...an intentionally different approach to college prep education...
The Crefeld School is an independent day school with a specific mission: graduating self-aware, empathetic, lifelong learners who possess an appreciation for diverse perspectives, their role in society, and their ability to act as agents of change. We pursue this mission through an intentionally different approach to a college prep education—one that empowers every student to discover and develop their strengths, find meaning in their learning, and feel ownership of their school community.

Through this approach, Crefeld does much more than prepare students for college. Because our curriculum is as flexible as it is challenging, and because we trust and respect each student as an individual, our students have the freedom to shape their own experiences and to fully be themselves. The resulting self-confidence and sense of belonging equip our graduates to succeed academically and beyond.

AT CREFELD, WE DON’T MAKE STUDENTS WHO THEY ARE. WE HELP THEM BECOME THEIR BEST SELVES.
Crefeld at a Glance

20 average graduating class size

1970 year founded

students come from:

50+ zip codes

5 counties

25+ school districts

3 dogs on campus each day

100% of graduating class members are accepted to college or university

120 minutes per week devoted to Community Service Learning by each student

43% of student body receives need-based financial aid

1 inclusive definition of a Crefelder:

One of many independent thinkers, creators, clever experimenters, loyal friends, upstanders, and do-gooders that make up the Crefeld community.

16 pieces of academic work in each senior’s Graduation by Exhibition portfolio

1 chicken coop on campus

28% of Crefelders identify as students of color

25+ school districts

0 clear-cut definitions of a Crefeld family

We celebrate all family structures; Crefeld students come from diverse families of all shapes, sizes, and formations.
Walking across Crefeld’s Chestnut Hill campus, you might see students playing guitar on the front steps with one of the counselors. Or checking on the chicken coop with the Business Manager. Or giving a passing high-five to George, the Head of School. That’s because our small-by-design community allows every student to be known by every staff member.

Crefeld’s enrollment of 7th–12th graders totals about one hundred, with class sizes averaging eight to ten. Our small size means each student is seen and heard by their advisor, by their teachers, by school leadership, and by their peers. Ours is a community in which all students can find their place—no matter their background, interests, or talents—and inspire, learn from, and support one another. In our school, individuals are expected to fully be who they are.
**Schoolwork here is serious, but not tedious.** We are different because we focus on active learning and individual goals and achievement. Our teachers meet each student where they are, challenging them academically to develop their personal strengths and build skills in their areas of growth. Our student-centered, experiential, intentionally flexible curriculum empowers each individual to develop their unique passions and interests and take ownership of their learning. Through setting and meeting personal challenges, our students become their best selves and experience the joy of learning for its own sake rather than just for the grade.

It is important to emphasize that “flexible” does not mean “easy.” We constantly ask our students to stretch themselves by going beyond the obvious answer, the memorized formula, or the absorption of basic content. We compel them to dig deeply, to question endlessly, and to think multi-dimensionally. Our students acquire the skills to listen, think critically, test ideas, and to see from diverse perspectives—all of which are welcomed and encouraged.

**EVEN THE WAY WE GRADUATE STUDENTS IS DIFFERENT.**

Every student’s Crefeld experience culminates with Graduation by Exhibition, a distinctive system that requires them to go above and beyond the typical requirements of a high school diploma. In addition to passing their classes, students must demonstrate mastery through sixteen graduation exhibitions covering a broad spectrum of subjects. Completing the exhibitions requires self-advocacy, time management, long term planning, self-reflection, and the ability to accept and respond to feedback—all skills that prepare graduates for the next step in their education.

**DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A CLASSROOM?**

It does to everyone at Crefeld.

The Crefeld Permaculture Center is where our students learn about environmental sustainability and is just one of the outdoor spaces we consider an extension of the classroom. Our three-acre campus bordering the Wissahickon section of Fairmount Park also has a playing field, a gymnasium, a theater for acting and dance, and multiple art and music studios.
At Crefeld, we believe that finding a “right fit” college is the most important part of the college search and application process. As with all things Crefeld, our college counseling program is highly personalized and focuses on finding the right fit academically, socially, and financially. We guide students through college searches and applications to ensure graduates end up at a school where they will have the challenges, support, and opportunities that will allow them to successfully launch into adulthood.

Our college counselor introduces students to a variety of choices. A large number of colleges and universities come to speak with our students every year, giving students an opportunity to interact with the people who will be reading their applications. We provide both family and individual college counseling to all students, as well as a course to guide students in selecting the schools that are right for them and preparing their applications to show their best selves. After working closely with students as they complete college and financial aid applications, we stand by for encouragement as they wait for decisions.
Crefeld graduates are accepted to an impressive mix of public and private universities, small liberal arts colleges, tech schools, and art and music schools. Here are just some of the 325+ institutions that have accepted Crefeld students over the past five years. Schools in which graduates have enrolled are bolded.

