

# 2024-25 School Profile

## Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science

19 Lambert Drive E, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540 | [www.prismsus.org](http://www.prismsus.org) | Phone: 609-454-5580 | CEEB: 311263

### ADMINISTRATION

**Madam Pengzhi Liu,**  
*Head of School*

**Adam Kemp,** Co-  
*Principal*

**Qiusheng Li,** Co-  
*Principal*

**Dr. Xiaoyu Wang,**  
*Deputy Principal*

**Dr. Qiang Chen,** Deputy  
*Principal*

**Bradford Carpenter,**  
*Asst. Principal*

**Dr. Xiang Gong,** Asst.  
*Principal*

**Steven Brownstein,** Head of  
*STEAM Department*

**Zachary White,** Head of  
*Humanities Department*

**Kenneth Jones,** Head of  
*Operations and Facilities*

**Dr. Yang Yang,** Director of  
*Admissions*

**Hang Gao,** Director for  
*Student Life*

**Marilee Jones,** Dean of  
*College Counseling*

**Eugene Mok,** School  
*Counselor*

### ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science (PRISMS) is a comprehensive four-year international boarding and day school enrolling students grades 9-12. The school was founded in 2013 on the concept of combining the best of STEM education from the East and the West. PRISMS emphasizes the research and development process by reinforcing research skills, such as open-minded inquiry, problem solving, and innovation, and requires each student to complete a two-year original research project.

PRISMS is accredited by Middle States and holds membership in the NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) and NACAC (National Association of College Admission Counseling).

### MISSION STATEMENT

Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science immerses a multicultural, self-motivated student body in an integrated STEM-centered curriculum and a research program that identifies and develops each student's potential. Our approach promotes critical thinking, imagination, and deep curiosity, and enables students to ask meaningful questions and to contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.

### ACCOLADES

- ◇ Rated #1 Best Private High Schools in NJ by Niche
- ◇ Rated #2 Best Boarding High Schools in USA by Niche
- ◇ Rated #2 Best Private High Schools in USA by Niche

### SCHOOL DATA



- ◇ 120 Students
- ◇ 45% International Students
- ◇ 41% Boarding Students
- ◇ Class of 2025: 42 Seniors



- ◇ 4.6:1 student to faculty ratio
- ◇ 26 Faculty
- ◇ 38% holding Doctorate
- ◇ 50% holding Master's

# PRISMS RESEARCH PROGRAM

## Overview

A core feature of the PRISMS educational experience is a four-year STEM research program threaded through our curriculum. In grades 9 and 10, students begin by learning research skills, preparing them for meaningful STEM research in grades 11 and 12.

## Bridging the Arts, Science, and Engineering (BASE) Program

All freshmen take the Bridging the Arts, Science, and Engineering (BASE) Program. The BASE Program bridges a common topic of study among the arts, sciences, and engineering and uses a process-oriented approach to help students establish connections across the disciplines. Student groups learn to collect and analyze data, conduct literature searches, and prepare publications and presentations through long-term independent scientific research.

## Applied Engineering

Students take *Applied Engineering 1 and 2* in grades 9 and 10, developing research skills in practical problem-solving: design, build, and test. Scientific research skills, such as statistics, experimental design, and literature review, also build on the BASE Program and are incorporated into required 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade science courses.

## Research and Development Labs

In grades 11 and 12 (typically after completing the BASE program, *Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics, and Applied Engineering 2*), students choose a topic in which to conduct research within one of our STEM research areas: applied engineering, applied physics, artificial intelligence, biology, environmental & chemical analysis, environmental sustainability, mathematics & statistics, modern & astrophysics, and neuroscience. Typically, a student will begin working on a project in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and continue it through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

## AP Courses Offered

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>AP Biology</i>               | <i>AP World History</i>              |
| <i>AP Chemistry</i>             | <i>AP US History</i>                 |
| <i>AP Environmental Science</i> | <i>AP US Government and Politics</i> |
| <i>AP Physics C</i>             | <i>AP Comparative Government</i>     |
| <i>AP Calculus AB &amp; BC</i>  | <i>AP Visual Arts Studio</i>         |
| <i>AP Statistics</i>            | <i>AP Spanish</i>                    |
| <i>AP Computer Science A+</i>   | <i>AP Mandarin</i>                   |

