

Going Global – Saddle River Day School

When you think of the export community, you may often picture a product-driven environment, perhaps involving food items such as those produced by New Jersey's own Goya Foods or perhaps you think of health care items like those manufactured by Repechage in Secaucus.

But the actual full scope of exporting includes services as well - including education exports. Every time an international student engages in a United States academic opportunity, that, too, is defined as exporting - measuring up equally as importantly as its counterpart in the product side of the equation!

International Education is a Significant Export

Each school may take its own approach to exporting educational programs, but few are as focused and successful as Saddle River Day School in Saddle River, NJ. While the commitment to an international audience has maintained a key presence at this independent day school serving students beginning from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 (high school seniors), it has grown even stronger over the years. The addition of Dr. Kevin Merges in 2023 as the first person to hold the title of "Chief Global Impact Officer" further nourished this international philosophy and the school's holistic reputation as an institution that helps their students be more productive, creative and intellectually curious.

Known for its innovative approach to education, with a focus on hands-on learning and big picture thinking, the faculty draws on an educational model that encourages and enables the students to gain and improve their analytical and problem-solving skills combined with a global perspective and ample opportunities for every pupil to explore his or her unique talents and passions.

With courses designed for fostering business acumen, young entrepreneurs gain knowledge and have access to cutting-edge technology capabilities (including folding AI as a tool into the mix in a smart and efficient manner), leading to further building competence and confidence. In fact - students often point to their ability to create a viable business before they even graduate! Their years at Saddle River expose them to the challenges and chances presented in the business community, giving them a head start and a competitive edge over other graduates.

At Saddle River, teachers can be comfortable that they have the bandwidth to move past traditional barriers, and adopt a formula that starts with innovation, moves to strategy and ultimately culminates in tactics. The urge to jump immediately to defining the tactics for implementing a new idea is tempered by this logical, thoughtful three-tiered process. The final results are more consistently successful, and the students master the process of project planning more effectively.

Through the development of international partnerships, Saddle River Day School has been able to overcome typical barriers. Online curriculum, virtual classes, low cost use of cell phones in hard to access locations, broad application of international schedules (school agendas are no longer limited to classes being available only from 9:00 am -3:00 pm EST!), and being eager to develop new patterns and capabilities around the world all contribute to the incredible growth of education as a critical international export at Saddle River.

Examples of International Expansion

MELT: Under the guidance and leadership of Saddle River Day School, the future of global education knows no boundaries! The school has developed a network that offers an enriching, cross-cultural educational experience world-wide. Through the power of international collaboration built by connecting thousands of agencies, hundreds of educational programs and businesses along with real estate investments, students everywhere can gain a transformational educational experience anywhere.

American Eduglobal School (AES): This chain of international schools in India is the latest outgrowth of Saddle River Day School's dedication to exporting education around the world. The latest technologies are used to provide the highest levels of academic and physical activities to support their students wherever they may be located.

As Jalaj Desai, Head of Saddle River Day School noted, "At Saddle River Day School, we've reimagined education as a global export with boundless potential. Through our work with Melt education, we're breaking down traditional barriers and creating interconnected learning communities that transcend geographical limitations. Our innovative approach doesn't just prepare students for the future—it actively builds that future by fostering global citizenship, entrepreneurial thinking, and cross-cultural collaboration. Education is perhaps America's most valuable export, and we're proud to be at the forefront of this transformative movement."

What may seem like a view lifted from a science fiction novel, Saddle River Day School is expanding its bandwidth to achieve the academic goals of tomorrow - today!