



# SUSSEX ACADEMY

## 2017-2018

*Explore • Experience • Excel*



21150 Airport Road  
Georgetown, Delaware 19947  
(302) 856-3636  
[sussexacademy.org](http://sussexacademy.org)

# Sussex Academy



Sussex Academy, a tuition free, public charter school providing an accelerated academic program for students in grades 6 – 12.



## OUR MISSION

To foster academic achievement and social responsibility in a small-school environment where students participate in a highly accelerated college preparatory program that prepares them for the technological and global mindedness needs for the 21st century and that instills ethical conduct and service to others in their day-to-day lives.

## OUR VISION

To cultivate students of distinction by providing them with the knowledge, skills and values to become successful, productive citizens.



## OUR MOTTO

**E**XPLORE by reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking.

**E**XPERIENCE by hands-on learning through authentic experiences.

**E**XCEL by expecting that all students will thrive academically and socially.

## OUR GOALS

Foster critical, independent thinking and reflection.

Model and encourage collaborative decision making.

Promote service and community partnerships.

Instill environmental awareness and social consciousness.



# Mission & Vision



# Sussex Academy

## SUSSEX ACADEMY

Sussex Academy is a public charter, tuition free school that is open to all grade 6-12 students residing in Delaware. Sussex Academy, centrally located in Georgetown, Delaware is the only charter school in Sussex County and is authorized by the Delaware Department of Education.

Sussex Academy students are prepared for college acceptance and graduation through a rigorous curriculum utilizing a project based approach to learning. All students in grades 11 and 12 participate in the International Baccalaureate Program. According to Louis Hirsh, Retired Director of Admissions, University of Delaware, "The International Baccalaureate Program is the "Gold Standard" among high school curricula, and the high schools that offer it are universally respected and admired by college admissions professionals. IB candidates are always among the strongest students in a selective college's applicant pool: they are remarkably well-educated; they are strong writers and thinkers, and they have a global perspective and a gift for interdisciplinary learning that most other applicants cannot match."

To enhance the academic program, Sussex Academy also offers athletics and extra-curricular activities. The school participates in DIAA regulated interscholastic sports. Comprehensive programs in music, choir, art, performing arts, service clubs, and student government are also available.

Sussex Academy has a simple admissions process. Everyone interested in attending is asked to complete an application online at [schoolchoicede.org/ApplySussexAcademy](http://schoolchoicede.org/ApplySussexAcademy). As school choice is limited in Sussex County, Sussex Academy uses a lottery system. All completed applications are randomly drawn in a public lottery that follows guidelines provided by the Delaware Department of Education, and the date is announced to allow for prospective parents and the general public to attend.

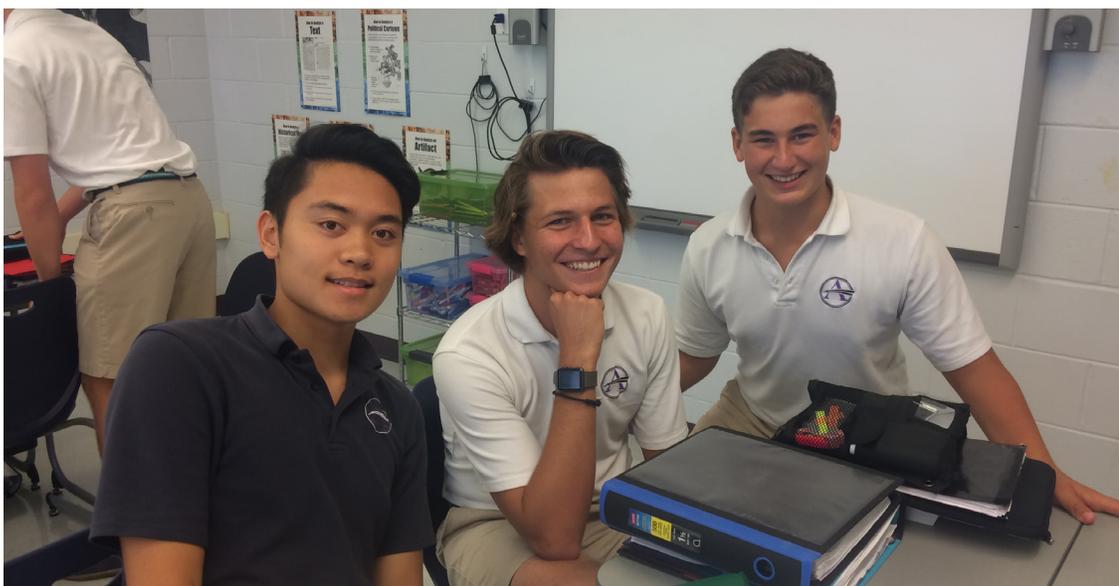
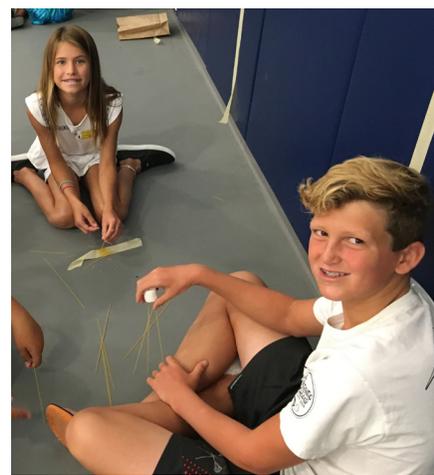
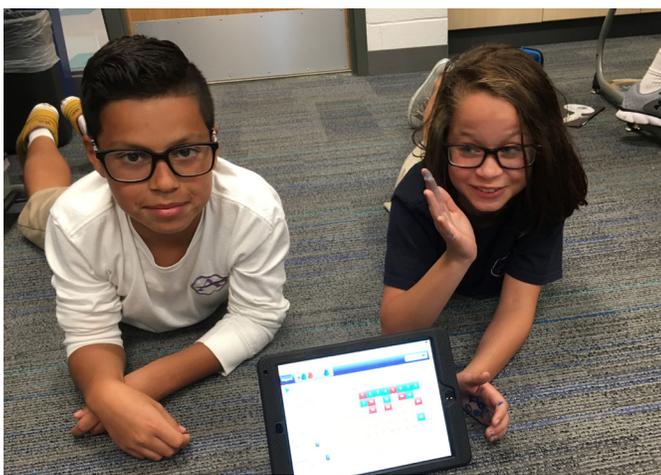
*"I like Sussex Academy because they don't just teach, they teach how to learn."*

