

Founded in 1845, The Packer Collegiate Institute is the oldest independent school in Brooklyn. A college preparatory school enrolling students from Preschool through Grade 12, Packer is located in Brooklyn Heights, one subway stop from Manhattan.

Our Mission

Packer educates students to:

- think deeply
- listen actively
- speak courageously
- act with purpose and heart

Our Vision for Educational Excellence

Packer is a diverse community of learners in which each person is valued and challenged. We strive to be knowledgeable, empathetic, and engaged members of an interconnected and dynamic world.

Our Values



Scholarship: Promoting rigorous inquiry leading to deep understanding.



Creativity: Fostering discovery, imagination, and innovation.



Equity: Embracing diversity, expanding access, and nurturing belonging.



Integrity: Cultivating decency, honesty, grace, and personal responsibility.



Joy: Creating a community of positive energy and lively engagement.



Respect: Caring for oneself, for one another, and for the world around us.

Upper School Overview

Packer's Upper School faculty, over 88% of whom hold advanced degrees, are dedicated to helping students to develop strengths and interests in academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits, as well as to grow through leadership and service. Our program offers interdisciplinary and project-based learning, the integration of technology, the opportunity for study beyond the walls of the school, and a balance between core academic requirements and student-selected areas of study. Packer's Upper School provides a learning environment that supports students in developing as individuals as well as members of a community. This approach fosters their development as critical thinkers, compassionate citizens, and engaged learners who understand the connection between what is learned in the classroom and lived in the world.

Community

Our commitment to the diversity of the people in our community encompasses every social identifier, and regarding race specifically, our student body consists of 43% students of color. Upper School students commute from all parts of Brooklyn and Manhattan, and smaller numbers come from as far away as the Bronx, Long Island, and New Jersey. In 2023-24, 28% of our students received financial aid. Our community is strengthened by the inclusion of students from Prep for Prep, Oliver Scholars, TEAK Fellowship, and other educational-access programs.

45%
of the Upper School student body consists of students of color*

28%
of students received financial aid in 2023-24

*figure includes families who reported on race, about 91% of the US student body

Dr. Jennifer Weyburn
Head of School

Maria Nunes
Head of Upper School

Nila Fortune
College Counselor

Claudia Mendez
College Counselor

Lisa Shambaugh
College Counselor



Upper School Curriculum

Packer's highest level courses are designated as Advanced Topics (AT) classes, faculty-authored courses with academic rigor equal to or greater than AP courses. AT courses are defined by the following characteristics: intellectual rigor; authentic real world work; demonstrations of mastery; performance-based learning featuring student-driven design, analysis and synthesis of varied texts, active scholarship, and original research.

A schedule of five academic subjects is required for most students. Given the rigor of our overall program and our students' dedication to significant co-curricular endeavors, special permission is required for juniors to take more than two AT classes or for seniors to take more than three.

In evaluating Packer transcripts, it is important to understand that while there are multiple options for underclassmen to enroll in accelerated courses in math and science, prior to eleventh grade, there are no such opportunities in English and history.

Graduation Requirements

Students typically complete courses of study that exceed the minimum requirements noted below. They also complete a community engagement requirement.

English: 4	Computer Science: .5
Mathematics: 3	Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Music, & Theater): 2
World Language: 3	Electives: 2
Science: 3	Health: 1
History/Social Science: 3	Physical Education: 4

Grading System

- Semester calendar
- Letter grades A through F, including pluses and minuses (*see grade distribution below*)
- Final grades for all courses excluding health and physical education are factored into an unweighted grade point average (GPA).
- **Packer does not report class rank.**

Disciplinary Records

We believe students should respond with integrity to disciplinary questions from schools to which they apply, taking the time to reflect on the ways in which they have grown as individuals and as members of the community. Matters of discipline are not recorded on student transcripts. However, depending on the nature and gravity of the incident(s), Packer may choose to proactively report a student's disciplinary infraction to colleges.

Enrollment

1,074

Pre-Kindergarten
through 12th
Grade

407

Upper School
students

102

Class of 2025
students

Accreditation

New York State
Association of
Independent
Schools (NYSAIS)

Grade Distribution 2023-24

Semester grade distribution for courses in which current juniors and seniors were enrolled during academic year 2023-24.

