

The Pingry School

Basking Ridge, United States



A 1861-founded New Jersey day school whose soccer pitches were deemed fit to host Morocco's 2026 World Cup training camp.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The fact that Morocco chose Pingry’s soccer pitches as a 2026 World Cup training base tells you something useful at once: this is a school with serious grounds, serious upkeep and serious ambitions. Pingry runs across three campuses, with Lower School in Short Hills, Middle and Upper School in Basking Ridge, and an experiential learning site in Pottersville. That physical spread gives it more room than many north New Jersey independents, and it strengthens the sense that this is a school built for breadth as well as academic drive. Founded in 1861, non-religious, and operating as an American day school for ages 5 to 18, Pingry sits squarely in the old-established northeastern college-prep tradition: high standards, a strong institutional identity, and no need to apologise for being *demanding*.

The numbers back up the pitch. A **10:1** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **18** put Pingry in the zone parents expect from an expensive US independent school, and the average annual day fee of **\$55,000** confirms that it is expensive. The mission statement leans hard on honour, respect, intellectual exploration and social responsibility; that language can read pious at weaker schools, but at Pingry it fits an institution with the scale and history to make culture matter. Accreditations from NEASC and NAIS add reassurance, though parents should note that the school does not publish public exam data in the way an IB or A-level school might, so the academic case rests more on reputation, selectivity and structure than on transparent score tables. Its alumni record is also substantial, with 62 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, finance, science, journalism, the arts and sport.

Why shortlist it? Because Pingry offers the mix many affluent families want and few schools execute cleanly: *serious academics*, strong athletics, visible institutional confidence and a large enough platform to let able children stretch in several directions at once. This is not the place for a child who needs constant hand-holding or a soft, low-pressure culture. It suits students who are bright, organised, competitive without being boorish, and ready to make use of a campus life with real range. For the right child, Pingry is *high-octane*, *well-resourced* and *sharply run*; for the wrong one, it will feel exacting and busy. That clarity is part of its strength.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1861, Pingry is one of the oldest independent day schools in the region and has been Middle States accredited since 1998.
- Offers a continuous K-12 pathway across three campuses (Short Hills for Lower School, Basking Ridge for Middle/Upper School, Pottersville for experiential residential programs).
- Academic program includes 18 AP courses, 17 honors courses and five advanced-topics courses, with no cap on how many a qualifying student may take.
- Fields 19 interscholastic varsity sports and maintains a roughly 7:1 student-teacher ratio, supporting close faculty contact in small classes.
- College counseling office lists placements at a broad range of selective universities, and the school reports a 100% graduation rate.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition for grades 9-12 runs to about \$54,795 a year, plus lunch and activity fees, placing it among the pricier day-school options in New Jersey.
- Admissions are selective, with an estimated acceptance rate around 30% and required ISEE or SSAT testing plus an interview.
- The school operates across three separate physical campuses (Short Hills, Basking Ridge, Pottersville), meaning families face a location change when children move from Lower to Middle School.
- As a day school, Pingry offers no full-time boarding option, so families living far from central New Jersey face a daily commute rather than residential enrollment.

ADMISSIONS

Pingry admits at several entry points, most commonly Kindergarten, Grade 6, and Grade 9, via an application requiring transcripts, recommendations, an essay, an interview, and ISEE or SSAT scores. The application fee is \$100 and the typical deadline falls around December 15. Reported acceptance rates near 30% suggest a competitive process by regional day-school standards, drawing applicants from over 100 New Jersey communities. Financial aid is available; families should confirm current tuition, deadlines, and test requirements directly with the admissions office, as these can change annually.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (6 2)

SPORT: Nic Fink, Carl Van Duyne, Kip Hall

MUSIC: Adam Gardner, Andrew Horowitz, Alfred V. Fedak

DRAMA: Andrew McCarthy, Todd Solondz, Jamie Johnson, Gillian Vigman, Paul W. Downs, Lisa Kleinman

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POLITICS: Michael Chertoff, Charles August Sulzer, Arthur N. Pierson, Micah Kellner, Robert C. Crane, Thomas Howard Kean Jr., Thomas N. McCarter, Kip Hall

SCIENCE: Greg Mankiw, Benedict Gross, Howard Georgi, Q4679125, Gaddis Smith, James Barnes, Richard Tregaskis, Thomas Fiske

BUSINESS: Michael Chertoff, Charles August Sulzer, Amos Hostetter, Jr., James Crane Kellogg III, Robert Schriesheim, William A. Conway, Buzzy Cohen

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_9394f47788.