of Wisconsin/Madison
Cornell College	Manhattan School of Music	St. Olaf	Ursinus
<b>Cornell University</b>	<b>Marist</b>	<b>SUNYAlbany/College of Nanoscale Sci., Binghamton</b>	Vassar
Cooper Union	Maryland Inst. College of Art	Harpur, Buffalo, Geneseo, Oneonta, Oswego, Purchase, Stony Brook	Wake Forest University
Culinary Inst. of America	McGill University	Susquehanna University	Wellesley
Davidson	Miami University, Oxford	Swarthmore	Wesleyan University
Dickenson	MIT (Mass. Inst. of Tech.)	Syracuse University	Whitman
Drexel University	<b>Mount Holyoke</b>	Trinity	Wheaton (Mass.)
Earlham	New School University		Worcester Polytechnic Inst.
Emerson	New York University		Yale University
<b>Emory Univ.</b>	New York University/Tisch		
<b>Fashion Institute of Tech.</b>	School of the Arts		
Fordham University	<b>Northeastern University</b>		
	Oberlin		