

## School on a hill: How PRISMS Look like a Utopia

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Picture source: [www.google.com/maps/@40.3422165,-74.6927925,15z?hl=en](http://www.google.com/maps/@40.3422165,-74.6927925,15z?hl=en)

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Utopia is a social scientific term meaning an imaginary place with perfect qualities. The origin of Utopia can be traced back to Matthew in the New Testament — a city on a hill. As I walk around our campus, I found that PRISMS is set on a small hill. It makes me wonder how PRISMS looks like a Utopia.

Our campus, located in Princeton, was founded in 1683 by Henry Greenland, a New Englander who built a house on the boundary of Princeton Township. Because Princeton is located in west New Jersey, it once belonged to the Quakers. There were six Quaker Families in Princeton in the 1690s. After that, Princeton was not changed much. Now, let's focus on 19 Lambert Drive, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540.

The grand estate was built in 1917 by Gerard Lambert (Lambert Pharmaceutical Company) on a 400-acre plot. "With architecture by Harrie Lindeberg and grounds and gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted

Junior, both of whom Lambert closely collaborated with. Albemarle achieves a rare balance of grandness and intimacy, formality and naturalness." This is the description of Albemarle from [a Real Estate Transaction Website](#).

On the same website, it told us that this place was the home of the American Boychoir School for over 50 years, for it was acquired in 1950 by the then-Columbus Boychoir. On the 18-plus acre property, there are now three other main structures, dormitory & faculty housing, as well as the main mansion which is estimated to be some 16,000 sq feet. Expansive green areas serve as athletic fields plus garden areas, tennis courts, and frog ponds, all delightfully secluded & quiet as Mr. Lambert put it, wrapped within its "cool green arms".

PRISMS is founded mainly by Madam Liu in 2013 after Mr. Jiang Bairong purchased this place for \$5.9 million from the American Boy Choir. The purpose was to build a school that combines both the advantages of America and China. Later, our school attracted a lot of wonderful teachers from different high schools around America, including Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, the No.1 ranking public high school in America. As a new school, PRISMS's ability to attract so many teachers is unprecedented. Madam Liu, as the Principal of RDFZ, sent teachers who have the highest quality of teaching in different subjects to PRISMS. The great faculty team is something that cannot be hidden, the same as Utopia.

Another thing that cannot be hidden is our students here. PRISMS students earn top scores individually and in teams entered in the most prestigious math and science competitions in the United States and abroad. I will not give specific examples here, but I believe you all know who I am talking about.

In the WeChat official account of the Chinese Consulate General in New York, two commencement have been reported detailedly, the establishment of our school, and the opening of our new school year. PRISMS is seen by everyone around the world, just like John Winthrop wrote in 1630, "for we must Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us". We are in a similar situation with the Puritans who founded America. How great we are!

So, PRISMS is a great place, somewhere that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its citizens (including faculty and students). We should all make our effort to make PRISMS greater and greater.....