Albright College
American University
Arcadia University
Bard College
Bennington College
Berklee College of Music
Boyer School of Music at Temple University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucks County Community College
Champlain College
Chestnut Hill College
Clark University
Columbia College Chicago
Delaware Valley University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Earlham College
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
Goucher College
Guilford College
Hampshire College
Hofstra University
Jefferson University
Johnson & Wales University
 Juniata College
La Salle University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
 McDaniel College
Millsersville University of Pennsylvania
The New School, School of Jazz
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Pennsylvania State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Rosemont College
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Skidmore College
 Stevenson University
Temple University
Tyler College of Art at Temple University
Unity College
The University of the Arts
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
Ursinus College
Warren Wilson College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Worcester Institute of Technology
STUDENTS AREN’T THE ONLY ONES WHO BENEFIT FROM CREFELD’S ADVISORY PROGRAM. ADVISORS ALSO ACT AS AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN FAMILIES AND THE SCHOOL THROUGH REGULAR CONTACT. THIS HELPS FAMILIES STAY ON TOP OF THEIR CHILD’S PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Receive PAY ATTENTION

Our Advisory Program is at the heart of the Crefeld experience.

Advisors are teachers who serve as advocates and personal guides for small groups of students throughout their years at Crefeld. For a student, their Advisor is a carefully matched champion who helps with academic and social guidance. For parents and other family members, the Advisor is the point person for information related to the student’s experience. Students remain with the same advisor throughout Middle School and Upper School, respectively. This person becomes a family’s most important connection to the school—a profound partner in a relationship founded on respect, cooperation, and close communication.

Students meet with their Advisory group twice a day, every day, giving them a steady source of counsel and support. Our robust and responsive Advisory Program results in a student body that is well prepared for college and beyond.
A
t Crefeld, nearly every student engages with the arts. Opportunities to find and develop their artistic passions are an invaluable part of our students’ journeys, allowing them to understand and express emotions, hone craft, and expand capacity for self-reflection.

Participating in the visual and performing arts allows students to connect with and expand their intellectual potential. The arts make our school—and the world—a better, more vibrant place.

SOME OF OUR ELECTIVES IN THE VISUAL ARTS:
- Glassblowing
- Glass Casting
- Drawing/Painting
- Art Survey
- Cartooning and Illustration
- Bookbinding
- Printmaking
- Sewing

AND THE PERFORMANCE ARTS:
- Theater
- Physical Theater
- Dance Workshop
- Art and Social Justice
- Movement
- Music Performance
- Music Appreciation
- Glee Club (extra-curricular)

Create
FIND ART EVERYWHERE

A STRIKING DIFFERENTIATOR FOR OUR SCHOOL, THE CREFELD GLASS STUDIO IS JUST ONE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH OUR ARTS PROGRAM IS INTEGRATED INTO THE LIVES OF CREFELD STUDENTS. OUR FULL-SERVICE GLASS STUDIO OFFERS FACILITIES FOR GLASSBLOWING, FLAMEWORKING, AND CASTING AND HAS BEEN A PART OF THE RICH CULTURE OF PHILADELPHIA GLASS ART FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS.
Service is an integral part of a just and caring community, and involvement in service is a high priority at Crefeld. Every student participates in a weekly Community Service Learning course. This is just one of the many experiential learning opportunities that empower our students to find meaning in their learning.

Part of being at Crefeld is acknowledging that our campus is a community itself, but we also want students to look outward and concentrate on issues that might not touch their lives directly. Our service learning activities span a broad spectrum, from elder support to education, food insecurity to environmental preservation, and climate change to LGBT rights. In addition to maintaining our formal service learning course, Crefeld supports those who wish to pursue independent projects focused on the areas that matter most to them.

We strive to ensure that each student has many chances to put others first and to help find solutions to problems that affect our community. By the time they graduate, Crefeld students are informed, engaged citizens who value their roles in contributing to the greater good.
Learning at Crefeld involves more than books, classrooms, and desks. Participation in arts electives and Community Service Learning aren’t the only active learning opportunities for Crefeld students.

**SPRING MINI COURSES**
Every May, all Crefeld students participate in a week-long Spring Mini Course that they choose based on their passions and interests. They might immerse themselves in field science in Wyoming or North Carolina, fly through the air at circus school, hike along the Appalachian Trail, write and record an album in a professional recording studio, or gain leadership experience at San Mateo Outdoor Education Center in California. Options are endless, but all are designed to build community and foster success outside of school, through experiential learning.

**OUTWARD BOUND**
Crefeld 10th graders spend every Wednesday afternoon for one semester with Outward Bound Philadelphia, an outdoor adventure program whose mission is to build leadership skills and develop participants’ understanding of their capabilities and value to their community. Experiences such as canoeing or navigating a high-ropes course challenge students and enhance their self-esteem, self-reliance, and concern for others and for the environment.