*Jason Moshier, Lewes  
Sussex Academy Parent*



## SUSSEX ACADEMY

- An authorized International Baccalaureate World School
- The Top Performing School in Delaware as ranked by the Delaware Department of Education (2015)
- The Top Middle School in Delaware as ranked by StartClass, an educational research site (2015)
- A National Blue Ribbon School recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (2016)
- Delaware Charter School Network IDEA Awards-Excellence in Academics (2017)



Explore • Experience • Excel

# Our History & Our Facility

## HISTORY

Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences opened in 2000 as a 225-pupil middle school located in a newly constructed facility at 21777 Sussex Pines Road, Georgetown, Delaware. Within three years of opening, Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences made two minor charter modifications to first expand to 300 and then to 325 students.

A major charter modification was approved in 2012 to begin adding a high school in 2013. The first 9th grade class started in 2013 in a new facility with a new name: Sussex Academy, located at 21150 Airport Road, Georgetown Delaware. Grades 10, 11 and 12 were subsequently added and the school was offering service to grades 6 through 12 in the fall of 2016.

## FACILITY

In order to meet facility demands needed for adding high school grades, the Sussex Academy Foundation executed an agreement with a nearby independent school to exchange buildings. Construction on the building began upon completion of the exchange. Classrooms, locker rooms, administrative offices, library, performing arts stage, cafeteria, and a middle school wing were constructed. In addition, two turf fields, two natural grass fields, a softball field, an aquatic center and an auxiliary building to house concessions and a health room were built. Final building construction was completed in 2017.



## INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

IB Learner Profile Attributes	Learner Action
<b>Inquirer</b> We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.	We develop and use investigative, inquiry, and research skills in all classes
<b>Knowledgeable</b> We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.	We learn the concepts taught in all classes, develop our own ideas, and perform at a high level in all classes.
<b>Thinkers</b> We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.	We live the Code of Conduct: to have Respect for others, Responsibility for ourselves, and Respect for property while acting with integrity, honesty, and fairness throughout our school.
<b>Communicators</b> We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.	We acknowledge and respect that others have beliefs that differ from our own. We learn about the histories, traditions, cultures, and ideas of others both locally and internationally.
<b>Principled</b> We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.	We demonstrate our care and empathy for others in our daily interactions as well as participating in individual and group service projects throughout our communities
<b>Open-Minded</b> We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.	We learn to be courageous, resourceful, and resilient in the face of uncertainty, challenge, and change throughout our school and communities.