## Post-AP Courses Offered

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Molecular Biology &amp; Biotechnology</i> | <i>Modern Physics</i>                                       |
| <i>Fundamentals of Neuroscience</i>          | <i>Nanotechnology</i>                                       |
| <i>Organic Chemistry &amp; Biochemistry</i>  | <i>Linear Algebra</i>                                       |
| <i>Inorganic &amp; Analytical Chemistry</i>  | <i>Differential Equations</i>                               |
| <i>Industrial Design</i>                     | <i>Multivariable Calculus</i>                               |
| <i>Advanced Robotics</i>                     | <i>Artificial Intelligence &amp; Computational Modeling</i> |
|  | <i>Interactive Media &amp; Game Development</i>             |

## Grading, GPA Calculation, & Ranking

Student GPA is computed using the grade scale below. Courses transferred for high school credit from other high schools are not included in student GPA. Honors, AP, and post-AP grades are not weighted in computing GPAs. Students are not ranked. Final grades are recorded on the transcript, and GPAs are computed at the end of each semester.

### Grade Scale:

|                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> 93-100 | <b>B+</b> 87-89 | <b>B-</b> 80-82 | <b>C</b> 73-76  | <b>D+</b> 67-69 | <b>F</b> 63 & Below |
| <b>A-</b> 90-92 | <b>B</b> 83-86  | <b>C+</b> 77-79 | <b>C-</b> 70-72 | <b>D</b> 64-66  |                     |

## COVID IMPLICATIONS

### 2019-21: Remote Instruction

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, PRISMS made changes to preserve the health and safety of its students, families, and faculty, while continuing to deliver high-quality STEM education. To best serve our international student body, residing globally at the time, PRISMS taught remote, synchronous classes from March 2020 through the 2020-21 academic year. Classes were taught from 7:30-10:45am and 7:30-10:45pm, five days a week.

### 2021-22: Return to In-Person Instruction

PRISMS resumed in-person instruction for all but a few students in the 2021-22 school year, with an asynchronous hybrid option for a few students who opted for remote instruction. As of 2023-24, all PRISMS students take classes in person.

### Grading

The A through F, unweighted grading scale (4.0) has remained unchanged. We have maintained the high standards and expectations of our students.

## CLUBS AND ATHLETICS

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| PRISMS students have the opportunity to participate in a number of clubs and athletics, many of which are student created and led. PRISMS's clubs and athletics include: | <b>Clubs</b>   | <i>History Club</i><br><i>Jazz Band</i><br><i>Linguistics Club</i><br><i>Math &amp; Science Circle</i><br><i>Mock Trial Club</i><br><i>Model UN</i><br><i>PRISMS Gives</i><br><i>PRISMAtics</i><br><i>Refugee Program</i><br><i>Science Bowl</i><br><i>Software Engineering</i><br><i>Super 8</i><br><i>Theatre Club</i> | Yearbook<br><br><b><u>Athletics</u></b><br><br><i>Badminton</i><br><i>Basketball</i><br><i>Cycling</i><br><i>Ping Pong</i><br><i>Running</i><br><i>Soccer</i><br><i>Tennis</i><br><i>Ultimate Frisbee</i><br><i>Volleyball</i><br><i>Walking</i> |
|  | <i>Art Club</i><br><i>Audio/Video Club</i><br><i>Aviation Club</i><br><i>Bridge Club</i><br><i>Chemistry Club</i><br><i>Chess Club</i><br><i>Choir</i><br><i>CS Competition</i><br><i>DECA Club</i><br><i>Engineering/3D Design</i><br><i>FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)</i> |  |  |

