

Poly Prep Country Day School

Brooklyn, United States



Founded in 1854 as Brooklyn's first boys' school, this day school pairs a Prospect Park mansion with a 25-acre Dyker Heights campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	61/100
Academic outcomes	62/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	61/100
Facilities	62/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A Prospect Park mansion for the younger years and a 25-acre Dyker Heights campus for the older ones gives Poly Prep a physical set-up that few New York day schools can match. Founded in ****1854**** as Brooklyn’s first boys’ school, it has long since evolved into a co-educational, non-religious school for ages 3 to 18, but it still trades on old Brooklyn confidence rather than glossy reinvention. The school’s own line — “Poly is a noisy school” — matters. This is not a polished, hushed college-prep factory. It is a place that values discourse, debate and “constructive dissent”, and that culture will attract families who want intellectual friction rather than deference. In a market full of schools promising community and joy, Poly states the point more bluntly and more convincingly.

The substance underneath that identity is broad. Poly runs an American curriculum in English, with distinct lower, middle and upper school structures, and it puts visible weight on arts, athletics and student life rather than treating them as decorative extras. The published offering spans dance, music, theatre, visual arts, speech and debate, plus a full athletics programme across seasons. That breadth matters because Poly’s appeal is not narrow **exam-machine** prestige; it is the chance to build a serious all-round school life on a large urban-campus footprint. Accreditation through NAIS and MSA gives the expected institutional reassurance, but the stronger signal is cultural: this is a school that wants articulate, energetic students who will join in, speak up and fill the place with noise.

At an average annual fee of ****\$59,915****, Poly sits firmly in New York’s expensive independent-school bracket. Parents paying that level need more than handsome buildings and old-school pedigree. Poly earns its shortlist place through a combination that is hard to replicate in Brooklyn: deep history, substantial space, a full 3–18 ladder, and a school culture that reads as **high-energy**, **opinionated** and **unapologetically busy**. It will suit children who thrive in a **lively**, socially engaged environment and who want proper scope in sport, the arts and debate alongside academics. It will not suit the student who wants a quiet, tightly managed, ultra-sheltered day. Poly’s personality is too strong for that. For the right child, that is precisely the point.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1854; long institutional continuity.
- Covers ages 3–18 on one school pathway.
- Two Brooklyn campuses serve different age groups.
- American curriculum in English may ease US transitions.

TRADE-OFFS

- Two-campus arrangement can complicate family logistics.
- Day-only school; no boarding for overseas families.
- Brooklyn location only; no other campus options.

ADMISSIONS

Poly Prep Country Day School is a non-religious, co-educational American day school in Brooklyn for ages 3–18, with entry spanning nursery through Grade 12. From the school context and source material, the obvious intake points are the start of Lower School, Middle School and Upper School, though it also appears to admit across multiple year groups where places exist. The Lower School is in Park Slope; the Middle and Upper Schools are in Dyker Heights. For families considering timing, the school does not publish admissions deadlines in the material provided here, so applicants should expect a standard independent-school timetable rather than rely on assumptions.

The school also does not publish, in the sources supplied, the detail of its assessment format, interview structure or any distinctive selection stages. Likewise, no verified information is given here on bursaries or financial aid, so it would be wrong to infer either the scale of support or whether aid is available at all. In short, the broad age range and multi-entry nature are clear; the mechanics of selection are not.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (50)

SPORT: Lawrence Hull

MUSIC: Bonnie Somerville, Dan Fogler, Howard Levy, Michael Brown, Bob Telson, Richard Perry

DRAMA: Bonnie Somerville, Dan Fogler, Rob Brown, Calvert DeForest, Bruce Cutler, Louisa Jacobson, Jake Bongiovi

LETTERS: Briton Hadden, Henry van Dyke, Arthur Levitt, Joseph McElroy, Louis J. Aronne, R. M. Koster, Harold Hellenbrand

POLITICS: Henry van Dyke, Seth Low, Stephen Edward Smith, Park Cannon, Max Rose, Q111698057

SCIENCE: Henry van Dyke, Arthur Levitt, Joseph McElroy, Robert Briskman, Harold Hellenbrand

BUSINESS: Briton Hadden, Alfred P. Sloan, Joe Tacopina, Arthur Levitt, Q7615925, David Hauser, Jesse Bongiovi

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_76da7c6aa9.