# Instructional Model

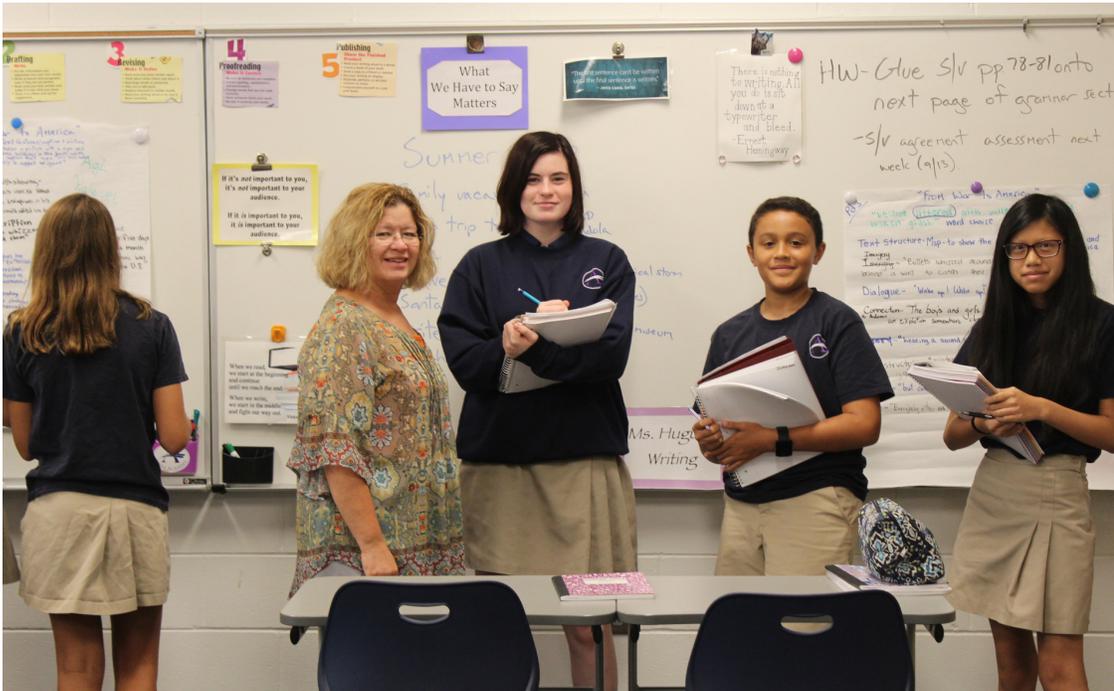
# Instructional Model

<p><b>Caring</b> We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.</p>	<p>We demonstrate our care and empathy for others in our daily interactions as well as participating in individual and group service projects throughout our communities</p>
<p><b>Risk-Takers</b> We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenge and change.</p>	<p>We learn to be courageous, resourceful, and resilient in the face of uncertainty, challenge, and change throughout our school and communities.</p>
<p><b>Balanced</b> We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives -intellectual, physical, and emotional -to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.</p>	<p>We grow to be balanced in mind, body, and spirit while working independently and with others.</p>
<p><b>Reflective</b> We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.</p>	<p>We reflect upon our academic work and our social experiences in order to reach our individual potential.</p>



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

The middle school includes grades 6 to 8 and follows an accelerated curriculum that meets and exceeds Common Core and State standards. Students take reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science along with Exploratory subjects in STEM, music, art, computer coding and physical education. Much of the classroom instruction is project-based with a focus on literacy, inquiry, research, and risk-taking. To support a rigorous academic program, the school builds a culture of respect and high expectations. The school schedule is built around large flexible blocks of time with grade 6 and 7 students remaining with the same set of teachers for two years.



*“Both my daughter and I were very pleased and blessed with the teams she had at Sussex Academy. The teachers work with the students giving them the skills they need to be a productive and successful student.”*

*Cathy Vansciver, Seaford  
Sussex Academy Parent*

# Middle School

# High School

## HIGH SCHOOL

The high school includes grades 9-12. The high school program is designed to prepare students for acceptance and completion of a four-year college or university. High school students study the core subjects of math, English, social studies, science, and Spanish. All core classes are taught at an honors level and are IB preparatory in the 9th and 10th grades. Spanish, STEM, health and writing are required high school courses. Some of the high school elective classes include art, print media, technology education, psychology, photography, criminal justice, driver's education, physical education. In Spring 2015 Sussex Academy became an authorized International Baccalaureate World School offering the Diploma Program (IB-DP). This challenging, highly respected curriculum is open to all students in grades 11 and 12.



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program addresses a student as a whole person. It is not simply a course where you take a test at the end.

Beginning in 9th grade, Sussex Academy students start taking courses to prepare them for the IB program. They learn and apply IB rubrics, methods of writing lab reports, and ways to analyze text regularly in most of their classes. By the end of tenth grade, students have the experience with IB to be able to decide how much of the IB program is a good fit for them.

In grades 11 and 12, Sussex Academy students may choose the challenge of the entire IB Diploma Program or take only a couple of IB courses. Should students choose the IB Diploma Program, they will take six IB courses spanning grades 11 and 12: math, chemistry, literature, Spanish, history, and a sixth course of their choosing, such as Design Technology. Each course requires students to complete IB assessments during the two years and an exam at the end of their senior year. Courses are taught at either the Standard Level and/or Higher Level. Diploma Program students take 3 courses at each level. Colleges generally award college credit for strong performance in Higher Level coursework. Each course weaves an international perspective into its content.

In addition to the IB courses, all juniors also take "Theory of Knowledge." This class is about the "nature of knowing," but every subject also weaves this approach to critical thinking into its content. Students also participate in CAS. The "Creativity, Activity, and Service" aspect of IB requires that all students demonstrate that they have designed and participated in projects relating to creativity (art, photography, etc.), activity (sports, physical activity), and service (volunteering) throughout their high school years.

IB Diploma students round out their program of study with an "Extended Essay." This is a 4,000 word essay that is researched and written about a topic relevant to an IB subject they are already taking. Students who earn the IB Diploma will graduate Sussex Academy with both a State of Delaware Diploma and an International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB Diploma is highly beneficial in the college application process.

# International Baccalaureate

# International Baccalaureate

In 2011, the average college acceptance rate of IB students was 22% higher than the average acceptance rate of the total population. Eighty-three percent of respondents to an IB survey in 2011 said that they were offered admission into their first choice college. (<http://www.iba/commoncore/documents/GlobalDPDestinationSurveysUS.pdf>)

In keeping with our mission of having all Sussex Academy students receive acceptance and complete a four year college/university program, Sussex Academy believes that participating in the International Baccalaureate program is the best way to help our students achieve this goal. The IB program meshes a local education with a global perspective and encourages students to be independent lifelong learners.



