

Celebrating  
140 years

**Path One**  
*The Sachs Collegiate Institute,  
Circa 1872*

Dr. Julius Sachs was the first pioneer in Dwight's lineage. He founded The Sachs School for Boys and its upper level extension, The Sachs Collegiate Institute, 140 years ago at 32nd Street and Broadway. Later, he opened The Sachs School for Girls in 1891. The Institute made its mark as an elite private school that readied many of its students to attend Harvard at the early age of sixteen.

Dr. Sachs, whose parents were German immigrants, followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a teacher. He attended Columbia, received his PhD from Germany's Rostok University, spoke nine languages, and served as president of numerous national educational associations. Julius was not the only Sachs to succeed; his brothers also achieved great prominence and launched legacies

that continue to this day. Samuel co-founded Goldman Sachs with his father-in-law, Marcus Goldman; Henry joined the family's prosperous investment firm as a banker; and Bernard was the distinguished neurologist who identified the genetic disorder named in part for him: Tay-Sachs disease.

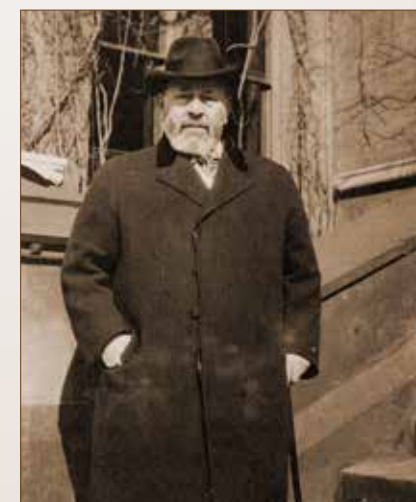
Dr. Julius Sachs, who also married a Goldman daughter, was highly respected for his old-world, Teutonic style. He was known for rigid discipline and his corps of teachers was equally strict. The Sachs curriculum emphasized the classics, German, and mathematics; and the Institute drew children of many leading New York families. Among those were students of German-Jewish descent with prominent last names such as Lehman, Goldman, Guggenheim, Meyer, Schiff, Sulzberger, and Loeb, after whom many an empire was built. The roster of early alumni who made names for themselves includes: Walter Lippmann, journalist, philosopher, and WWI advisor to President Woodrow Wilson; Percy, Jesse, and Herbert Straus, who inherited R.H. Macy & Co. and transformed it into Macy's; Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the

*Eighteen hundred and seventy-two was a leap year.* Perhaps it was providential that Dwight's forefather school was founded that year, as Dwight has often been ahead of the curve with educational innovations that, no doubt, required a "leap of faith" at those moments in time. History has proven that such decisions helped to pave the way for others to follow suit.

**Manhattan Mosaic**

Tracing Dwight's roots reveals that there were actually two ancestor schools that ultimately joined forces to become the Dwight we know today. These schools — The Sachs Collegiate Institute and The New York School of Languages — evolved over time, changed their names, broadened their student bodies, and crisscrossed the East and West Sides of Manhattan before converging in our permanent home at 18 West 89th Street.

Each school, or piece in this mosaic, has its own story to tell. Together, they form our collective history. Join us on a journey down **two paths to personalized learning** that ran parallel for many years before overlapping. You will be introduced to the key players who shaped our past — leading educators of their day — and to the milestones achieved under their direction. You will also discover some rich details and little-known facts along the way.



Julius Sachs,  
Headmaster  
1872-1904

140 Years of Igniting the "Spark of Genius" in Every Child

**A Dwight History Lesson**

by Laurie Silbersweig





Otto Koenig,  
1904-32



Clifford Hall,  
1932-49



David Berenberg,  
1932-49



M.C. Spahn,  
1950-76



Paul Beresford-Hill,  
1976-90



William Goodin,  
1990-93



U.S. Treasury and FDR New Deal advisor; Joseph Cullman, Jr., tobacco magnate; Dr. Hans Zissner, leading immunologist, who isolated typhus bacteria and developed a vaccine; Herbert Henry Lehman, who served as Governor of New York State, a U.S. Senator, and a partner in Lehman Brothers; and William Saks and Louis Gimbel, both of leading retailing families, who came together in business to achieve even greater heights.

Following several moves uptown in as many years, The Sachs School for Boys relocated in 1882 to 38 West 59th Street and the girls' school moved down the block to number 118. Lest we forget, many of the same prominent families named above entrusted their daughters' education to Dr. Sachs and they, too, went on to attend the finest colleges. The girls' school, however, was ultimately discontinued early in the new century, as the importance of instilling the German Gymnasium culture in daughters was deemed less of a priority.

