

...an intentionally
different approach
to college prep
education...

the
CrefeldSchool



Everyone ~~YOU~~ BELONG^s HERE[^]

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

5

dedicated
art studios

*The Crefeld Glass Studio,
visual art, theater/dance,
music, and sewing studio*

28%

of Crefelders
identify as
students of color

1970

year founded

students come from:

50+

zip codes

5

counties

25+

school districts

3

dogs on campus
each day

100+

total students in grades 7-12

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.*

1

chicken coop on campus

100%

of graduating class
members are accepted to
college or university

16

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

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.*

Speak ~~LISTEN~~ UP

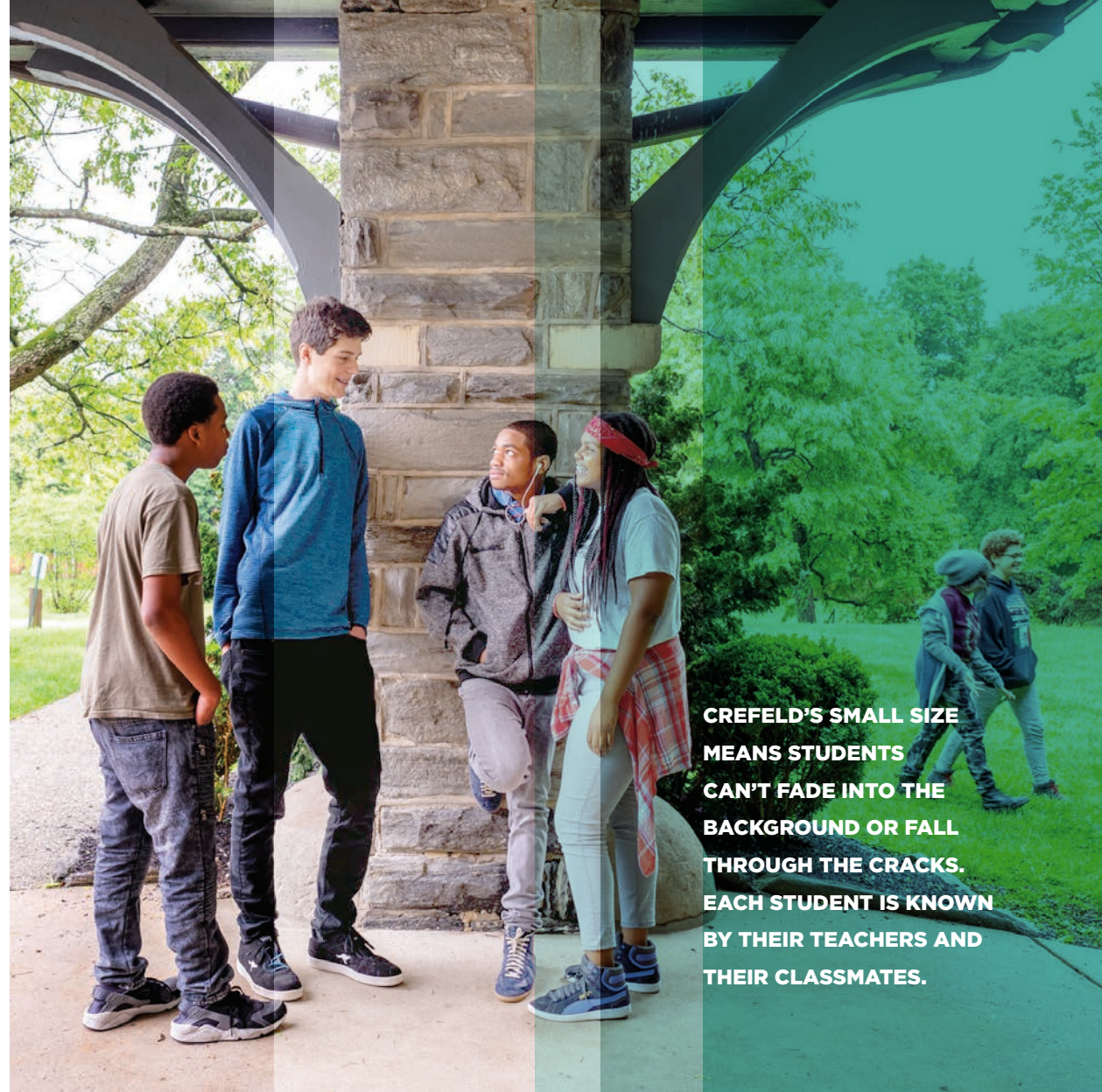
Walking across Crefeld's Chestnut Hill campus, you might see students playing guitar on the front steps with one of the counselors.

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.



**CREFELD'S SMALL SIZE
MEANS STUDENTS
CAN'T FADE INTO THE
BACKGROUND OR FALL
THROUGH THE CRACKS.
EACH STUDENT IS KNOWN
BY THEIR TEACHERS AND
THEIR CLASSMATES.**

Answers

~~ANSWER QUESTIONS~~

A preoccupation with GPAs and standardized test scores? | Memorization of a litany of facts? | Long lectures during which students listen passively? | Not at Crefeld.

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.

shape

~~FACE~~ YOUR FUTURE

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
**Millersville 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.

Create

~~FIND~~ ART EVERYWHERE

At 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)



**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.**

A group of five students are standing on a dirt path in a lush green forest. They are looking at a large tree trunk. One student in a blue and red striped shirt is pointing at the tree. Another student in a yellow hoodie is standing next to them. The forest is filled with tall trees and dense foliage.

**RECENT SERVICE LEARNING
GROUPS HAVE INVOLVED
ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING
SHARE FOOD PROGRAM,
FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON,
NORTHWESTERN STABLES,
THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION, AND JENKS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

stand ~~TAKE A SEAT~~

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.



EDUCATION IS ABOUT MORE THAN MASTERING ACADEMIC SKILLS. CREFELD STUDENTS DEVELOP A LOVE OF LEARNING, AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES, AND AN APPRECIATION FOR THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THEIR COMMUNITY.

...be empowered
to grow to your
strengths and find
meaning in your
learning...

the
CrefeldSchool

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.



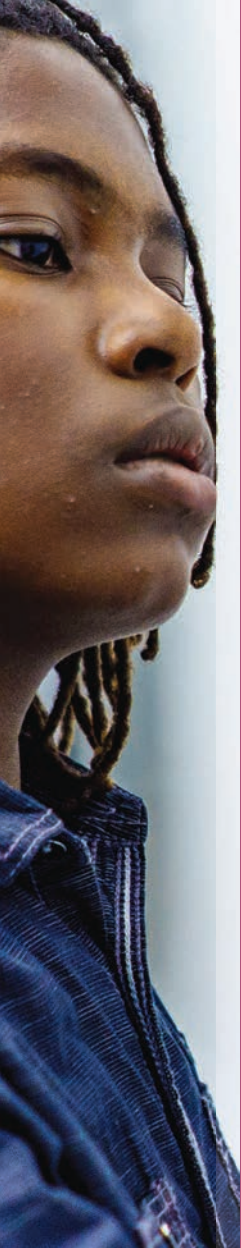
*“My teachers trusted me to be responsible enough to make decisions about my own educational path and school life. When Crefelders show up for their first day of school, they are handed the reins and told that **THEY** know exactly what they need to learn and succeed—but they are surrounded by educators 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...

the
CrefeldSchool

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 DEVOTEE**

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

DIRT 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

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www.crefeld.org