*“ After having moved on from my seven years at Sussex Academy to pursue engineering at RPI, the fruits of my time at the Academy have become increasingly clear. And, while the accelerated, in-depth academics and supportive instruction are certainly pluses, the primary benefit is the Swiss Army Knife of procured scholastic skills that will remain in my back pocket for all of my future academic and professional pursuits.”*

*Cohen Davis  
Sussex Academy Alumnus*



## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### HIGH SCHOOL

Student Government, National Honor Society, Drama, Chorus, Band, LEO Club, Science Olympiad, Band, Technology Education Association, and more.

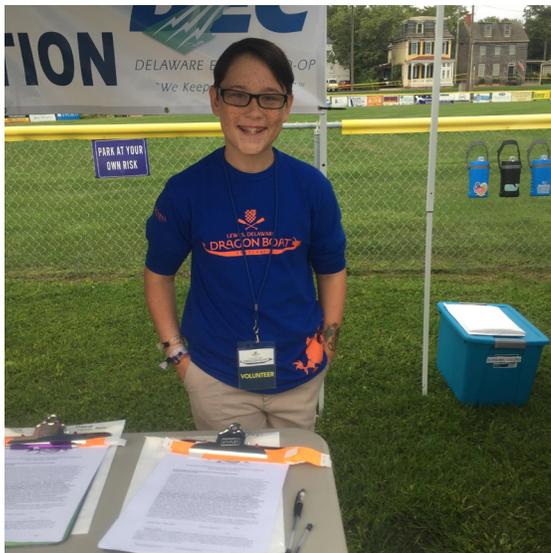


### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Drama, Chorus, Band, Clubs and more, Sussex Academy is continuously adding and creating additional clubs and organizations to meet the student's needs and interests at both the high school and middle school levels.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

As a result of Sussex Academy's commitment to developing young adults of character, our students are encouraged to be active citizens in their communities. Community service is a requirement at all grade levels (6-12). The school has been the recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award.



# Extra Curricular Activities

# Athletics

## ATHLETICS

At Sussex Academy, the athletic program provides student athletics with an excellent coaching staff, first-class facilities and the opportunity for success.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS

Soccer  
Cross Country  
Basketball  
Baseball  
Lacrosse

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Soccer  
Cross Country  
Basketball  
Baseball  
Lacrosse  
Golf  
Swimming  
Tennis

\*Eighth grade students have eligibility to participate in high school sports provided that they attended Sussex Academy in grade 7.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

Volleyball  
Cross Country  
Field Hockey  
Softball  
Soccer  
Basketball  
Lacrosse

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Volleyball  
Cross Country  
Field Hockey  
Cheerleading  
Lacrosse  
Swimming  
Tennis  
Basketball  
Soccer  
Golf  
Softball



## **Where is Sussex Academy located?**

Sussex Academy is centrally located in Georgetown, DE. The address is 21150 Airport Road, Georgetown, DE 19947.

## **What is the tuition to attend Sussex Academy?**

There is no tuition. Sussex Academy is a public charter school and it is FREE to attend.

## **Does Sussex Academy charge an activity fee?**

Yes, there is an activity fee that covers field work, clubs, yearbooks and exploratory supplies.

## **Are there other charter schools in Sussex County?**

No, Sussex Academy is the only charter school in Sussex County. Enrollment is open to any student living in Delaware.

## **Are charter schools held to the same standards as other public schools?**

Sussex Academy has high expectations for academic performance and student decorum. Our goal is to have all students exceed the state testing standards and the behavioral standards established by the school. The school must meet or exceed the standards established in a Performance Agreement with the State Board of Education.

## **How do students apply to Sussex Academy?**

All students are required to complete an application. Applications can be completed online at [schoolchoicede.org/Apply/SussexAcademy](http://schoolchoicede.org/Apply/SussexAcademy). At this time, applications are accepted between November and January.

## **Does a completed application guarantee school admittance?**

For students applying to 6th and 9th grade, there will be a lottery for admittance. Applications for all grades will be accepted between November and January. The school lottery is held in January.

## **How many students attend Sussex Academy?**

There are currently 761 students enrolled at Sussex Academy.

## **Does Sussex Academy offer foreign language classes?**

Yes, Spanish is required in high school.

## **Do Sussex Academy students wear uniforms?**

Yes, Sussex Academy students are required to wear uniforms. Flynn and O'Hara is the official uniform company.

## **Does Sussex Academy provide meals?**

Yes, Sussex Academy contracts with an outside vendor to provide school lunches daily. Lunches are pre-ordered and paid for monthly. Sussex Academy also participates in the USDA Child Nutrition Breakfast Program and the CACFP Afterschool Snack Program.



# Questions and Answers

## What is the curriculum at Sussex Academy?

Sussex Academy adheres to state and Common Core standards and supports project based, interdisciplinary learning connections across contents. There is an emphasis on literacy, inquiry, investigation, research, and reflection with high quality work expected from students. The school emphasizes a school culture based on rigorous expectations for behavior and achievement. The school design focuses on developing IB Learner Attributes in all students.

## What is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program?

The two-year IB curriculum is a rigorous and intellectually coherent program that encourages critical thinking. Students participate in community service, individual research and an inquiry into the nature of knowledge. The IB Program is widely recognized by the world's leading colleges and universities.

## What pathways are offered in high school and what classes do they include?

STEM and Communications Pathways are offered in high school. The STEM classes are focused on science and math. The communications classes are focused on written, verbal and visual communications.

