



“Inside Edition” on Education

The greatest gift you can give your child is a public school education. Dobbs Ferry is a community that values and supports education and provides its students with a world-class learning environment. As the first district in Westchester County to offer the challenging and prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program, students are focused on mastering the 21st Century skills that they will need to be successful in college and careers in the new global economy. The District’s values are reflected in its vision statement *“Independent Thinkers Prepared to Change the World.”*

The “Top 10” things you should know about the Dobbs Ferry School District:

1. **Private School Experience in a Public School Setting-** Approximately 1,500 students attend Dobbs Ferry High School (9-12), Dobbs Ferry Middle School (6-8) and Springhurst Elementary School (K-5). The District provides a dynamic and challenging curriculum for ALL its students emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
2. **Small Classes & Innovative Instruction-** Average class size is 20-21 in K-5 and 22-24 in the upper grades. Approximately 90% of the District’s faculty holds graduate degrees. Ongoing staff development, the Teacher Leader model and a strong mentoring program support instructional practices. Performance on standardized tests is well above the national and state averages.
3. **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program-** A 2-year college preparatory course of study for 11th and 12th graders recognized world-wide for its demanding academic requirements and in-depth study of subject content. A third of graduating seniors receive the full IB Diploma and all High School students take at least one IB course. The District now also offers the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) in grades 6-10.
4. **97% College-Bound-** DFHS graduates attend the most selective private and public colleges and universities in the country including the Ivy League, “Little Ivies,” Big Ten and State University of New York (SUNY) schools.

5. **Strong STEM and Foreign Language-** The High School’s award-winning Science Research Program boasts Intel STS, ISEF, ISWEEP, Genius Olympiad, Regeneration Talent Search, WESEF, JSHS, Siemens Competition and Acorda Scientific Excellence winners, among others. State-of-the-art science labs support all the science disciplines. Elementary students utilize the challenging Singapore Math Program, developed by the Ministry of Education, and beginning in 2nd grade, students participate in the Spanish FLES curriculum which uses an immersion approach, similar to the way children learn their first language.
6. **21st Century Technology-** The District’s high-speed wireless internet network and redesigned classrooms support students bringing their own devices (BYOD) to school. A 1:1 Chromebook initiative for students in grades 4-12 has been a huge success. The schools also provide video conferencing and OC21, online course electives in the High School. The District has its own fully operational television station, DFTV, with cutting-edge media/video production capabilities.
7. **Team Spirit-** At least 75% of High School and Middle School students participate on 44 interscholastic athletic teams. Off the field each school “fields” Destination ImagiNation teams that qualify regularly for the Global Finals, the largest creative problem solving competition in the world.
8. **Clubs For Everyone-** The High School offers more than 30 unique clubs for students to join. The Middle School hosts 20 extra-curricular clubs and Springhurst has an active student government and ecology club, among others.
9. **Cultural Arts-** Students participate in music, theater and the arts including yearly musicals and dramas, artist-in-residency programs, choral recitals, band/string orchestra concerts, art exhibitions and dance ensembles. Springhurst’s renowned Harmonaires have sung at Yankee Stadium, the White House and made recordings with professional pop vocalists.
10. **Parents Welcome!** Parents play a pivotal role in supporting the Dobbs Ferry Schools and are partners in the education process. Thank you to the BOE, PTSA, DFSF, Trailguides, SPRING, Booster Clubs and many other volunteers. 🙌

STAY CONNECTED