BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

Preschool at a Glance

Mission

Guided by the Quaker belief that there is a Divine Light in everyone, Brooklyn Friends School cultivates an intellectually ambitious and diverse community that celebrates each individual's gifts. We challenge students to value and embrace difference as they develop critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge and intelligence both in and out of the classroom. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of the community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth. BFS graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.

Play-Based Learning

Widely regarded as one of the top early childhood programs in New York City, the Preschool program follows a child-centered, play-based curriculum for three and four year-olds that supports individual learning styles and developmental readiness. We believe that children's play is an expression of intelligence and growth, and that young children learn best through hands-on, concrete experiences with a variety materials. Activities stimulate the imagination, build independence, and present ample opportunities for exploration and discovery. Experienced teachers carefully plan and guide these activities to set the groundwork for intellectual development. Curricular areas provide the foundation upon which emerging literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, library, dramatic play, music, and visual and performing arts are built. On the rooftop playground and in the gym, Preschoolers have the opportunity to run, jump, climb, play with balls, ride bikes, and move with freedom every day.

School and Student Body

Educating minds and hearts since 1867, Brooklyn Friends School draws upon its Quaker heritage to educate students within the context of a challenging academic program and a caring, supportive community. An independent, coeducational day school, Brooklyn Friends enrolls more than 900 students from Preschool through 12th grade, including 98 in the Preschool (Threes and Fours). The student body reflects the racial, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity of New York City.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

39%
of students identify as students of color

2 *full teachers in each classroom*

(Preschool 3s through 4th Grade)

Steeped in a rich history that began when the Religious Society of Friends founded the school as a rare coeducational institution in 1867, BFS continues to honor that commitment to educational access through its emphasis on welcoming an extraordinarily diverse community of families and staff members. BFS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all people are respected, valued, and embraced. The school actively strives to recognize, respect and celebrate the differences and commonalities that shape the individual and collective identities of its members. Being a diverse community is integral to BFS's identity as a Quaker school, where all aspire to come together as one while acknowledging and valuing differences. The Office of Equity and Inclusion provides open spaces for reflection, dialogue and support.

Service Learning

Service learning is an important and inherent part of a BFS education. Service projects are integrated into community building and identity work . Projects include collecting pennies, books, food, or clothing for various organizations with which the school has partnerships. Each Preschool class also takes a turn baking a special snack for a local women's shelter. In addition, a "buddies" program pairs Preschoolers with Lower and Middle School students for shared time and activities.

BFS Parents work in collaboration with the Service Learning Office and the All-School Service Learning Committee to connect families with service learning opportunities.

Quaker Values

Although a very small percentage of BFS families and faculty are Quakers, the Quaker dimension is a crucial part of the school's mission. The Quaker testimonies (SPICES) provide the foundation for an education where moral development is an integral part of each student's academic and social growth. At the heart of Quakerism is the belief that there is "that of light" in each individual. This central tenet leads BFS to emphasize mutual respect, active listening, and service to the community.

Silence enables members of the community to connect with "that of light" within themselves. Observation and appreciation of silence begins in Preschool, where students learn to quiet their minds and listen for the truth that comes from within themselves and from others. This practice adds a spiritual dimension to the educational experience and encourages students to be thoughtful, reflective and active listeners.

Above all, a deep and intentional spirit of community defines the Brooklyn Friends experience. Supporting, enjoying, and challenging one another, members of the school family actively seek to honor the Quakers' central conviction that the Light resides in everyone.

S *Simplicity*

P *Peaceful resolution of conflict*

I *Integrity*

C *Community*

E *Equality*

S *Stewardship*

Faculty and Staff

Our faculty members are as dedicated, passionate and curious as our students, and are at the heart of a school culture characterized by warm and deep relationships among community members. Eighty percent of the faculty hold advanced degrees. Our teachers participate in a broad range of ongoing professional development opportunities, both inside and outside of our school. Faculty also serve on the Board of Trustees and numerous committees.