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
English	232	147	70	21	12	7	2	2	1	3	1	2
World Language	195	82	33	8	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
History	173	116	52	13	5	1	3	2	1	0	0	0
Math	223	89	78	26	15	4	4	1	2	0	0	0
Science	258	101	42	25	8	4	2	1	0	0	0	0
Computer Science	54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arts	257	25	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

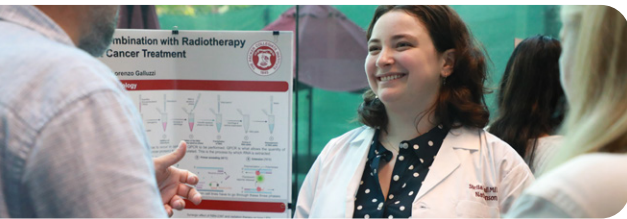
Features of Packer's Upper School



The Packer Symposium

A two week mini-term between semesters, the Packer Symposium program is a highlight of the Upper School curriculum. The array of unique courses designed by our faculty members extends our community's development beyond the traditional classroom and constructs a rich, meaningful, experience-based educational opportunity that encourages both intellectual development and social-emotional growth.

All juniors travel to participate in our **International Symposium**, which ensures that every Packer graduate gains experience using their collaborative and problem-solving skills to generate ideas in unfamiliar contexts, working with people who may not share a common language.



Independent Science Research Program

Packer offers a three-year sequence of study in the physical and life sciences, leading to two school years and two summers of laboratory research with professional scientists. Students in this program have received national recognition as well as credited publication in prominent scientific journals. Some may also receive college credit through the SUNY system.



Journalism Program

There is a competitive selection process for students to participate in Packer's three-year Journalism program. It is a rigorous academic course with an emphasis on writing and research, in which students participate in Columbia's Scholastic Press Association annual conference, engage with award-winning journalists (both in and outside of the classroom), and mentor other developing journalists at Packer.



Peer Support

Students are identified and trained through a highly selective process to become mentors to younger students in our Peer Support program. They commit to weekly check-ins with adult facilitators as they develop their leadership and facilitation skills. Peer supporters provide informal counseling for younger peers along with services like tutoring or leading meditation.



Global Learning

Packer's Global Learning and Community Engagement Programs offer students the opportunity to use the world as a classroom. These mission-driven programs help students develop cultural competency and global literacy, engage in another language, and practice empathy and responsibility.



Independent Study and Senior Thesis

Students personalize and deepen their individual interests while working one-on-one with a selected faculty mentor. All students present their research publicly and seniors are awarded academic credit for participating in the semester-long Senior Thesis program.



Packer's Class of 2024

College Enrollment

Listed below are the colleges and universities to which Packer graduates have matriculated in the past five years. Colleges in **bold** have enrolled one or more members of the Class of 2024.

