



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

**An Independent Quaker School
Inspiring Minds and Hearts
Since 1867**



**Intellect, energy, and heart,
along with an abiding
commitment to Quaker values,
characterize a Brooklyn Friends
School education.**

A FACULTY OF DISTINCTION

Faculty to student ratio of 1: 8.
80 percent of our faculty have
Master's degrees and seven
have Doctorates.
Two teachers in every
classroom from preschool
through grade 4.

Teachers work as advisors
in grades 5-12.

In-service professional
development six times a
year.

Faculty serve on the Board
of Trustees and numerous
educational committees.

Founded in 1867 by the Religious Society of Friends, Brooklyn Friends School is one of the oldest continuously operating independent schools in New York City. Unusual for the time, the school was established as a coeducational institution in keeping with the Quaker principle of equality. Today, Brooklyn Friends enrolls more than 900 students from preschool through twelfth grade and is recognized as one of the most diverse independent schools in the region.

The educational program fosters critical thinking skills, intellectual curiosity, and emotional intelligence.

As students progress through each grade, they gain new experiences, learn more about their interests and strengths, and take on leadership roles.

In a vibrant teaching and learning community, the Brooklyn Friends School student discovers how to learn with and from those with diverse strengths, skills, and perspectives.



MANY VOICES: ONE SCHOOL

As a school that spans pre-kindergarten through high school, Brooklyn Friends is united by its commitment to a Quaker education. Quaker principles emphasize integrity, simplicity, equality, service, compassion, peaceful resolution of conflict, and the belief that there is “that of God” in each human being. Students in grades 5 through 12 hold weekly Meeting for Worship at the Meeting House on nearby Schermerhorn Street. Younger children have periods of sustained silence, in which they may reflect on topics such as fairness, courage, what it means to be a friend, and caring for the environment. Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.

PRESCHOOL

3- and 4- Year Olds

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5th – 8th Grade

LOWER SCHOOL

Kindergarten – 4th Grade

UPPER SCHOOL

9th – 12th Grade

I carry the lessons BFS gave me everywhere I travel. Shared silence has taught me the power of listening, and the beauty of endurance. I have learned how to empathize with our most common differences – being there for all people – for the sake of harmony.

– BFS Alumnus, Class of 2007





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Intellectual scholarship is at the heart of the school's mission. Students develop active listening skills and are encouraged to connect and engage with others – intellectually, creatively, socially, and emotionally. The academic program is anchored in the fundamentals of English, history/social studies, mathematics, and science. The study of world languages begins in Kindergarten and adds breadth and depth to the learning process. Students gain proficiency in technology and media literacy, just as they learn to develop skills and excel in the visual and performing arts, athletics and physical education, and service learning. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of our community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA

BFS is one of the select New York City independent schools to offer the IB Diploma Program, an academically rigorous two-year course of study in junior and senior year of high school. IB students learn to think critically, research deeply, communicate in two or more languages, and develop a global perspective as they prepare for higher education. Regarded as the “gold standard” of secondary education around the world, the IB Diploma Program is offered in 138 countries and is recognized by the most prestigious colleges and universities.

NOTABLE PROGRAMS

National Latin Exam	Johns Hopkins Talent Search
The Constitution Works	Days of Concern
Scholastic Art and Writing Awards	Engagement with Expert Speakers
Middle School Virtual Science Fair	Spanish (K-12)
Fourth Grade Poetry Slam	French (6-12)
Academic Convocations	Latin (7-12)
	Mandarin (8-12)

THE ARTS:

A WAY OF LIFE

The creative process is at work continually at Brooklyn Friends. Students of all ages are imagining, dancing, acting, making music, and expressing themselves. Preschoolers have dance class and share a weekly sing-along. From Kindergarten through grade 12, there are classes in dance as well as vocal and instrumental music. The study of theater arts begins in grade 6, and students stage an annual musical, two plays, a dance concert, music concerts, and the Bridge Film Festival.