## Standardized Testing

| SAT Test Scores, Averages, 2023-24 |               |           |                 | Advanced Placement Results, 2024  |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|---|
|                                    | <b>PRISMS</b> | <b>NJ</b> | <b>National</b> | In May 2024, 91 PRISMS students took AP Exams. A total of 283 exams were taken in 24 subjects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ 91% of AP Exams scored 3 or higher</li> <li>◇ 76% of AP Exams scored 4 or higher</li> <li>◇ 51% of AP Exams scored 5</li> </ul> |
| <b>Math</b>                        | 766           | 528       | 508             |   |
| <b>Verbal</b>                      | 686           | 538       | 520             |   |

## COLLEGE ADMISSION

PRISMS is proud of our students' admissions into top colleges and universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries abroad. All 183 PRISMS graduates from 2016 to 2024 have or are currently attending a four-year college or university. A list of college acceptances and college matriculations (in bold) can be found on the next page.

# PRISMS College and University Acceptances 2016-2024

(Matriculations in bold)

Agnes Scott College  
 University of Alabama  
**Amherst College**  
**Andrews University**  
 University of Arizona  
 Berklee College of Music  
 Boston University  
 Bowdoin College  
**University of British Columbia**  
**Brown University**  
 Bryant College  
 Bryn Mawr College  
**California Institute of Technology (2)**  
**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**  
**University of California, Berkeley (7)**  
 University of California, Davis  
 University of California, Irvine  
**University of Calif., Los Angeles (3)**  
**University of Calif., San Diego (6)**  
**University of Calif., Santa Barbara (4)**  
**University of Cambridge (3)**  
**Carleton College**  
**Carnegie Mellon University (8)**  
 Case Western Reserve  
**University of Chicago (6)**  
**Claremont McKenna College**  
 Clark University  
 Colgate University  
**University College of London**  
 University of Colorado at Boulder  
**Columbia University (1)**  
**Cornell University (7)**  
 University of Delaware  
**Delft University of Technology**  
 Drexel University  
**Duke University (5)**  
 Eckerd College  
 Embry-Riddle University  
 Emerson College  
**Emory University (5)**  
 Florida Institute of Technology  
**Fordham University**  
 Franklin and Marshall College  
 George Washington University

**Georgia Institute of Technology (1)**  
 Hamilton College  
**Harvey Mudd College**  
 Haverford College  
 Howard University  
**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (10)**  
**Illinois Institute of Technology (3)**  
 Imperial College London  
 Indiana University, Bloomington  
**Johns Hopkins University (2)**  
**Kenyon College**  
 King's College London  
**University of Kyoto**  
 Lafayette College  
**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Massachusetts Inst. of Technology (20)**  
 University of Miami  
**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (4)**  
 Middlebury College  
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
 Muhlenberg College  
 University of New Hampshire  
 New Jersey Institute of Technology  
**The New School, Parsons School of Design**  
**New York University (3)**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (5)**  
 Northeastern University  
**Northwestern University (4)**  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**Oberlin College**  
 Ohio Wesleyan University  
**Ohio State University**  
**Olin College of Engineering**  
 Pace University  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**Pennsylvania State University, Penn State Harrisburg**  
 University of Pennsylvania  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Pratt Institute**  
**Princeton University**  
**Purdue University (2)**

Reed College  
**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (4)**  
**Rice University (3)**  
 Ringling College of Art and Design  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 University of Rochester  
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
**Rutgers University-New Brunswick (2)**  
**Santa Clara University**  
 Sarah Lawrence College  
 Savannah College of Art and Design  
 School of The Art Institute of Chicago  
**School of Visual Arts**  
**University of Southern California (3)**  
 University of St. Andrews  
**Stanford University**  
 Stevens Institute of Technology  
 Swarthmore College  
**Syracuse University**  
 Temple University  
**University of Toronto**  
**Tufts University**  
 Tulane University  
**Vanderbilt University (4)**  
 Vassar College  
 University of Vermont  
**Villanova University**  
**University of Virginia**  
 Virginia Tech  
 University of Warwick  
**Washington University in St. Louis (2)**  
**University of Washington (3)**  
**Wellesley College (2)**  
 Wesleyan University  
**Williams College**  
**University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)**  
**Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**Yale University (2)**