Founded in 1766

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 250 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Rutgers Preparatory School is the first independent school in New Jersey.
International Program

Rutgers Prep enrolled its first international students, a group from Japan, in 1856. We are proud of our history of fostering international understanding and providing academic opportunities for students from around the world.

The International Program for students in grades K-12 offers a full immersion experience. Most students who enroll in this program stay at Rutgers Prep through the Upper School and graduation. We encourage families to consider enrolling as early as possible to give their children the optimum chance to gain English proficiency and develop strong academic skills.

International students who are proficient in English and comfortable with the academic expectations in American classrooms are more successful in adjusting to life at U.S. colleges. At Rutgers Prep, we understand how important it is to prepare international students for global citizenship. We do so by providing an immersion experience that makes them fully a part of our school community. Many other schools offer English as a Second Language (ESL) programs that are separate from the standard curriculum for American students.

“The transition to RPS was great. Joining soccer and drama allowed me to find friends quickly and to acclimate to the U.S. more smoothly. Within six months, my spoken English improved significantly, and I am now a confident writer as well.”

— Alex S. ’17, New York University ’21

Support makes for success

International students receive comprehensive support from the moment they enroll at Rutgers Prep. A carefully planned program provides the guidance students need to succeed in a new country and school. The Dean of International Students is the first contact for students and their families. Once you have enrolled, the Dean will send information about the homestay program and I-20 issuance and answer any other questions. Orientation before the start of the school year gives students the opportunity to meet other new international students and returning international and domestic students. International students joining Grade 9 are paired with student mentors who help them learn their way around Rutgers Prep. The Dean of International Students continues to provide guidance with all aspects of the transition, including visas, the homestay, and academics, and can arrange translators for conferences with parents if necessary.
Academic Life

Academic excellence defines our mission at Rutgers Prep. Students throughout the grades are held to high standards in their studies. In small classes with teachers who are experts in their fields, students learn to articulate original ideas, work independently and manage workloads, solve problems, collaborate with others, and appreciate the foundations of world culture in art, history, literature, and science.

“Being on the tennis team for three years and able to compete for Rutgers Prep was the highlight of my sports career. There is nowhere else in the world I enjoy playing tennis more. Thanks to the various Advanced Placement courses provided at Rutgers Prep, I was able to deeply explore subjects of interest, and to receive 25 credits (almost a semester’s worth) at Cornell based on my AP test scores.”

— QIXI (CHASE) C. ‘14, Cornell University ‘18

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Our college counseling program helps students find the college that matches their interests and goals. Each student works with a college counselor to determine a list of suitable colleges for application. The counselor then supports that student throughout the process from writing essays and completing applications to making final decisions. Students also receive support through specially scheduled classes known as Junior and Senior Seminar that provide guidance with all aspects of the application process. The college counseling program is a significant piece of the Rutgers Prep experience that enables our graduates to succeed. Students work closely with a college counselor and receive support throughout the admissions process.

RUTGERS PREP OFFERS Advanced Placement and Honors courses, along with a wide range of electives, for students in the upper grades. The curriculum allows students to explore their interests in depth and emphasizes college-level work. Our graduates are fully prepared for the academic requirements of college, with strong skills in writing, research, and presentation.

OUR TEACHERS ARE PASSIONATE about their subjects and work with students individually to ensure their success. Close relationships between students and teachers, and among students, make Rutgers Prep a warm, supportive community.

Innovations Programs

IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL the Ideas and Innovations Program, and in the Upper School the Innovations Program, allow students to work on projects in specialized subjects. These unique learning opportunities teach real world skills in leadership, independent and collaborative work, research, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Students discover their passions and gain valuable experience in seeing a project through from start-up to completion. In the Middle School, topics have included Anatomy and Physiology, Chinese Language and Culture, STEAM Projects, Digital Media Production, and Creative Writing. Recent programs in the Upper School have included Business and Entrepreneurship, Planning TEDxRutgersPrep, Competing in NJ Physics Olympics and NJ Chemistry Olympics, and Environmental and Biological Research.
Athletics

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS may participate on one of the 44 Rutgers Prep teams. In the Upper School, we offer 15 varsity teams and junior varsity teams in most sports. Our no cut policy means that every student has a chance to join a team. With strong participation among students, the Athletics Program is a significant learning and bonding experience. Professional coaches, many of whom were college athletes, help students develop their skills and promote teamwork and sportsmanship.

Activities

IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS, students learn valuable skills, form close friendships, and exercise leadership. In the Upper School, over 40 clubs offer a wide range of options, from Model United Nations to the Environmental Awareness Club to the Latin Dance Club. Rutgers Prep students are also active in community service, volunteering for many different organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. Upper School students fulfill a community service requirement each year.

Arts

A STRONG PROGRAM in visual arts, music, theater, and dance gives students many opportunities to explore their talents. Arts classes include architecture, computer and multimedia design, painting and drawing, ceramics, and photography. Choral and instrumental music groups regularly perform on and off campus. The theater program presents several productions a year in addition to offering drama classes in the Middle and Upper School. Dance students have several classes to choose from, culminating in a dance recital at the end of the year.

Located in Somerset, New Jersey, Rutgers Prep is situated on 46 acres bordered by the Raritan River. Our welcoming, safe campus offers a beautiful setting and exceptional facilities. Close to Rutgers University and Princeton University, and within easy distance of New York City, Rutgers Prep is ideally located to take advantage of the rich cultural life of the greater metropolitan area. Field trips regularly take students to historic sites, museums, and theaters in Philadelphia and New York City.

“RPS has a great international community consisting of students not only from New Jersey but from all over the world. I’m very thankful for the experience of taking classes and participating in all kinds of activities with them (sports, clubs, contests, etc.), since these interactions have allowed me to learn new things about other people, and their ideas and where they come from. It’s been an eye-opening experience.”

— RACHEL Y. ’15, Dartmouth College ’19
At Rutgers Prep you will find caring teachers who are experienced at working with international students and making them feel at home. You will find a community of families who value the diversity of our student body and welcome our students from outside the United States. You will find a rigorous academic program that allows students to do advanced and in-depth work in many disciplines. You will find students who are challenged and supported to do their best.

For more information about our international programs or to apply, visit www.rutgersprep.org/admission/international-program
Through excellence in education, we inspire students to discover and pursue their passions, embrace intellectual curiosity and creativity, and lead with confidence.