## Does Sussex Academy offer social events?

Students have many opportunities to engage socially through field work, clubs, dances and "reward" events. The eighth grade students learn etiquette and attend a formal luncheon while high school students have prom and homecoming.



*"At Sussex Academy I was given the educational foundation that was necessary to begin a successful journey into higher education. Even now, as a student at The George Washington University of Law School, I can see how strong writing skills, experiential learning focus, and educational curiosity that Sussex Academy gave me has shaped my journey through high school, university, law school and beyond."*

*Emily Wheatley, Seaford  
Sussex Academy Alumnus*

## What sports are offered at Sussex Academy?

### Middle School Boys:

Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Baseball, and Lacrosse

### High School Boys:

Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Lacrosse, Tennis, Golf, and Baseball

### Middle School Girls:

Volleyball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, and Lacrosse.

### High School Girls:

Volleyball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Basketball, Swimming, Lacrosse, Tennis, Soccer, Softball, Golf, Cheerleading

## Does Sussex Academy offer extra-curricular activities?

Yes, there are several clubs and extra-curricular activities for both middle school and high school students.

## Do Sussex Academy students have art and/or music classes?

Yes, Sussex Academy offers both art and music classes for middle school. In high school, students participate in an integrated communications program offering classes in art, film, photography, desk top publishing, studio art and other art electives.

## Is Sussex Academy academically competitive?

Yes, Sussex Academy students consistently perform at high levels on mandatory state achievement tests.



# Meet Our Directors

## MEET OUR DIRECTORS

### Dr. Patricia Oliphant

This school year marks the seventh year of the founding of Sussex Academy. Certainly, in the early years it took daring, faith, and fortitude to establish a new charter school in Sussex County Delaware. As the school evolved, the middle school students and teachers have established themselves continuously as one of the highest academically performing schools in the state. Additionally, the last four years are a testament to the students and teachers in the high school who demonstrated daring, faith and fortitude by charting a course toward high academic performance as measured by standardized assessments and higher education matriculation. Certainly, the words of both Mr. Stafford and Mrs. Owens pay tribute to the qualified faculty and staff who built this school from its infancy to the school it is today as well as the Executive Board, parents and community who have supported it.

As Sussex Academy moves through this school year, it is now on the precipice of yet another accolade. Every five years, charter schools must request a renewal of their charter. In other words, they request the authority to operate. Recently, Sussex Academy submitted that renewal and will learn the outcome this December. We anticipate that charter will be renewed. What is particularly energizing is that we believe that we will be recognized as the first charter school in Delaware to receive a ten-year renewal. While hard work, high expectations, and advanced academics have been the mainstay of our school, we know that daring, faith, and fortitude by all have made Sussex Academy possible. May the next ten years be as glorious and productive as the past.

### Mrs. Janet Owens

My journey at Sussex Academy began at the very beginning. I am always extremely proud to say that I was one of the original teachers hired when the academy opened in 2000. I spent 17 years teaching 8th grade U.S. History and have wonderful memories of expeditions, fieldwork, class debates, projects and more while I was in the classroom. I had the privilege of working with high caliber teachers, administrators, and staff who continually seek out opportunities to consistently encourage children to take risks and become independent thinkers. I have always been very proud to represent a school where you will find a commitment to excellence that is second to none.

More recently, I have taken the position of Director of Accountability at Sussex Academy. I look forward to this challenge and the opportunity to continue to work with faculty, staff, and families who are supportive and hold high expectations for learning. I believe high standards, mixed with fun memorable experiences have been the recipe for success at Sussex Academy. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time thus far and am so excited to see where this next step of my journey takes me.



## MEET OUR DIRECTORS

### Mr. Allen Stafford

I am often asked how long I have worked at Sussex Academy and I am always proud to communicate to the inquirer that I was the first employee to be hired by the school's founders. Our original staff, which also included Mrs. Silcott, Mrs. Cripps, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. McLaughlin, Ms. Mews, and Mr. M. Dobrich, had a collective goal of creating a school where students could experience high levels of academic and social success in a safe and nurturing environment, and, in a short time, we achieved this goal. Every successive staff since that first year (2000-01) has always consisted of true risk-takers who willingly left positions at established schools and school districts to accept one with Sussex Academy knowing that the pay would probably be less and the workload considerably more demanding and challenging. Every year our staff finds new ways to improve our instructional program for and social expectations of our students so that they receive a challenging yet balanced education and I have no reason to think that this will not continue to be the norm at Sussex Academy. As I think about my years with Sussex Academy, I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with these select, hard working, caring, knowledgeable, principled, open-minded, and reflective professionals as they have helped me grow both as an educator and a person. Collectively, and with the contributions of our students and their families, we have clearly established Sussex Academy as the number one school in Delaware.



# Meet Our Directors

# Teacher Profiles

## MEET OUR FACULTY

### Jaime Bahder

Grades 6 & 7 Math

B.A. Salisbury University, Elementary Education  
M.Ed. Salisbury University, Reading Specialist

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

Great school – great students – great staff!

### Steve Bastianelli

Athletic Director

B.A. Lehigh University, History

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to work at Sussex Academy for many reasons. Perhaps the dominant reason was to have the opportunity to work within an extremely successful academic program and to help develop the athletic program to a similar level of success.

