



GILL

ST. BERNARD'S



HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

Position starts July 1, 2025
Gladstone, New Jersey



EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE
EXPERTS IN SEARCH, TRANSITION & STRATEGY



MISSION

To provide a balanced, diverse, and secure community that prepares students academically, socially, and ethically for college and a meaningful life.

Core Values

Courage: The internal strength required to act or persevere in the face of difficulty, including adherence to higher principles regardless of the situation, sacrifice for the greater community, and the ability to recognize obstacles as opportunities for growth.

Integrity: A consistency in both thoughts and actions to honesty, trustworthiness, and sincerity. This includes upholding one's commitments, telling the truth, and acting at all times in an honorable manner.

Respect: Acting with courtesy, fairness, and sensitivity to others and the community, including listening to others, considering various opinions, and appreciating the differences in us all. Being committed to fairness, tact, and good manners.

Compassion: Acting with kindness, consideration, and empathy for others, including giving help and support for those in need and interacting with others in a positive, thoughtful, and cooperative manner.

Excellence: A commitment to the highest standards and expectations in all things: academics, the arts, athletics, service, and citizenship.



GSB At A Glance

School & Campus

- Gill School (1900) merged with St. Bernard's School (1934) in 1972
- 90 minutes from NYC
- 208 acres of bucolic, rural campus
- Active farm, stables, greenhouse, orchard and barn
- 27K sq. ft. Athletic Center, tennis courts, field house, weight room, turf & grass fields, pool
- Head of School residence (5 BR/4.5 BA)
- Accredited by NJAIS and MSA-CESS

Statistics

- 16 students average class size
- 48 advanced/AP/honors courses offered
- 7:1 student to teacher ratio
- 600 students, PS-12
- 59 teams
- 80 percent of US students play on varsity or JV teams
- 100% college matriculation

Financial Snapshot

- Tuition: 5-day PS \$23,750; Upper School: \$50,750
- 5.3 million dollars of tuition assistance awarded
- 30% received tuition assistance
- GSB Fund annual giving over \$1.4M
- \$11 Million Endowment



Two Became One

In 1900, St. Bernard's School was founded by the Rev. Thomas A. Conover. It was his vision to establish a school for farm and village boys where they could be educated concurrently with learning a trade. In 1934, The Gill School for Girls was founded by Miss Elizabeth Gill in Bernardsville. Based on the value of the individual and, through small classes and direct teacher-student relationships, Gill sought to provide a highly individualized experience that opened students' eyes to the world. Merging in 1972, Gill St. Bernard's School became a thriving college preparatory school for Preschool through Grade 12 that prepares students academically, socially, and ethically for college and a meaningful life.

A Collegiate-Style Campus

Located on 208 rolling acres spanning the Somerset-Morris County line between the Borough of Peapack-Gladstone and Chester Township, the GSB campus offers an extraordinary place for students of all ages to learn and grow. It encompasses more than 20 buildings, including Upper, Middle, and Lower School facilities, two athletic centers, a performing arts center, and four administrative buildings. There is also an athletic center, field house, field lodge, five playing fields, including an all-weather turf field, a track, seven tennis courts, an outdoor swimming pool, and a sustainable working farm called Home Winds. Tour this [idyllic campus](#)!





Balance Matters

Learning to balance academics, athletics, arts, community activities, and personal priorities is at the core of a Gill education. Central to the school's approach is the belief that an excellent education is one that is steeped in discovery and opportunity. GSB develops strong academic skills crucial for success in college, and those skills are enhanced when students also grow as individuals.

There is a lot of joy at Gill. Students are deeply cared for and valued, and the supportive culture encourages students to take positive risks and grow intellectually, as well as personally. Faculty seek to recognize the individual gifts of each student, and are committed to helping students explore the many possibilities available to them in the arts, athletics, and, of course, academics.