Dr. Sachs left his beloved Institute in 1904 to become Professor of Secondary Education at Columbia's Teachers College. The boys' school continued to thrive and relocated a few more times before finding its final footing at 18 West 89th Street in 1912. Sometime in the eight-year interim — the exact date remains elusive — The Sachs Collegiate Institute changed its name to The Franklin School, after Benjamin Franklin. This was likely undertaken to distance the school from its German roots amid the anti-German climate surrounding WWI; Benjamin Franklin was as American as apple pie.



### Franklin Emerges

Upon Dr. Sachs' departure, Dr. Otto Koenig, a Latin instructor who had been with the Institute since 1896, took the helm. A graduate of the University of Munich with a law degree, he continued many of the Sachs traditions, though he loosened some reins by dropping Greek and shifting Latin to an elective. After serving for nearly thirty years, Dr. Koenig was succeeded by two of his long-time faculty members, Clifford Hall and David Berenberg, who shared the headmaster role from 1932-49, when the former died. The duo oversaw the school through the Depression and WWII years, when the number of students waned. As a matter of interest, before co-directing

Franklin, Mr. Berenberg ran unsuccessfully for office in New York State several times on the Socialist Party ticket before becoming discouraged by radical politics.

During WWII, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. — a Sachs alum — encouraged all young

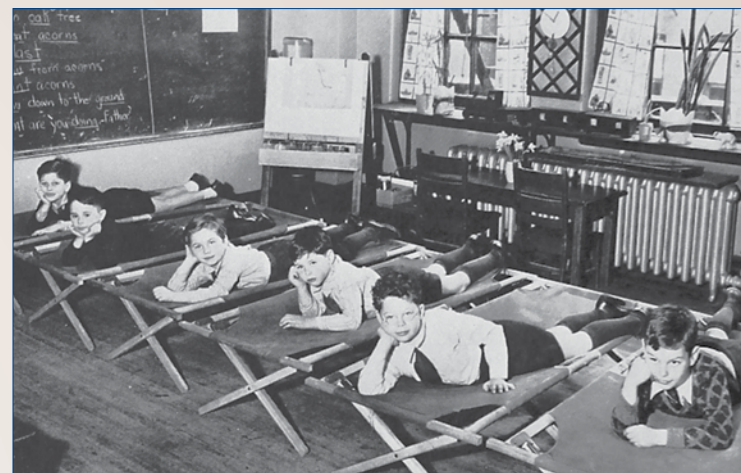
Americans to participate in the "Schools at War" fundraising program. His message beginning, *"War is costly, but freedom is priceless"* was published in Franklin's Student Council publication. Within a few short months, on the one-year anniversary of December 7th, "The Councilor" reported that *"every Franklin student pledged his aid in a war bond and stamp drive to help avenge Pearl Harbor and to contribute to the eventual defeat of the Axis."* Students were all-too aware that they could be called up after



circa 1942

graduation, and those who wished to become officers were recruited for testing.

The post-war era and a new decade ushered in a new headmaster, Dr. M.C. Spahn. In 1950, he opened up a world of greater opportunities for children of middle-class families; the school was no longer an exclusive training ground for the privileged. Helping to level the playing field, Dr. Spahn brought a different perspective that stemmed from his successful run as a top-tier athlete. A graduate of CCNY, where he was an All-American basketball player, Dr. Spahn turned pro and became the fifth all-time leading scorer in the history of the American Basketball League before retiring from the game in 1942. He went on to earn a PhD in Education from NYU, and teach mathematics and coach at Franklin during the '40s. He also funded scholarships during this time to help boost the size of the student body.



Franklin, circa 1940

During Dr. Spahn's twenty-five-year tenure, Franklin flourished in a variety of other ways. In 1951, girls were accepted; in 1965, the brownstones at 17 and 19 West 88th Street were converted for use by the school; and there was a dramatic increase in enrollment throughout the '70s. Boasting one of the leading debate teams in the U.S., Franklin took particular pride in graduates who went on to become editors of the *Chicago*, *Columbia*, and *Harvard Law Reviews*.

Dr. Arthur Neale, an Eton- and Cambridge-educated diplomat, served as Principal under Headmaster Spahn, helping to maintain a strong, traditional structure. But upon retirement, Dr. Spahn, who had been called "Coach," handed the baton to Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, who led Franklin into its final period from 1976-90.