### Alyson Bates

High School-Algebra I, Pre-Calculus, International Baccalaureate Standard Level & International Baccalaureate Higher Level

B.A. Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Mathematics with a concentration in Education

M.S. Wilkes University, Education (21st Century Teaching and Learning)

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because it was an opportunity to teach higher level math courses and develop a strong math program from the ground up. The school is small in size so students can get more one-on-one time with the teacher, which I believe is important.

### Jerry Birl

Music

University of Delaware

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I had been working in the restaurant industry for years, and I was finally able to jump into music education, where my true passion lies.

### Erin E. Bobby

High School Elements of Writing & Theory of Knowledge

B.A. University of Delaware, English Education

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

Sussex Academy has an amazing reputation for having excellent students, a great faculty, and high standards.



## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Josh Bowe

Social Studies

B.A. University of Delaware, History

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because of the reputation of the student body.

### Erin Bryan

Honors Spanish III, Honors Spanish Film & Literature, and middle school Computer Science

Honors B.A. University of Delaware, Spanish Language & Literature

M.A. University of Delaware, TESL (in progress)

#### **Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?**

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because of its reputation for excellent academics as well as wonderful educators and students.

### Carla Costa

Grade 8 Science

B.A. The College of Saint Elizabeth, in Pure & Applied Mathematics with a Minor in Secondary Education

M.A. The College of Saint Elizabeth, Education & Technology

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I decided to teach at the Academy because when I relocated from NJ (I taught high school mathematics there for 13 yrs) I was looking for a public school that offered a rigorous academic program with high standards and expectations for student personal conduct. After researching Sussex Academy and speaking with community members who were familiar with the program, it seemed as if SA would be an excellent fit for me. I was right!

### Jennifer Couch

Biology, Integrated Science, Anatomy and Physiology

B.S. Murray State University, Food Service Administration

M.A.T Salisbury University, Concentration Biology

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I love challenges and change, both personally and professionally. The high school Biology position at Sussex Academy presented me with both.



# Teacher Profiles

## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Greg Criniti

Honors Physics, Principals of English, Introduction to English, & Technology Education

B.S. West Virginia Institute of Technology, Mechanical Engineering  
M.A. Gratz University, Education

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to be involved with charter schools. After conducting my research and talking to people in the area I found Sussex Academy to be a great school.

### Kathy Cripps

Grades 6 & 7 Math

M.A. Wilmington College, Education +23 years experience

### Clay Crum

Student Services Coordinator

B.A. Penn State, Agriculture Science  
M.Ed. Wilmington University, Elementary Studies  
M.Ed. Wilmington University, Special Education

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I liked the school's philosophy that emphasized academics over sports and the value of having small class sizes in order to meet superior academic growth.

### Andie Davis

Honors English 11/12, TOK, & Electives

B.A. Salisbury University, Dual Concentrated Liberal Studies: Biology & English  
M.Ed. Wilmington University, Elementary Education  
M.S.Ed Wilmington University, Special Education  
In progress: EdD Salisbury University, Literacy Curriculum & Instruction

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

Sussex Academy is an amazing blend of creativity, project-based learning, and rigorous academics within a small school community. I am excited to be a part of such a groundbreaking school.

### Theresa Desmond

High School Civics, Economics, & Criminal Justice

M.Ed. Wilmington University

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I love the freedom we have at Sussex Academy as teachers to design lessons and activities that are challenging, creative, interactive, and meaningful to students.



## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Tim Elmer

High School STEM

B.S. Virginia Tech, Mechanical Engineering

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I like to create things and teaching at SA gave me a chance to develop a new engineering program that would give students exposure to STEM careers and get them off to a successful start at college. I also like being near the beach.

### Debbie Fees

High School Academic Counselor & 10th Grade College Preparatory

B.A. University of Pennsylvania, Biology and Psychology Minor

M.A. Lehigh University, Secondary Science Ed

M.Ed. Wilmington University, Secondary School Counseling

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

Sussex Academy has a great reputation! I loved teaching, and SA was a school that I could really challenge students but at the same time make science interesting and fun. The staff are all top notch, too.

### Heather Foley

Grades 6 & 7 Reading & Literature

B.A. History & M.A. Teaching

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

In 2001, I moved to the Eastern Shore and applied to several school districts. Having taught in a traditional public school, I was intrigued by the instructional model used at SAAS. The ELOB model focused on developing the whole child using a cross-curricular approach. Additionally, the small class sizes, readily available technology, uniforms and the independence to create my own curriculum to meet the state standards drew me to Sussex Academy.

### Andy Frankum

Grade 8 Reading

B.A. University of Delaware, English

M.A. West Chester University, Creative

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because of its reputation for having hard-working and well-behaved students and its involvement in community-based expeditions.



# Teacher Profiles

## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Rebecca Frankum

Art & Integrated Communications

Bachelor of Music Education, West Chester University

Bachelor of Fine Art, West Chester University

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because I knew how wonderful the students were and I wanted to be part of something that was growing and expanding.

### Tim Halter

Honors Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, & Honors Pre-Calculus

B.S. University of Delaware, Physics with a minor in mathematics

In Progress M.A. University of Delaware, Education

#### Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?

Teaching is a new calling for myself. Following my college graduation I spent a large part of the following year substitute teaching and realizing how much I loved the opportunity to interact with high school students in math classrooms. Sussex Academy provides a unique opportunity to work with students who are determined to succeed and are willing to work extremely hard to do so both inside and outside the classroom. I look forward to helping our students become college ready and capable of succeeding in their post high school life.