Athletes and Artists

Whether it be in the classroom, on the court, in the studio, on the stage, or outside on the farm, Gill is fully invested in helping students reach their full potential. In a safe environment, children strive for excellence as they become the best versions of themselves. Gill St. Bernard's has a proud tradition of athletic excellence throughout its history. Athletics play an integral part in the overall educational experience, reinforcing the school's core values of courage, integrity, respect, compassion, and excellence through competition, practice, and team-play.

Similarly, performing and fine arts at GSB enrich the student experience and the life of the school. The arts promote courageous exploration, self-awareness, and cultural literacy as students are encouraged to take creative risks, to discover their passions, and to present their work before an audience. The transformative power of creativity and human thought shines brightly in myriad opportunities for students to perform, draw, sculpt, dance, and design. Enjoy this [performance](#) by Blue in the Face, a "vocal band" that mixes elements of a cappella singing with the sounds of an indie folk-rock group.

All of us are to a certain extent, a "work in progress." At Gill, there is room for that work to take place and for students to become the best version of themselves.

- Sid Rowell, Head of School





Learn More About Gill St. Bernard's

[2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#)
[DEIC Action Plan](#)
[The Power of One](#)
[Lower School](#)
[Middle School](#)
[Upper School](#)
[2022-23 Annual Report](#)

Fun GSB Facts

- 25,018 library books
- 451 seats in the Performing Arts & Community Center (opened 2018)
- 208 bucolic acres
- 128 ounces of maple syrup made from tapping campus maple trees
- 76 championships since 2015
- 53 NCAA athletes

Gill's Animal Science course captivates and challenges students in a hands-on learning environment. In this inimitable science elective, Upper School students use interactive labs and the school's living classroom at Home Winds Farm to study a broad range of animal health topics such as nutrition, growth, behavior, reproduction, and genetics. This is yet another example of the GSB commitment to providing students opportunities and resources to explore an array of interests and discover new passions.

Home Winds Farm

As both a working farm and living classroom for its PS-12 curriculum, Home Winds Farm serves as a vibrant component of Gill St. Bernard's School. More importantly, it provides students a deeper connection to the land and the space to gain a fuller understanding of the impact they have on the world.



To see ourselves as part of something larger is important for mental development and emotional health. Home Winds Farm provides opportunities to students to both see and feel themselves as part of the systems of life. In a complex, technological world, it is easy to miss our ultimate reliance on the land. The mission of Home Winds Farm is to provide youth access to nature and agricultural systems while offering academic experiences that demonstrate the role we play within the broader community. Supporting sustainability, building connections and creating stewards, the world truly is the classroom at Gill. Take a look at [Sheep Shearing Day](#) at GSB!





“ Being part of the GSB community is a thrill for us — it feels like coming home. The GSB campus isn’t just a place; it’s a haven where learning and growth thrive. The families here, they’re not just neighbors; they’re an extended family, woven together by shared experiences and aspirations.