Our teachers are professional artists who specialize in a vibrant array of media. Students learn painting and drawing, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, woodworking, and three-dimensional art – an unlimited canvas of creativity. The all-school art show and other group projects underscore the joy and significance of the program in the community.

The visual arts curriculum is evident and celebrated everywhere in the school.



ARTS FACILITIES

- Fully equipped 300-seat theater
- Three dance studios
- Six dedicated music classrooms
- Seven studio art classrooms
- Ceramics studio and kiln
- Woodshop
- Photography darkroom
- Digital Arts studio



INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM SPORTS

Soccer: girls, boys
Volleyball: girls, boys
Basketball: girls, boys
Softball: girls
Baseball: boys
Cross Country: girls, boys
Track: girls, boys

CLUB SPORTS

Running
Swimming
and Water Polo
Squash
Climbing
Dance Team/Pep Squad

ATHLETICS: EVERYONE PLAYS

The athletic program is an integral part of the curriculum. Physical education, health, and wellness are incorporated into all aspects of student life. Beginning in grade 7, student-athletes compete interscholastically throughout the New York region. There are no “try-outs” for teams; students with an interest in being on a team can join the team. Participation in sports not only promotes the BFS student’s emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being, it also fosters an individual’s self-esteem, team-building, leadership skills, and school spirit.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Beyond participating in athletics and performing arts, students explore new interests through the afterschool program, clubs, and organizations. They take the lead in developing new activities of interest to them.

The afterschool program is for children in preschool through grade 8. In grades 9 through 12, students may participate in afterschool seminar classes. On-site afterschool music lessons are popular with students from kindergarten through high school.

Service Learning at Brooklyn Friends represents a commitment to the values of social justice, civic engagement, and learning from others. It takes place near and far – as close as our neighborhood public schools through Horizons at BFS, on a national level with Everytown for Gun Safety, and as far away as a Friends School in rural Tanzania.

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

BFS is at the crossroads of a thriving hub of cultural, educational, business, and governmental organizations. Just one block from Borough Hall and MetroTech, the school is accessible to nine subway lines. The immense resources of New York City – museums, historic landmarks, the waterfront, theater, music, and dance productions – are vital components of our students' lives at BFS.



BFS TRADITIONS

Meeting for Worship at
Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

Peace Tree Ceremony

Friendsapalooza
and Winter Festival

All-School Holiday Sing

Black History Month
Celebration

Embracing Diversity Conference

All-School Art Show

CONTEST

EXTRACURRICULARS

Lower School Friends of Color

Student government

Student journalism

Yearbook

Literary publications

MathCounts

El Club Latino

Gay-Straight Alliance

Model United Nations

AFTER BFS: COLLEGE DESTINATIONS

Amherst College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Bennington College
Berklee College of Music
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Claremont McKenna College
Colgate University
Columbia University
Connecticut College

Davidson College
Earlham College
Emory University
Eugene Lang College
Evergreen State College
Franklin and Marshall College
Guilford College
Hampshire College
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lewis and Clark College
Macalester College
Maryland Institute
College of Art

Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Reed College
Rhode Island School
of Design
Rochester Institute
of Technology
Scripps College

Skidmore College
Smith College
SUNY Geneseo
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Trinity College
Tufts University
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
Vassar College
Wesleyan University
Yale University

Representative college choices

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Brooklyn Friends School admits qualified students who will successfully contribute to our educational community. New students are admitted on the basis of previous academic records, personal interviews, testing, and teacher evaluations. The school has a need-based financial aid program (Kindergarten - Grade 12). The application process begins in the early fall for the following September. Tour dates and additional information are on the school website, brooklynfriends.org/admissions.



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brooklynfriends.org

UPPER SCHOOL BUILDING

BFS celebrated its third century in Brooklyn with the opening of a new, 40,000 square-foot Upper School facility, located at 116 Lawrence Street in MetroTech.

(Photos on next page)

