

A D M I S S I O N E D I T I O N PENNINGTON 2024-25 M A G A Z I N E



BE A PART OF SOMETHING **GREAT!**

Community!

Over and over, families tell us that the reason they chose The Pennington School was because of the **sincere and warm welcome** they received from every person they met while visiting our campus or attending one of our admission events. The Pennington student experience begins with our friendly community of students, teachers, coaches, and staff. **YOUR Pennington story** will unfold as uniquely your own, as you discover more about our academic programs, our myriad co-curricular offerings, and our dedication to the development of strong character.

We are delighted to begin our **187th academic year** here at The Pennington School. We want to share so much with you in these pages, but no magazine can tell you everything you need to know. Come for a visit, attend one of our information sessions, or contact us with your questions. **We look forward to getting to know you this year!**

The Pennington School is committed to **developing individual excellence** in all of its students.

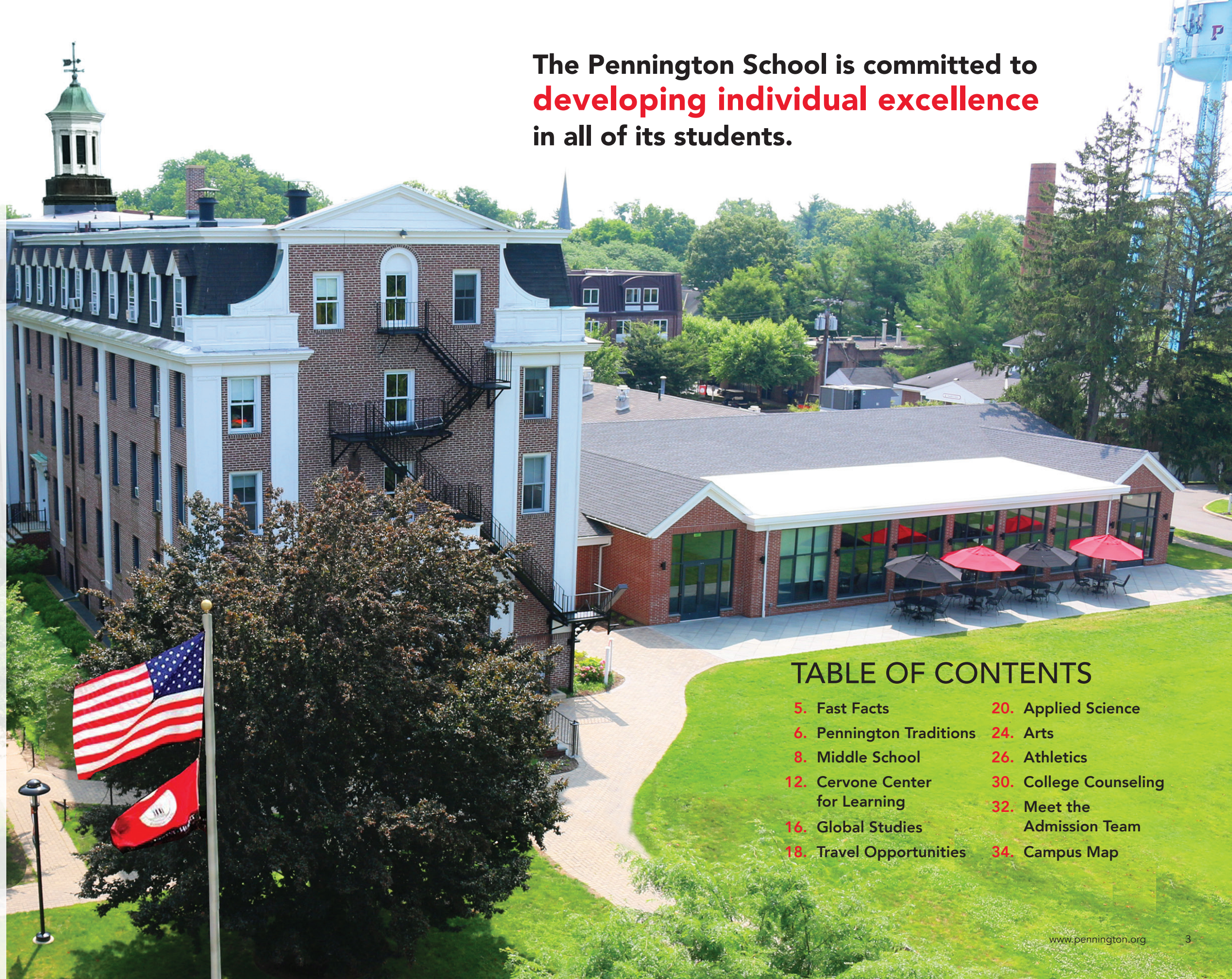


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Welcome from the Head of School