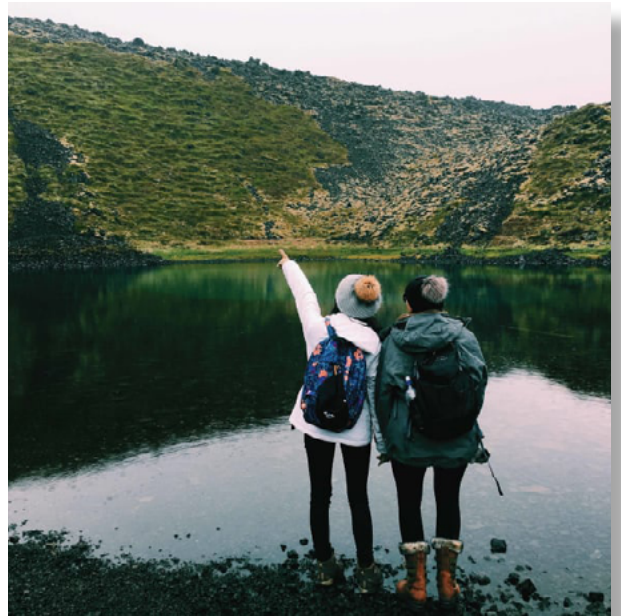
- Current GSB Parent

Spring Forward

At a time when most schools are winding down and new learning is rarely introduced, the academic year at Gill St. Bernard’s is reborn. The last two weeks of May fill the campus with energy, purpose, and a sense of shared adventure. The Spring Unit Global & Experiential Learning Program serves as a cornerstone of Gill St. Bernard’s curriculum and educational philosophy. The signature program crosses disciplinary boundaries and challenges students to think critically and practically, serve others, and consider their place in the world.

At its heart, the Spring Unit is a chance for students to explore new subjects and deeply engage in learning outside the traditional academic setting and beyond the traditional academic curriculum. Whether through immersive travel, artistic exploration, service projects, or unique internship experiences, the Spring Unit celebrates learning at its best. Recent offerings include:

- Communities of Costa Rica
- Broadway Bound: A History of Broadway and the American Musical
- Superhuman: A Fun and Practical Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- Living Your Best Life: Maximizing Your Fitness, Nutrition, & Metabolism with a Focus on Mental Conditioning






Many Voices, One School

GSB is mission-driven to be an inclusive, multicultural community that respects individual differences, inspires commitment to one another, and prepares students for the colleges, workplaces, and neighborhoods of their futures. Recognizing that diversity is essential for creating an environment that is conducive to excellence in education, GSB fosters and supports meaningful diversity throughout our school and community by deepening our students' understanding of differences in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual identity, ability, age and socioeconomic status.

Gill believes a school community should reflect a variety of ethnic, racial, economic, religious and social circumstances; all are fundamental to a 21st century education. Among its core values, Gill affirms that a diverse learning community of students, faculty, administration, trustees, alumni and staff is an essential element to who we are as a school.



 **The beauty of GSB lies in its commitment to creating an environment where children don't just learn, they thrive. It's a place where they discover their strengths, embrace their uniqueness, and learn the importance of collaboration and community.**

- Current GSB Parent

Diversity Statement

We affirm that a diverse community of students, faculty, administration, staff, trustees, and alumni is essential to who we are as a school. We respect and value diversity, which includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, family structure, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background, as the basis for fostering a strong sense of self, community, and global understanding.





Leadership Profile

As Gill St. Bernard's School builds on its remarkable history of nearly 125 years, the Board of Trustees has initiated a national search to identify a new Head of School to start July 1, 2025. Tracy Bennett and Nat Conard, partners at Educators Collaborative, solicited input from members of the school community through an online survey and two days of conversations on campus in order to develop an understanding of the strengths of the school, and the opportunities and challenges of the next several years. From this understanding comes the leadership profile below.

Notable Strengths of Gill St. Bernard's

- A school that lives its mission of focusing on the whole child and seeking and providing balance through a program of strong academics, arts, and athletics.
- A rigorous academic program, the strength of which is borne out by strong college outcomes.
- An extraordinary campus ideally suited to experiential education through its farm and its many environmental opportunities.
- A highly skilled and committed faculty, dedicated to inspiring a love of learning in their students and pursuing continued professional growth themselves.
- A commitment to innovation and individualized experiential learning as epitomized by the two-week Spring Unit Program of immersive study, field work, and travel opportunities.
- Small class sizes in which students receive individual attention and develop formative relationships with faculty.
- A historically strong sense of community grounded in the school's core values.
- An exceptionally rich and varied program of fine and performing arts, supported by the 2018 opening of the spacious Performing Arts & Community Center
- A robust and successful athletics program with high levels of participation and many alumni who have gone on to success in collegiate athletics.
- A dedicated, experienced, and committed Board of Trustees eager to work in partnership with the next Head of School



About the Position

The next Head of School at GSB will have the opportunity to build on the foundation of more than a century of extraordinary education and on the legacy of 24 years of strong and visionary leadership provided by current Head Sid Rowell. Working with a dynamic and professional Board of Trustees, composed of current and past parents and alumni, the next Head of Gill St. Bernard's will be an accomplished educational leader who is passionate about supporting students in becoming the best versions of themselves. They will bring a commitment to collaboration, developing talent, and innovative thinking.

