

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 45% 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 2024-25, 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 2024-25

*figure includes families who reported on race, about 93% of the US student body

Dr. Jennifer Weyburn
Head of School

Maria Nunes
Head of Upper School

David Lee/Nila Fortune
College Counselor

Claudia Mendez
College Counselor

Lisa Shambaugh
College Counselor



Features of Packer's Upper School



English Scholars Program

Packer offers a new two-year program that runs through both the junior and senior year; members from the Class of 2026 will be the first cohort to reflect this distinction. English Scholars are selected through a rigorous application process and have demonstrated consistent high achievement in all English classes. Students will complete additional coursework in English in junior and senior year. Additionally, a highlight of this program is that Scholars write a 10-12 page research paper on a topic that is inspired by past or current coursework or by a personal area of interest. At the end of junior year, they will defend the paper's argument to an academic panel which includes the English Department.

Classics Scholars Program

The Classics Scholars Program requires enrollment in four years of Upper School Latin, consistent high achievement in all Latin classes, and additional coursework in an approved Classics-related elective in English or History. Finally, it requires an independent pursuit culminating in a written project and oral defense by the end of the senior year.

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.

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 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.

Peer Support

Students are identified and trained through a highly selective process to become mentors to younger students in our Peer Support program. They meet weekly with adult facilitators to strengthen leadership and facilitation skills, offering informal counseling, tutoring, and mindfulness support to younger peers.

Global Learning

Through our mission-driven Global Learning and Community Engagement programs, students are empowered to apply their collaborative and problem-solving skills in real-world contexts, working toward sustainable solutions in partnership with communities.



Packer's Class of 2025

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 2025.

- American University (1)
- Amherst College (4)**
- Arizona State University – Tempe (1)
- Babson College (1)
- Bard College (4)**
- Barnard College (4)
- Bates College (8)
- Binghamton University (1)
- Boston College (5)**
- Boston University (5)**
- Bowdoin College (8)**
- Brandeis University (3)
- Brown University (7)
- Bryn Mawr College (1)**
- Bucknell University (2)**
- California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo (1)**
- Carleton College (2)
- Carnegie Mellon University (3)
- Case Western Reserve University (6)**
- Chapman University (1)
- Claremont McKenna College (3)
- Clark Atlanta University (1)
- Colby College (3)
- Colgate University (8)**
- Colorado College (5)
- Columbia University (3)**
- Connecticut College (1)
- Cornell University (18)**
- CUNY Brooklyn College (1)**
- Dalhousie University (1)**
- Dartmouth College (5)
- Davidson College (2)
- Duke University (7)**
- ESSEC Business School (1)
- Emory University (11)**
- Falmouth University (1)
- Florida State University (1)
- Fordham University (2)
- Franklin & Marshall College (1)
- George Washington University (3)
- Georgetown University (3)**
- Grinnell College (1)
- Hamilton College (7)
- Hampton University (1)**
- Harvard University (3)**
- Haverford College (1)
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges (1)**
- Howard University (2)**
- IE University (1)**
- Ithaca College (2)**
- Johns Hopkins University (3)**
- Kenyon College (1)
- Lafayette College (4)**
- Lehigh University (1)**
- Lewis & Clark College (1)
- Loyola Marymount University (1)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (1)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)
- McGill University (4)
- Middlebury College (6)**
- Morehouse College (1)**
- Morgan State University (2)**
- New York University (12)**
- Northeastern University (11)**
- Northwestern University (7)**
- Notre Dame College (1)
- Oberlin College (6)
- Occidental College (3)
- Olin College of Engineering (1)**
- Otis College of Art and Design (1)
- Oxford Brookes University (1)
- Oxford College of Emory University (2)**
- Pace University – New York City (2)
- Pennsylvania State University - University Park (1)
- Pitzer College (4)
- Pomona College (5)**
- Princeton University (12)**
- Queen's University (1)
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)**
- Rhode Island School of Design (1)
- Rice University (3)
- Rochester Institute of Technology (2)**
- Santa Clara University (1)
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2)
- Scripps College (2)**
- Seattle University (1)
- Skidmore College (11)**
- Smith College (4)**
- Spelman College (1)**
- Stanford University (3)
- Swarthmore College (3)
- Syracuse University (3)**
- 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 (15)**
- Tulane University (23)**
- Union College (1)
- University of California – Berkeley (2)
- University of California – Los Angeles (2)**
- University of California – Santa Cruz (1)
- University of Chicago (5)**
- University of Colorado – Boulder (2)
- University of Hartford (1)**
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst (1)
- University of Miami (8)**
- University of Michigan (10)**
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1)**
- University of Notre Dame (1)
- University of Oregon (1)
- University of Pennsylvania (4)**
- University of Richmond (3)
- University of Rochester (3)
- University of Southern California (4)**
- University of St Andrews (1)
- University of Vermont (3)**
- University of Virginia (5)**
- University of Washington – Seattle (1)
- University of Wisconsin – Madison (6)
- Vanderbilt University (10)
- Vassar College (2)**
- Villanova University (4)**
- Wake Forest University (3)**
- Washington University in St. Louis (16)**
- Wellesley College (1)**
- Wesleyan University (14)**
- Western University (1)
- Williams College (3)
- Yale University (7)**

Packer's Advanced Topics Curriculum



Advanced Topics Classes in History

- AT American Government
- AT Archival Research
- AT European History
- AT Imperialism: Theories & Practice
- AT Middle East
- AT Religion and Nationalism



Advanced Topics Classes in Math

- AT Calculus I and AT Calculus I/II
- AT Math: Mathematical Symmetry & Transformations
- AT Statistics



Advanced Topics Classes in Science

- AT Biology
- AT Inorganic Chemistry
- AT Organic Chemistry
- AT Physics



Advanced Topics Classes in World Language

- AT Chinese
- AT Francophone Maghreb
- AT Francophone Cinema
- AT Latin: Literature of the Roman Empire
- AT Latin: Virgil
- AT Spanish: Human Rights
- AT Spanish: Literature and Culture
- AT Spanish Seminar



Advanced Topics Classes in Computer Science

- AT Computer Science: Data Science
- AT Computer Science: Web Technologies



Advanced Topics Classes in Fine & Performing Art

- AT Choreography
- AT Digital Video
- AT Photography
- AT Studio Art