- American University (1)
- Amherst College (5)**
- Arizona State University - Tempe (1)
- Babson College (1)
- Bard College (3)**
- Barnard College (6)**
- Bates College (8)
- Binghamton University (2)
- Boston College (4)**
- Boston University (5)**
- Bowdoin College (7)**
- Brandeis University (4)
- Brown University (10)**
- Bryn Mawr College (2)
- Bucknell University (1)
- Carleton College (2)
- Carnegie Mellon University (4)**
- Case Western Reserve University (5)**
- Chapman University (1)**
- Claremont McKenna College (4)
- Clark Atlanta University (1)
- Colby College (3)**
- Colgate University (8)**
- Colorado College (8)**
- Columbia University (3)
- Connecticut College (1)
- Cornell University (18)
- Dartmouth College (6)**
- Davidson College (2)
- Duke University (6)**
- ESSEC Business School (1)
- Emory University (15)**
- Falmouth University (1)
- Florida State University (1)
- Fordham University (2)
- Franklin & Marshall College (1)
- George Washington University (3)**
- Georgetown University (2)**
- Grinnell College (1)
- Hamilton College (8)**
- Harvard University (3)
- Haverford College (1)
- Ithaca College (1)
- Johns Hopkins University (2)
- Kenyon College (2)
- Lafayette College (4)
- Lewis & Clark College (1)
- Loyola Marymount University (1)**
- Maryland Institute College of Art (2)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)
- McGill University (4)**
- Middlebury College (6)**
- Morgan State University (1)
- New York University (9)**
- Northeastern University (10)**
- Northwestern University (10)**
- Notre Dame College (1)
- Oberlin College (7)
- Occidental College (3)**
- Otis College of Art and Design (1)
- Oxford Brookes University (1)**
- Oxford College of Emory University (1)**
- Pace University - New York City (2)**
- Pennsylvania State University - University Park (1)
- Pitzer College (4)**
- Pomona College (5)**
- Princeton University (9)**
- Queen's University (1)
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1)**
- Rhode Island School of Design (1)
- Rice University (4)**
- Richard Bland College of William and Mary (1)
- Rochester Institute of Technology (1)
- Santa Clara University (2)
- Santa Monica College (1)
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2)**
- Scripps College (1)**
- Seattle University (1)**
- Skidmore College (9)**
- Smith College (3)
- Stanford University (3)
- Swarthmore College (3)**
- Syracuse University (1)
- Temple University (1)**
- The Boston Conservatory at Berklee (1)**
- The New School (2)
- The University of Edinburgh (2)**
- The University of Texas - Austin (2)
- Trinity College (1)
- Tufts University (20)**
- Tulane University (22)**
- Union College (2)
- University of California - Berkeley (4)
- University of California - Los Angeles (1)
- University of California - Santa Barbara (1)
- University of California - Santa Cruz (1)
- University of Chicago (4)**
- University of Colorado - Boulder (2)
- University of Connecticut - Storrs (1)
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst (1)**
- University of Miami (4)**
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (9)**
- University of Notre Dame (1)
- University of Oregon (1)
- University of Pennsylvania (4)
- University of Richmond (4)
- University of Rochester (4)
- University of Southern California (7)**
- University of St Andrews (2)**
- University of Vermont (2)**
- University of Virginia (5)**
- University of Washington - Seattle (1)**
- University of Wisconsin - Madison (6)
- Vanderbilt University (10)**
- Vassar College (2)
- Villanova University (1)**
- Wake Forest University (3)**
- Washington University in St. Louis (16)**
- Wesleyan University (15)**
- Western University (D) (1)
- Williams College (3)**
- Yale University (7)**

Packer's Advanced Topics Curriculum



Advanced Topics in American Government

AT American Government



Advanced Topics in Archival Research

AT Archival Research



Advanced Topics in Biology

AT Biology



Advanced Topics in Chinese Conversation and Culture

AT Chinese



Advanced Topics in Choreography

AT Choreography



Advanced Topics in Computer Science

AT Computer Science: Data Science; AT Computer Science: Web Technologies



Advanced Topics in Calculus I and I/II

AT Calculus I and AT Calculus I/II



Advanced Topics in English

AT English: Culture and Conflict in Literature; AT English: Unconventional Narratives



Advanced Topics in European History

AT European History



Advanced Topics in French I/II

AT Francophone Maghreb; AT Francophone Cinema



Advanced Topics in History: The Middle East

AT Middle East



Advanced Topics in Imperialism: Theories & Practices

AT Imperialism



Advanced Topics in Inorganic Chemistry

AT Chemistry



Advanced Topics in Latin

AT Latin: Literature of the Roman Empire; AT Latin: Virgil



Advanced Topics in Mathematics: Mathematical Symmetry and Transformations

AT Math: Mathematical Symmetry & Transformations



Advanced Topics in Organic Chemistry

AT Organic Chemistry



Advanced Topics in Photography

AT Photography



Advanced Topics in Physics

AT Physics



Advanced Topics in Spanish

AT Spanish I: Human Rights; AT Spanish II: Literature and Culture; AT Spanish Seminar



Advanced Topics in Statistics

AT Statistics



Advanced Topics in Studio Art

AT Studio Art