Opportunities and Challenges for the New Head

The opportunities and challenges for the next leader include:

- Continue to nurture a commitment to balance through the legacy of exceptional academics, athletics, and arts rooted in a values-based PS-12 educational program within a student-centered school community.
- Continue to rebuild the historically strong and vibrant school community in a post-Covid world, strengthening connections across all divisions.
- Further empower and support the Leadership Team in working in a collaborative, strategic manner that respects roles and boundaries and is characterized by clear expectations.
- Nurture a school climate and culture of trust that is inclusive and inspiring, that invites conversations and the exchange of ideas and opinions, and that embraces new ideas and applauds risk-taking.
- Support the innovative development and intentional alignment of curriculum, program, and pedagogy across all divisions of the school, with particular attention to STEM fields.
- Further develop and leverage Home Winds Farm to integrate experiential learning and environmental stewardship throughout the program, distinguishing GSB from peer schools.
- Continue to recruit and retain an excellent faculty and staff, investing in professional growth, innovative teaching, leadership opportunities, and personal wellbeing.



- Ensure that the school's identity is positively and proactively defined and articulated, and expand and celebrate GSB's presence regionally and nationally as an exceptional independent school that successfully prepares students academically, socially, and ethically, for college and a meaningful life.
- Communicate clearly and broadly the distinctive value of a GSB education to recruit and retain mission-aligned students and families.
- Recognizing the importance of financial resources for growing the endowment, building facilities reserves, and keeping pace with market compensation, continue to build relationships within the GSB community of parents, alumni, and friends, to ensure the resources for strongly supporting an exceptional faculty and undertaking new initiatives.

“ GSB is a place where all students have the freedom and opportunity to explore their individual interests, gain new experiences, be strongly respected as individuals, have the support and mentorship of amazing teachers, learn to speak openly and freely to teachers as adults and to become the most complete version of their unique selves that they could possibly become.

- GSB Alum



Skills and Attributes of a Successful Candidate

The ideal candidate will be:

- A warm, visible, and accessible presence throughout the school.
- An innovative and strategic thinker who can guide GSB into the next phase of its institutional evolution as a school and community, with respect for its history and excitement for its future.
- An inspiring, effective, and transparent communicator who will foster a collaborative and trusting climate among all constituents.
- An experienced overseer of financial management who has the analytical skills and commitment to balance program and fiscal constraints, and who will build upon what makes GSB unique while ensuring the school's enduring sustainability.
- An experienced independent school leader with a track record of hiring, developing, and retaining an excellent faculty, as well as building leadership capacity in the senior team.
- A culturally competent and sensitive leader who will enhance an inclusive and diverse community and provide programming and learning opportunities to all.
- A pedagogical leader with an understanding of progressive education that looks to current educational research and trends to enhance and ensure program relevance, alignment, and effectiveness across all divisions.
- A flexible, open-minded, inquiring, and curious educator who takes a genuine interest in the work of the faculty and staff and can identify and develop talent.



To Apply

Candidates interested in the position should submit the following materials by **July 31**:

- EC Candidate Summary Sheet (request from search consultants)
- Letter of interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Statement of educational leadership philosophy
- Resume
- A list of five professional references with email and phone contact information
- EC Disclosure Form (request from search consultants)

Please send any inquiries, nominations, referrals, or expressions of interest electronically and in confidence to::

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Gill St. Bernard's School prohibits discrimination against and harassment of any employee or any applicant for employment because of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

GILL
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