Educated at Oxford, Dr. Beresford-Hill established the first school cricket team in the U.S. and brought the ideals of the International Baccalaureate (IB) to the curriculum. The IB, which today is recognized as the "gold standard" and one of the most rigorous pre-university courses of study in the world, was not well known at the time. Under the aegis of Dr. Beresford-Hill, Franklin adopted the IB in 1980 and, in recognition, changed its name to The Anglo-American International School. It was a bold move and one that sets our school apart to this day.

***We end our first and storied path with Anglo-American International School's milestone year, 1980, to embark on our second path, which began a full century earlier.***



Dwight  
SCHOOL



Arthur Williams,  
1886/7-95



Emil E. Camerer,  
1895-1926



Ernest Greenwood,  
1927-46



Winton L. Miller, Jr.,  
1947-67



Stephen H. Spahn,  
1967-2011



Dianne Drew,  
2011-present

## Path Two

### *The New York School of Languages, circa 1880*

The second thread in our historical tapestry leads us back to the founding of The New York School of Languages in 1880. Located at 15 West 43rd Street, it was a classical and English prep school for boys under the direction of Henry C. Miller, a graduate of Williams, and instructor of Latin and German.

Like The Sachs Collegiate Institute, The New York School of Languages designed its curriculum to secure admission to the best colleges. The first graduating classes — each containing only a handful of names — went on to attend Princeton, Williams, Columbia, Amherst, leading “Scientific Schools” (e.g., Stevens Institute and the Sheffield Scientific School), Harvard, and Yale.



### Our Namesake

Yale took on particular significance in 1888 when the School changed its name in honor of Yale’s President Timothy Dwight V. Early annual reports repeated the same explanation: *“This was done, not with the view of becoming exclusively a Yale preparatory school, but since in recent years the number of our students fitting for Yale University has been steadily increasing, and many of the staunchest friends and patrons of the school are found among the Yale alumni, the change seemed an appropriate one. The Directors, therefore, deemed themselves fortunate in securing President Dwight’s consent to the use of his name.”*

A letter from Dr. Timothy Dwight testifies to his approval. He addressed it to another one of the school’s three co-directors, Arthur Williams, Esq. (a Yale graduate) on May 12, 1888:



Dr. Timothy Dwight V,  
President of Yale University, in whose  
honor Dwight School was named

*My Dear Sir,  
I take pleasure in com-  
mending the School of  
Languages over whose  
interests you and your  
associates preside, to the  
friends of this University  
and of sound education.  
The success which the  
School has already had in  
its works, as shown by the*



circa 1916

*thorough preparation of the pupils who have come from it to our University, gives most hopeful promise for the future: and as you are now preparing, as I understand, to move forward with enlarged facilities and with matured plans for your coming work, I cannot doubt that those who enjoy the advantages of your institution will be well prepared for their subsequent studies and their college life.*

*Yours very truly,*

*Timothy Dwight*

Also known as Timothy Dwight, the Younger, Dr. Dwight was an ordained minister. He received his undergraduate and doctorate in theology degrees at Yale, and taught sacred literature there for over twenty-five years before assuming the presidency. His grandfather, Timothy Dwight IV, also served as Yale’s President in his day, but it was the grandson who left an indelible impression on the institution. It was during his tenure (1886-99) that Yale evolved from a college into a university: new buildings were built, new faculty members were hired, the student body grew, and the endowment nearly doubled.

Timothy Dwight also left an indelible impression on our School, which added more rigorous mathematics and the sciences to the curriculum so that young men were better prepared for college. And as the 1890 annual report attests, the stage had been set from the beginning for personalized learning, one of Dwight’s three pillars today: *“The number of pupils in the school is limited, as the plan of instruction does not admit of large classes. In every department the pupils are under the immediate supervision of the principals, and the greatest care is taken in all departments to avoid mere routine work.”*

### A Burgeoning Dwight

In 1895, Dwight came together with The New York Preparatory School. Founded six years earlier to ready students for Regents and college exams, The New York Preparatory School operated a division in Manhattan and another in Brooklyn. Upon joining forces with Dwight, the Manhattan division relocated to Dwight’s new 15 West 43rd Street location; Dwight retained its name as a third division; and together, they comprised





Franklin co-eds, circa 1958

the largest preparatory school in the U.S. All three fell under the purview of Emil E. Camerer, a math and English instructor, who had earned MA and law degrees from NYU. He was a prominent fixture on the Manhattan private school scene for over thirty years before his early death at fifty-four.