**PERMACULTURE CENTER**
Environmental sustainability is an important part of Crefeld’s curriculum, and the Crefeld Permaculture Center is the cornerstone of those lessons. Still expanding and evolving, the Center is an outdoor classroom that enhances our science programs. A greenhouse, chicken coop and yard, and symbiotic aquaponics garden/fish habitat have heightened our students’ thinking about biology and environmental science.

**COLLEGE CLASSES**
A partnership with Chestnut Hill College means 11th- and 12th-grade students looking for an extra challenge may enroll in any undergraduate class, provided they meet prerequisites. Students who participate receive dual credit, earning college credits that can be transferred to most colleges and universities.
TAKE THE NEXT STEP

We want to meet you and your family. Crefeld has an intentionally different approach to a college prep education. The best way to experience this is to come visit and see for yourself. Come explore our campus and get to know our students and faculty.

Visit www.crefeld.org for a schedule of Open Houses or call us at 215-242-5545.
...be empowered to grow to your strengths and find meaning in your learning...
Daily life at Crefeld is built upon our Mission, Societal Vision, and Values.

**MISSION**

Crefeld’s mission is to graduate self-aware, empathetic, lifelong learners who possess an appreciation for diverse perspectives, their role in society, and their ability to act as agents of change.

**SOCIETAL VISION**

The Crefeld School envisions a world in which all students understand their inherent worth as individuals and their ability and obligation to powerfully impact society.

**VALUES**

Our values are a trust-based system; commitment to social justice; diversity, equity and inclusion; a strength-based approach; and embracing individuality.
TRUST-BASED SYSTEM

Everyone at Crefeld is a member of the community. As members of this community, trust is essential in everything we do.
COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We believe it is our responsibility to do what we can to eliminate bias based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, political affiliation, national origin, or disability.
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

We are committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values are critical for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.
STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH

At Crefeld, we celebrate what students do well every day and help develop compensation strategies for areas of growth.
EMBRACE INDIVIDUALITY

Through the advisory system, each student is recognized as an individual and has a well-supported, designated advocate guiding their education at Crefeld.
“My teachers trusted me to be responsible enough to make decisions about my own educational path and school life. When Crefelders show up for their first day of school, they are handed the reins and told that THEY know exactly what they need to learn and succeed—but they are surrounded by educators who are committed to figuring out what that looks like and how to make success more attainable based on individual needs. This trust can be a very powerful thing.”

JULIA BIRNBAUM, CLASS OF 2010
“Teenagers are at a developmental stage where they are learning, often for the first time, that the world is not as just and humane as it could be. At Crefeld, engaging in social justice activities as a group teaches students that they have power to effect change and to make the world better for their peers and for themselves.”

STACEY CUNITZ, DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING
“At Crefeld, diversity is not just shown in numbers or as an enrollment quota. We are open to the differences that each person brings to the community, and we don’t shy away from the uncomfortable conversations that those differences may bring. Any resulting discomfort helps us grow a better understanding of the world while developing strong connections and cultivating great learning experiences.”

DIDi SCOTT, DIRECTor OF ADMISSIONS
“At Crefeld, my daughter had the chance to use her strengths to build her skills and knowledge, and her sense of self as well. The entire Crefeld community knows that each person has areas of strength and looks to find that in each other. The school builds an environment that supports children through the most demanding years of their journey into adulthood. My family is forever grateful for it.”

KENDALL MARTIN, TRUSTEE AND ALUMNI PARENT
“Crefeld students are allowed to be authentic and true to themselves. Both of my children’s individual differences were supported. The Crefeld community embraced them and they, in turn, embraced their peers. Crefeld made my sons feel unique and special because of their individual contributions—not despite them.”

LESLIE GREENFIELD, ALUMNI PARENT
...feel ownership of your school community...
Charlie Viola
Class of 2018

SERIOUS DISNEY FAN

ASPIRING THERAPY-DOG TRAINER

DEVOURER OF “BOB’S BURGERS” EPISODES

PARALLEL PARKING VIRTUOSO

A/V AND MUSIC TECH EXPERT

WAILER ON GUITAR
Rachel Combs  
*Upper School Science Teacher/Advisor*  

**HISTORY BUFF**  
**SOUVENIR PENNY COLLECTOR**  
**ARCHITECT OF CLEVER PUNS**  
**BEACON OF POSITIVITY**  
**WEARER OF SCIENCE AND MATH THEMED CLOTHING**  
**DREAMER OF WATCHING A BASEBALL GAME IN EVERY MAJOR LEAGUE STADIUM**  
(NINE DONE SO FAR)
Mahalia Trudeau-Williams
Class of 2021

Genealogy Researcher
Unwavering Advocate for Women and People of Color
Matcha Tea Lover
Noodle Connoisseur
Sketch Book Carrier
Introspective Thinker
Natural-Born Artist
Ari Glazier
Class of 2019

TRIPLET

BASKETBALL PLAYER, SERIOUS FAN, AND BLOGGER

PHILADELPHIA SPORTS TEAM DEVOTEER

EMPATHETIC LISTENER

ZEALOUS POLITICAL DEBATER

GIFTED ROCK SINGER
Crystal Jones
Upper School English Teacher/Advisor

MINIVAN-DRIVING MOM
OF THREE

BLASTER OF RAP MUSIC
(IN HER MINIVAN!)

