

Newark Academy

Livingston, United States



Founded in 1774, this Livingston day school remains New Jersey's only private IB Diploma provider

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Newark Academy’s sharpest point of difference is simple: it is New Jersey’s only private school to offer the IB Diploma, and that matters. In a crowded north New Jersey market full of strong college-prep independents, that gives Newark Academy a distinct academic identity rather than a generic “rigorous American” pitch. It pairs that with unusual longevity — founded in 1774 — and a campus model that keeps grades 6–12 in a single structure on 68 acres, which creates continuity rather than a split lower-and-upper-school culture. The numbers support the substance: a ****8:1 student-teacher ratio****, ****14**** students in an average class, and 89% of teachers, counsellors and administrators holding advanced degrees. This is an ***intellectually serious*** school with a clear preference for close teaching over scale.

It also has a more defined social and cultural profile than many old East Coast independents. Newark Academy states that 71% of students identify as students of colour, and its public language around equity, inclusion and belonging is central rather than decorative. For families who want an established American independent school without the stale social codes that still cling to parts of the sector, that is a **real advantage**. The school's accreditations — NEASC and NAIS — are solid, but the stronger signal sits in the day-to-day structure: small classes, relationship-centred teaching, and a full middle-to-upper school journey for ages 11 to 18. At an average annual day fee of ****\$55,525****, it sits in the **expensive** end of the US day-school market, so parents are paying for intensity, access and institutional depth, not for a mass-market version of private education.

The child who will want Newark Academy is bright, self-directed and ready for a school that asks for engagement rather than compliance. The best fit is not a student who wants anonymity or an easy ride, but one who will use discussion-based classes, teacher access and the breadth of a grades 6-12 community. The IB point also matters here: Newark Academy suits students who want a broad, demanding sixth-form experience rather than early specialisation. It will also appeal to families who value a **deliberate mix** of academic ambition, inclusion and campus resources over old-brand elitism. Why put it on a shortlist? Because it offers something **genuinely distinctive** in its market: historic New Jersey independent-school heft, small-scale teaching, and an IB pathway that no other private school in the state matches.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1774, Newark Academy is one of the nation's oldest day schools and was the first school in New Jersey to offer the International Baccalaureate programme.
- Small-scale teaching environment with an 8:1 student-teacher ratio and an average class size of 13 students.
- Newark Academy meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for admitted families and runs a dedicated Newark Scholars Program offering full scholarships to up to six students per year from the city of Newark.
- Academically strong cohort, with average standardized test scores around SAT 1440 and ACT 32 among recent classes.
- Notable alumni include former U.S. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon and professional tennis player Justin Gimelstob.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition is high at \$55,525 plus \$2,350 in required fees for 2026-27, and the school offers no merit-based scholarships, only need-based aid.
- Admissions are competitive, with an acceptance rate cited around 22%, SSAT/ISEE testing, an application essay, a recommended interview, and a December 1 deadline.
- The campus sits in suburban Livingston, NJ, roughly 19 miles from New York City, meaning families without a car or reliable commute may find daily access inconvenient.
- As a day-only school with roughly 650-680 students across grades 6-12, it lacks boarding options and the scale of larger prep schools, which may limit choice for relocating international families needing housing solutions.

ADMISSIONS

Newark Academy admits students into grades 6 through 12, with entry points concentrated at grades 6, 7 and 9. The process requires a school transcript, recommendation letters, an application essay, ISEE or SSAT scores, and a recommended interview. The application deadline is December 1, and the school reports an acceptance rate near 22%, making it a selective option relative to national private-school averages. All financial aid is need-based; there is no merit scholarship track, though a dedicated Newark Scholars Program supports students from the city of Newark specifically.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (37)

- SPORT: Justin Gimelstob, Chris Jacobs, James Deraney
- MUSIC: Stacey Kent, Jonathan Goldman
- DRAMA: Akshay Oberoi, Jared Gilman, Lyndsey Scott
- VISUAL_ARTS: Stacey Kent, Q50059786
- LETTERS: Jonathan Goldman, Matt Gutman, Samuel Fowler Bigelow, Q62977947, Daniel Case
- POLITICS: William E. Simon, Frederick Samuel Fish, Thomas Lynch Raymond, Thomas N. McCarter, Bo Sullivan
- SCIENCE: Daniel Quillen, Richard Thaler, Denise J. Jamieson, Peter Papademetriou
- BUSINESS: William E. Simon

WTS RATING 

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