During Mr. Camerer's tenure, Dwight's prominence in athletics soared; newspapers of the day regularly announced record-breaking victories over local rivals. Student enrollment grew rapidly into the tens of thousands, which fueled the 1916 move by the Manhattan divisions to larger and more upscale quarters at 72 Park Avenue. Regardless of size or location, the school repeated the same mantra in its annual publications: *"Small classes and informal personalized teaching have been features of Dwight School since it was established in 1880."*

Dwight saw further development in its next generation under teacher and Headmaster Ernest Greenwood, from 1927-46. Born in England, he attended CCNY and Columbia University, and was well known as the president of several school and headmaster associations. After almost twenty years at Dwight, Mr. Greenwood turned to public service and was elected to the House of Representatives in the early 1950s. He was succeeded by Winton L. Miller, Jr., a Lehigh graduate, who also dedicated two decades of service to Dwight, from 1947-67. It was during his term that Dwight moved in 1953 to 402 East 67th Street, where it remained for four decades.



Headmaster Miller carved a path for partnerships with the community; developed service leaders as well as scholar-athletes; and created strong math and science programs, which included mechanical drawing. The latter prepared many a graduate to attend Annapolis, West Point, and the Air Force Academy. Despite these strong elements, enrollment dwindled to fewer than eighty boys in grades 9-12. It was at this juncture that Chancellor Stephen Spahn took the reins in 1967. Today, he has the distinction of being the longest-serving head of school in New York City. Under his watch, Dwight, which had stood fast to its educational traditions for almost a century, also kept a keen eye on the future.

### A New Era Begins and the Spahn Family Legacy Continues

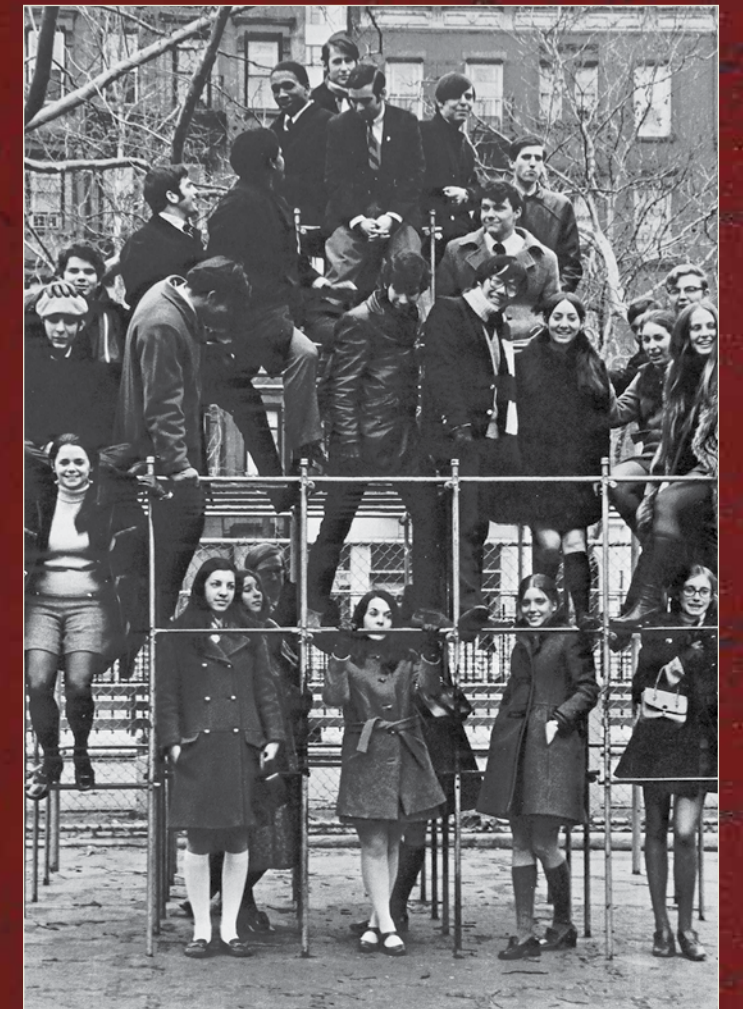
Chancellor Spahn attended Franklin's kindergarten while his father was headmaster there. They commuted together from Long Island, where the younger Spahn continued

his education. He then went on to Dartmouth, where he, like his father, became an All-American basketball player. As a member of Dartmouth's Tucker Foundation, Chancellor Spahn helped to abolish fraternity practices that excluded members based on color, creed, and religion. After graduation, Chancellor Spahn taught at Franklin; completed PhD coursework at Columbia, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar and International Fellow; and spent a post-graduate year at Oxford. Upon returning to New York, he joined Dwight first as assistant headmaster for one year before becoming head of school.