POET

THRIFT STORE SHOPPER

MASTER OF WALKING
IN HEELS

DESIGNER OF WARM AND
INVITING CLASSROOMS

ADVISOR OF CREFELD’S GSA
Anisah Abdur-Rahman
Class of 2021

FLUENT READER OF ARABIC
WORLD’S GREATEST DIY HOME PROJECT AND REPAIR ASSISTANT
FUTURE MEDICAL STUDENT
SEWING ENTHUSIAST
EXTREME ORGANIZER
George Zeleznik, EdD
Head of School

TABLE TENNIS CHALLENGER

FRIEND OF THE CREFELD CHICKENS

PITTSBURGH NATIVE AND STEELERS LOYALIST

FORMER SKATEBOARDER, SNOWBOARDER, AND WAKEBOARDER

BIGGEST STUDENT ADVOCATE
Dan Hoffman
Class of 2018

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR
AND AVID OUTDOORSMAN
FUN-LOVING, KIND-HEARTED
PRANKSTER
TRAVEL-TEAM SOCCER
PLAYER
MOUNTAIN BIKER WHO
HAS CONQUERED ALL
PHILLY-AREA TRAILS
DEDICATED COFFEE DRINKER
AND VEGETARIAN
QUIET LEADER
Luca Carfagno
Class of 2022
DI RT BIKE RIDER
SURFBOARDER AND SNOWBOARDER
QUIET THINKER
GEARHEAD CAPTIVATED BY ANYTHING WITH A MOTOR
KIND FRIEND
PARTIAL HIKER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL
Lucas Gordon
Class of 2019

Builder of awe-inspiring Lego sculptures
Maker of harmless mischief
Student of Kung Fu
Dedicated gamer
Coding aficionado
Maria DeOrta
Spanish Teacher

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CHAMPION

FORMER AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER

CHALLENGE TACKLER

EAGER TRAVELER

RANIDAPHOBIC (AFRAID OF FROGS!)

NATIVE OF CUBA
Josh Teshome
Class of 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA GURU
ANTI-TOBACCO CAMPAIGN
VOLUNTEER
SUPERB BIG BROTHER
FAMILY TRAVEL PLANNER
BARGAIN FINDER
RELIABLE GIVER OF FRIENDLY SMILE AND KIND “HELLO”
Gena Lopata
Upper School English
Teacher/Advisor

MARATHON RUNNER

PASSIONATE RECOMMENDER
OF BOOKS

SKYDIVING SURVIVOR

HIDER OF VEGETABLES IN
HOME-COOKED MEALS

RECITER OF SHAKESPEARE
Dru Pinder
Class of 2021

DESCENDANT OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE ANISHINAABE

TRUTH SEEKER

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE

VORACIOUS READER (SINCE AGE 3!)

SCIENCE FICTION FAN

ORAL STORYTELLER
Dan Cunitz
Middle School Science Teacher/Advisor
BACKYARD FARMER
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATIONIST
DETERMINED SEEKER OF PHILLY’S BEST EGG SANDWICH
AMATEUR CARPENTER
GIVER OF THE BEST PEP TALKS
STAFF BAKING CONTEST WINNER
CREFELD IS COMMUNITY

If you ask parents, students, faculty, or alumni what makes a Crefeld education so memorable, you’ll inevitably hear the word “community.” We recognize that authentic learning isn’t something that happens in isolation—separate people sitting at separate desks. Our school is a place where students learn with and from one another—a place focused on respect for self and others, guiding students to work interdependently with compassion for those around them. We strive to create a space in which everyone feels connected, accepted, and honored for their uniqueness, and we are proud of the diversity in our community.

AS DIVERSE AS CREFELD IS, THERE ARE COMMON THREADS THAT STITCH OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER:

• A commitment to social justice;
• An enthusiasm for creativity and collaboration;
• A desire to improve the lives of others and the world at large; and
• A sense of responsibility that extends beyond the classroom, beyond friends and family, and beyond one’s own background.

Come visit us to discover more.
Lucy
Standard Poodle
BED HOG
SQUIRREL CHASER
SKILLED THERAPIST
TREAT STEALER
SLOPPY KISSER

8836 Crefeld Street
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Phone: 215.242.5545
Fax: 215.242.8869
www.crefeld.org