

Peddie School

Hightstown, United States



Since 1864, a lakeside New Jersey campus builds signature tracks in research science and Shanghai-linked Asian studies.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	77/100
Facilities	82/100
Transparency	71/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Peddie trades on something more substantial than old-school East Coast polish: a compact ****540****-student boarding school on a lakeside New Jersey campus, with ****1:8 student-to-faculty ratio**** and 90 per cent of faculty living on site. That matters. It creates the kind of round-the-clock adult presence that boarding schools promise and many do not fully deliver. The school's age range, 14 to 19, keeps the focus squarely on secondary education, and the American curriculum sits in a distinctly residential, high-touch setting. For parents, the practical market position is clear: this is an **expensive**, **high-attention** US boarding school, at an average annual fee of ****\$78,300**** for boarders and ****\$68,300**** for day pupils.

What puts Peddie on a shortlist is the combination of scale and ambition. It is small enough to feel tightly run, but large enough to draw students from 25 countries and sustain breadth beyond the standard college-prep formula. The school’s own emphasis on research science and Shanghai-linked Asian studies gives it sharper definition than the many American boarding schools that offer breadth without a memorable academic shape. Add ****\$11.8 million**** in tuition assistance and a non-religious foundation, and Peddie lands as a school with resources, diversity and a serious residential culture rather than a finishing-school gloss. Its accreditations, NEASC and NAIS, are standard markers of credibility, not decoration.

The caveat is that Peddie will not suit a student who wants anonymity, loose structures or a giant suburban high-school social scene. With so many staff on campus, this is a **closely observed** environment. The upside is strong mentoring and a real community; the downside is that students live in a place with expectations, not just facilities. Recent destinations such as American University, Barnard and Bates show solid progression, though the school does not publish the kind of headline-grabbing university list that some rivals use as a sales tool. That restraint cuts both ways: less noise, less public data.

The right Peddie student is academically engaged, comfortable in a boarding culture, and ready to use a small school’s opportunities rather than wait to be carried by brand name alone. This is a **serious**, **cosmopolitan** school for teenagers who want close access to teachers, a genuinely residential experience and room to build depth in a few areas rather than skim across many. Families looking for swagger and status theatre can find louder schools. Families looking for disciplined attention, strong adult presence and a sixth-form-age community with real intellectual shape should look hard at Peddie.

STRENGTHS

- Boarding school with 280-acre campus in Hightstown, New Jersey, founded in 1864, offering both boarding (around 60% of students) and day options for grades 9-12 plus post-graduate year.
- Small classes and a low student-teacher ratio of roughly 7:1 support close academic contact between faculty and students.
- Endowment in the hundreds of millions of dollars (reported among the largest of any US boarding school) funds substantial financial aid, with average grants covering about 70% of tuition for recipients.
- International student body of around 17-19% and boarding rate near 60% create a genuinely residential, globally mixed community rather than a commuter-only campus.
- Notable alumni include diplomat and publisher Walter Annenberg, who made a major philanthropic gift to the school, and former World Bank president and statesman John J. McCloy.

TRADE-OFFS

- Boarding tuition runs into the mid-\$70,000s per year (with day tuition in the mid-\$60,000s), placing it firmly in the upper tier of US private school fees.
- Admission is selective, with a reported acceptance rate around 20-22%, meaning most applicants are turned away.
- Location in suburban central New Jersey is roughly 40 miles from Philadelphia and further from New York City, requiring a deliberate travel plan for international boarding families.
- As a single, non-specialized college-preparatory institution, families seeking a niche curriculum (e.g., IB, arts conservatory, or STEM-only focus) will not find that specialization here.

ADMISSIONS

Peddie admits students into grades 9 through 12 and a post-graduate year, for both boarding and day study. The standard application deadline is January 15, with a rolling review process thereafter. Reported acceptance rates sit around 20-22%, and admitted students typically post average standardized test scores in the 1410-1450 SAT range. International applicants coordinate through a dedicated international admissions contact. Financial aid is need-based and substantial for qualifying families, though the process requires standard supporting documentation and is separate from the merit scholarship track reserved for a small number of students.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (61)

SPORT: Nelson Diebel, Barbara Bedford, Frank Dobson, Heath Benedict, Oliver Crane

MUSIC: Q6274497, Nat Sakdatorn

DRAMA: Pia Clemente, George Murphy, Howard W. Koch, John Griesemer, Leslie Caveny, Nat Sakdatorn

LETTERS: Larry Townsend, Hossein Nasr, John Griesemer, Roberto Arias, Nat Sakdatorn, Q7326532, Richard Tregaskis, Tim Hurson

POLITICS: Elmer Hendrickson Geran, George Murphy, John J. McCloy, Lloyd Spencer, Walter Annenberg, Roberto Arias, Albert L. Vreeland, Eric Munoz

SCIENCE: Hossein Nasr, John J. McCloy, Paul Benacerraf, Richard Tregaskis, Olivia Lee, Heather J. Sharkey, Glen Everett Woolfenden, Tum Hutasingha

BUSINESS: John J. McCloy, Howard W. Koch, Walter Annenberg, Finn M. W. Caspersen, Dato Aw It Haw, Tum Hutasingha

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_99f49414e7.