### Stephanie Hartsoe

Middle School & High School Physical Education

B.S. Wesley College, Physical Education K-12

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I enjoy teaching the kids to have a love for physical activity, not just playing a sport but learning that being active is fun and a great way to stay healthy.

### Chad Heers

Grades 6 & 7 Science

B.A. University of Toledo, Business Communications

M.A. St. Mary's University, Secondary Education

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy to experience an entirely different philosophy of education. This philosophy allows for smaller class size, student centered classrooms, and activity based curriculum. This allows students to discover their individual potential, while contributing to the larger community of learners.



## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Mindy Hete

Grade 9 Honors English & Psychology

B.A. West Virginia University, English

M.A. West Virginia University, Secondary English

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because of their reputation of academic excellence.

### Karen Hugues

Grades 6 & 7 Writing

B.A. La Salle University, Political Science

M.A. Saint Joseph's University, Education

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I like the high expectations of Sussex Academy in terms of both academics and character.

### Catherine Hutton

Spanish

B.A. University of Delaware

M.A.S. - Johns Hopkins University

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

Sussex Academy reminds me a bit of my old school in Maryland. After moving to Rehoboth this past summer I was excited to get back into teaching my favorite subject!

### Lauren Hvorecny

Grade 8 Science

B.S. Millersville, University Biology-concentration in Marine Biology

Masters in Secondary Education, Wilmington University

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I was interested in teaching at SA because of the school culture. Expectations are high for academics, as well as behavior, social interactions, and service to the school and community.

### Kathy Kay

6 & 7 grade writing

B.S. University of Sciences, Health Sciences

Masters University of Sciences, Physical Therapy

Masters Wilmington University, Elementary Education

Masters Wilmington University, Reading

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

The small setting was certainly a draw. With few number of students in a class, the more in depth one can delve into learning. Being a small school, a "family" sense is fostered and encouraged. Secondly, I wanted to be a part of a school with such high standards both academically and behaviorally.

# Teacher Profiles

## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Jennifer Leonard

Library/Technology

Elements of Writing & Research and Writing

B.A. University of Delaware Elementary, Education and Special Education

Masters Wilmington University, Reading

Library Media Specialist Certificate–University of Delaware

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I have always heard exceptional comments about the students and staff at Sussex Academy. The community service projects that the school participates in is just one of the many great things that I heard about the school. I feel in part that these projects demonstrate the unity of the students and staff and I wanted to be a part of these wonderful opportunities to give back to the community.

### Alyssa Lupinetti

6th Grade

B.A., University of Delaware, English with a concentration in Journalism

M.B.A., Wilmington University

#### **Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?**

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because I enjoy being a part of a team that encourages students to attain academic success. I also believe that we strive to make learning meaningful and purposeful for our students so that they are prepared for college and beyond.

### Elaine Maggioli

Grades 6 & 7 Science

B.A. University of Delaware, Biology

M.Ed. Wilmington University, Teaching and Learning

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I love the philosophy of the school and it's mission of project-based learning.

### Colin Marine

Elements of Writing and Honors English

M.A. Salisbury University, English

#### **Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?**

I first learned of Sussex Academy when my wife told me of a school she had visited for work. She was amazed at the demeanor of the students, the professionalism of the staff and the rigor of its courses. It sounded like a great place to learn and teach, so I decided that if I ever had the opportunity to do so, I would apply. I was happy to learn first hand that what my wife saw on her visit happens everyday at Sussex Academy.



## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Maureen McLaughlin

Grades 6 & 7 Social Studies

B.A. Vanderbilt University, History and Secondary Education

M.A. Wilmington University, Educational Technology

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

It was exciting to be part of a new school and it was close to the beach (compared to where I had been living).

### Sara Messina

High School Social Studies- International Baccalaureate History of the Americas, Honors History of the Americas, Honors World History, & Sociology

B.A. University of Delaware, History Education

M.A. University of Delaware, Instruction

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I wanted to teach at Sussex Academy because I believe in the mission of the school and hope to help the school meet its goals. Everyone here seems to work as a team to help the students be successful and I am very excited to be a part of that team and contribute as much as possible.

### Sharon Mews

Print Media, Photography, HS Gym, CAS Coordinator/Advisor

B.S. Ferrum College, Psychology

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I love the kids.

### Heather Moore

High School Integrated Science, Chemistry, IB Chemistry SL

B.S. University of Delaware, Biochemistry

Masters of Instruction, University of Delaware

#### Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?

I choose to teach at Sussex Academy because our students are motivated to be the best students they can be. The work ethic of Sussex Academy students is superior and this motivates me to work to the best of my own ability. Sussex Academy students have truly made me a better teacher.



# Teacher Profiles

## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Matthew Oliver

#### Social Studies

B.A. Virginia Military Institute, History/Minor – Spanish  
M.A. Wilmington University, Secondary Education

#### **Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?**

I wanted the opportunity to teach in a setting in which academic rigor is viewed as the standard and not the exception. Sussex Academy provides an environment that challenges both the student and the teacher to go beyond “good enough” to achieve their highest level of potential.