The faculty is knowledgeable about diverse teaching strategies, developmental issues and techniques in early childhood for successfully nurturing, challenging and guiding preschool-aged children.

6 *preschool classrooms*

Half-Day and Full-Day Threes Classrooms
14 –15 students per class

Full-Day Fours Classrooms
18 students per class

Afterschool program available daily until 6 p.m.

Brooklyn Friends School
www.brooklynfriends.org
375 Pearl Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
and
116 Lawrence Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Sample Day Schedule

8:30 a.m. Classroom Doors Open and Choice Time

9:00 a.m. Morning Meeting

9:15 a.m. Play (and specials if applicable)

10:45 a.m. Snack

11:15 a.m. Roof

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Rest

2:00 p.m. Choice Time

2:50 p.m. Afternoon Meeting and Dismissal

3:00–6:00 p.m. Afterschool available

*Half-Day Threes students are dismissed at 11:45 a.m.

Specialty Classes

Dance with Jules

Music with Nancy

Library with Gili and Maggie

Sing with Tony

Buddies with a Lower or Middle School class

Contact Information

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College Acceptances

Brooklyn Friends School graduates from the Class of 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 were admitted by the following institutions. Bold indicates that at least one BFS graduate currently attends that college or university.

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arcadia University
The University of Arizona
Bard College
Barnard College
Barton College
Bates College
Bennington College
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
University of Bridgeport
University of Brighton
University of British Columbia
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
California Institute of the Arts
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
California State University, Monterey Bay
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Centenary University
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design
Champlain College
Chapman University
University of Chicago
City University of New York
Clark University
Clark Atlanta University
Clarkson University
Colby College
Colgate University
The College of Saint Rose
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado at Denver
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia College, New York
University of Connecticut
Connecticut College
CUNY City College of New York
CUNY Hunter College
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
CUNY New York City College of Technology
CUNY Queens College
CUNY College of Staten Island
Curry College
Daemen College
Davidson College
Dean College
Delaware State University
University of Delaware
Delaware Valley University
Denison University
University of Denver
DePaul University (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Eastman School of Music of the U of Rochester
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
The Evergreen State College
Fairfield University
Five Towns College
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Goucher College
Guilford College
Hamilton College, NY
Hampshire College
Hampton University
University of Hartford
Hartwick College
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
College of the Holy Cross
Howard University
Humboldt State University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Iona College
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
Kenyon College
Keuka College
Lafayette College
Landmark College
Le Moyne College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Lincoln University
Long Island University, Post
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College
University of Maine
Manhattan College
Marist College
Maryland Institute College of Art
University of Maryland, College Park
Marymount Manhattan College
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
University of Miami
Miami University, Oxford
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
Nazareth College
The New School
University of New Haven
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
The Ohio State University
Old Dominion University
Otis College of Art and Design
University of Ottawa
Oxford College of Emory University
Pace University, New York City
The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University
Pennsylvania State University
Pine Manor College
University of Pittsburgh
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Quest University Canada
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Rice University
University of Richmond
Rider University
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rochester
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Ryerson University
Sacred Heart University
The Sage Colleges
Saint Francis University
Saint Joseph's University
Salisbury University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
University of San Francisco
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
The University of Scranton
Scripps College
Seattle University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Siena College
Skidmore College
Smith College
University of Southern California
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. Andrews University
St. Francis College
St. John's College
St. John's University
St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn Campus
St. Thomas Aquinas College
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Albany
SUNY College at Brockport
SUNY Buffalo State College
SUNY University at Buffalo
SUNY Empire State College
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY College at Geneseo
SUNY Morrisville
SUNY College at Old Westbury
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
SUNY College at Potsdam
SUNY Purchase College
SUNY Stony Brook University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The University of Tampa
Temple University
University of Toronto
Towson University
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
Tulane University
Ursinus College
Utica College
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Villanova University
University of Virginia
Wake Forest University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
University of Washington
Wellesley College
Wells College
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College MA
Whitman College
Whittier College
College of William & Mary
Williams College
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University