Among the first decisions Chancellor Spahn made in 1967 was to open Dwight up to girls (just as his father had done during his first year at Franklin). Another was to merge with The Bentley School in 1974, adding elementary school grades to further expand the Dwight community. Founded in 1914, Bentley had been housed on two sites: the lower school at 112 East 71st Street, which became Dwight's home base for grades K-5; and



Franklin Dance Committee, circa 1931



Dwight seniors, circa 1969





circa 1960

the middle and high schools at 48 West 86th Street, which closed. Older Bentley students transferred to Dwight or Franklin.

During the 1970s, Dwight Principal Edward Engle, a Williams grad known for his constitutional law class, worked alongside Chancellor Spahn. So did Constance Spahn as head of admissions for twenty years. Today, she serves as a Life Trustee of the American Museum of Natural History. It was Mrs. Spahn's family who established The Dwight School Foundation in 1969 to fund scholarships, faculty professional development, and educational innovations.

The early 1980s brought Dwight and Anglo-American's elementary schools together, consolidating operations at Anglo's West Side location. The two institutions had actually shared a great deal over the previous decades: teachers and administrators moved from one school to the other.

For example, Anglo-American's headmaster from 1990-93 was William Goodin, former soccer coach and legendary history teacher at Dwight. The schools shared resources and, of course, both had deep Spahn family roots.

***We now come to the time when the two parallel paths in our history unite.***

### Joining Forces, circa 1993

Anglo-American and Dwight came even closer together in 1993. The catalysts were a declining student population at the former and the nearing end of a fifty-year lease for the latter. The timing created an ideal opportunity for two sister schools that shared the same philosophy — and so much more — to resolutely join forces. Dwight moved to 18 West 89th Street to take up permanent residence, and thanks to Dwight's cash reserve, the North Campus at 291 Central Park West was added the same year. An era of modernization had begun.

Chancellor Spahn guided the School into the new millennium with imagination. He expanded the community even further with the help of the next generation in the Spahn family, his sons and Dwight alums, Blake '89 and Kirk '95. Blake, who went to Columbia College and Business School, as well as Oxford for his PhD in Comparative International Education, founded Dwight's preschool in 2005 at 66th Street and Riverside Boulevard, which is home to today's Early Childhood Division. Kirk followed in his father's footsteps at Dartmouth before earning his Masters from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. In 2001, he helped to found the Institute for Civic Leadership to fund and educate student service leaders around the world charged with making a difference in their own communities. Dr. M.C. Spahn would, indeed, be proud.

### Ahead of the Curve

From his earliest days as head of school, Chancellor Spahn envisioned classes, schools, and communities without borders. He embraced the spirit of adventure and forged innovative partnerships.

Dwight became the first independent school in the U.S. to break down international barriers when Chancellor Spahn established a campus abroad in London with his Oxford mentor, Sir Maurice Bowra, Warden of Wadham



Chancellor Stephen H. Spahn, circa 1969

College. The year was 1972 and the proposition of crossing continents, which today is gaining great traction, was certainly ahead of its time. Since then, Dwight's global footprint has grown to include additional campuses on Vancouver Island and in Seoul, along with a program in Beijing, offering all students a myriad of cross-cultural and curricular exchange opportunities.

Today, as Chancellor Spahn focuses on Dwight's global education initiatives, Dianne Drew serves as Head of Dwight School in New York. Born in Australia, Ms. Drew graduated from Monash University with a BA and a Post-Graduate Diploma of Education. She spent many years teaching English and consulting in Asia and Australia before taking on teaching and IB curriculum director roles here in the U.S., first at a public school in Manhattan and later at Dwight. An expert in international education and Vice President for the Guild of IB Schools of the Northeast, Ms. Drew spearheads pedagogical programs across The Dwight Schools on behalf of 2,000 students worldwide.

**Every school in our global network embraces the Dwight philosophy that no two students are alike. Each child has his or her own interests and talents. Dwight's job is to find and ignite that unique "spark of genius" through personalized learning. When student interests are fueled, the potential for learning is vast. And when interests are ignited into passions, the possibilities are truly endless. Dwight has been dedicated to this noble purpose for 140 years.**



Franklin, circa 1963



Anglo-American, circa 1993



Dwight, circa 2012