### Steve Oscar

#### Drivers Education

B.S. East Stroudsburg University, Recreation and Leisure Management  
M.A. University of Iowa, Recreation and Leisure Studies Management  
M.Ed. Wilmington University, Education

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

Sussex Academy instills personal responsible and self-achievement. Students are challenged to push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of doing. Thus, true self-esteem is generated once students accomplish that which they thought they could not do.

### Michael Schaefer

#### 10th Grade Economics/Personal Finance and 11th grade Theory of Knowledge

B.A. Susquehanna University, Bachelor of Arts Political Science and Philosophy  
M.A. Salisbury University, Arts in Teaching

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I’m excited to be part of a growing school that strives to develop a student’s academic growth as well as their commitment to public service. Before coming here I’ve met some former students from Sussex Academy and I have always been impressed with the character and academic performance.

### Stephanie Sherman

#### High School Health and Integrated Science

B.S. Bates College, Biology  
M.Ed. Arcadia University

#### **Why did you want to teach at Sussex Academy?**

I am excited to be at Sussex Academy Full-time this year (I was here part-time last year) because I love working at a school where students are curious and eager to learn. I think that the thirst for knowledge that Sussex Academy students possess is exemplary and it makes teaching here fun.



## MEET OUR FACULTY (CONTINUED)

### Cameron Smith

High School Spanish

B.A. Muhlenberg College, Spanish Secondary Education Certificate

M.A. Lasalle University, Bilingual Studies

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

It's a special place where the character of students is reflected in their outstanding academic work along with sportsmanship and exemplary citizenship outside the classroom.

### Cindy Smith

Algebra I and II

BSE Millersville University, Math

M.ED. and Principal Certification, Morgan State University

#### **Why did you want to teach as Sussex Academy?**

The first reason is that my son was so prepared for high school after attending SA. I was thoroughly impressed and sent my two daughters. The second reason is that I taught at Del Tech, in the Academic Challenge Program and not only were the SA students very bright but they were extremely polite and respectful. So when the opportunity came along to apply for a job here, I went for it.

### Karen Willey

Grades 6 & 7 Reading

B.S. Salisbury University, Athletic Training/Minor-Psychology

M.Ed. Wilmington University

#### **Why did you want to work at Sussex Academy?**

I chose to join the staff at Sussex Academy because I wanted a challenge. Sussex Academy has the distinction of being one of the best middle schools in the state and frankly, I wanted to see if I was up to the challenge of teaching at a school with such a stellar reputation. In addition to the school's academic standing, I knew this school valued teachers and their input in terms of curriculum choices, student success, and overall school decisions and I wanted to be a part of the school that functioned in that manner.



# What They Are Saying

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT SUSSEX ACADEMY

*“It is wonderful to see how the dream of a few has become real. Sussex Academy is giving the students in Sussex County the opportunity to reach their own dreams through and education at the highest level.”*

*Virginia Esteban-Somolo  
Editor of Hoyen Delaware*

*“I am very pleased with the education my daughters have received at SussexAcademy. The curriculum and teachers have challenged them to think outside the box. Sussex Academy was the very best decision for my daughter’s education. I know their future success will be because of the solid educational foundation that they received at Sussex Academy.”*

*Kelly Griffith, Seaford  
Sussex Academy Parent*

*“Sussex Academy has given my child the perfect combination of academic challenge as well as multiple extracurricular opportunities to prepare him for any life path he chooses. As a parent, if my child is happy, I’m happy!”*

*Elaine Smith, Seaford  
Sussex Academy Parent*

*“I like the academic atmosphere from the administration to the educational staff, and the overall quality of education our children receive from Sussex Academy.”*

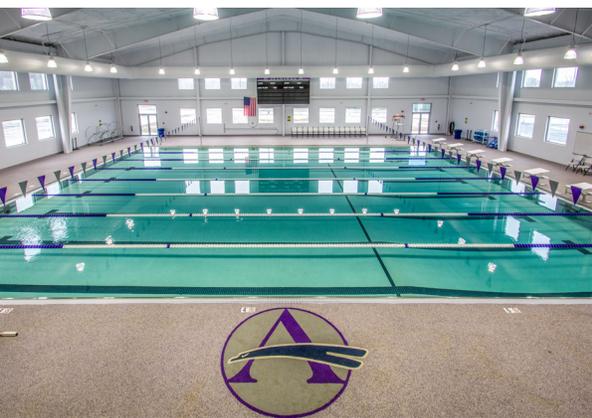
*Betsy Kirschner, Lewes  
Sussex Academy Parent*

*“Over the course of a few months after entering Sussex Academy, I noticed my sons were developing more confidence, taking more pride in their work, and becoming more responsible students. I do not believe that they would have made so much progress so quickly at another high school. In addition, they are both very sports oriented and they have really enjoyed the opportunity to play on teams and to compete against other area schools. They have had to learn to manage the demands of their classes while going to practice 4 or 5 nights a week. While they have a challenging schedule both academically and as athletes, they havenot been overwhelmed because they have such a supportive, caring staff that helps to guide them to be successful. I am confident that they are developing the necessary tools and skills to be successful as they prepare for college.”*

*Suzanne Davis, Bethany Beach  
Sussex Academy Parent*



# Our Facility



Visit Our School at  
[sussexacademy.org](http://sussexacademy.org)



*The Sussex Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:*

*Allen Stafford, Director of Finance and Operations*

*Sussex Academy, 21150 Airport Road, Georgtown, DE 19947 • (302) 856-3636.*