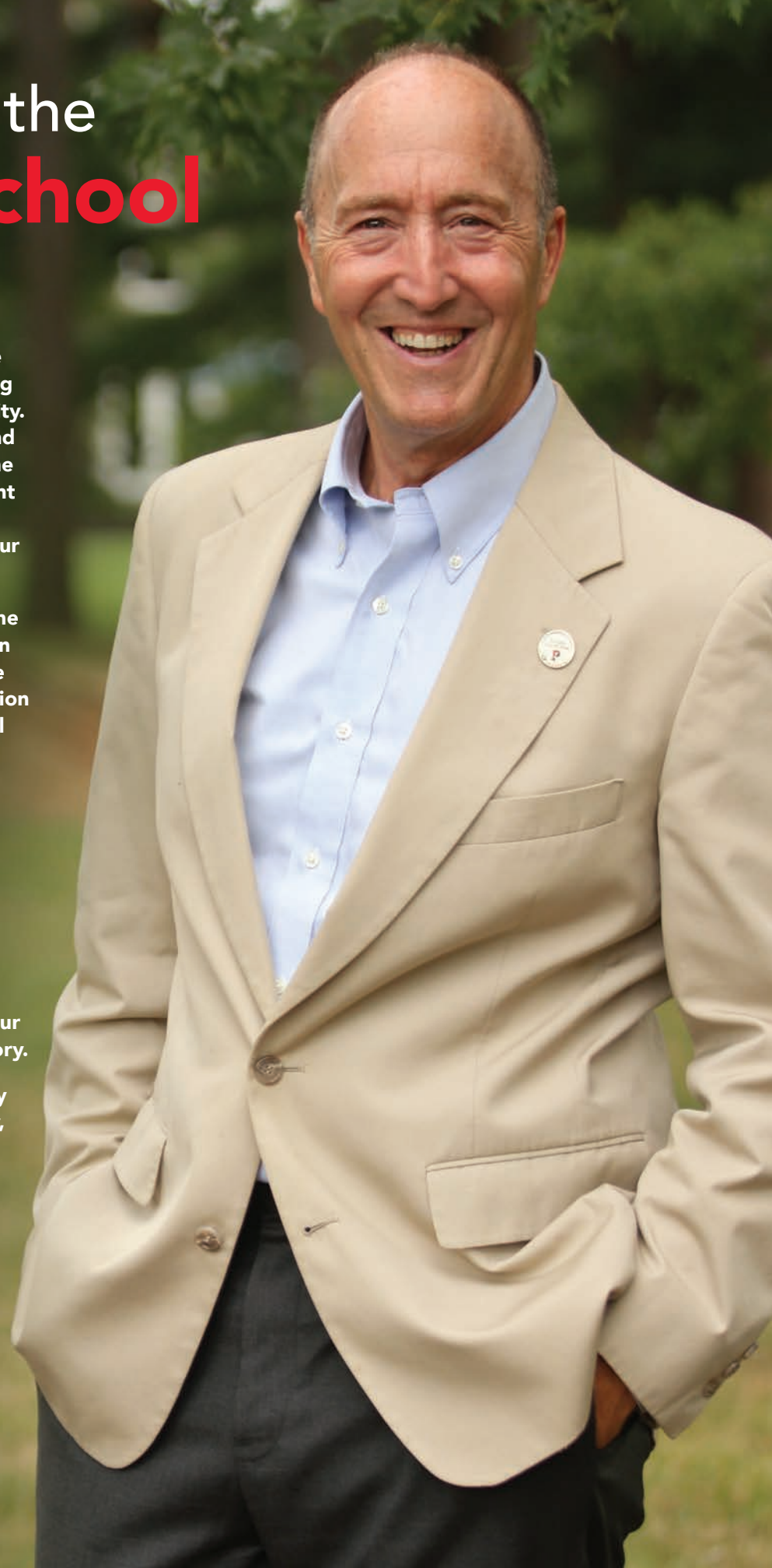
The Pennington School is a place where students and faculty and staff care deeply about each other's well-being and success. This is important because it creates a unique feeling here, a sense of generosity and caring that permeates the campus and its community. I believe Pennington students are socially and academically responsible, they appreciate the opportunities that we provide, and they want to take advantage of all that the School has to offer. A Pennington education prepares our students to give back to the world.

This culture of generosity is embraced by the faculty and staff and has a positive effect on the nature of the learning environment. The degree of academic and creative collaboration between faculty and students at this School is outstanding. Our faculty is unrivaled in its commitment to individual excellence in teaching and scholarship—which means a personal commitment to every student. This atmosphere of mutual respect helps to define the ethos of the Pennington School community. The lessons you can learn from this community about respect, tolerance, perseverance, generosity, collaboration, personal responsibility, and leadership will remain long after the specific content of your papers and projects have faded from memory.

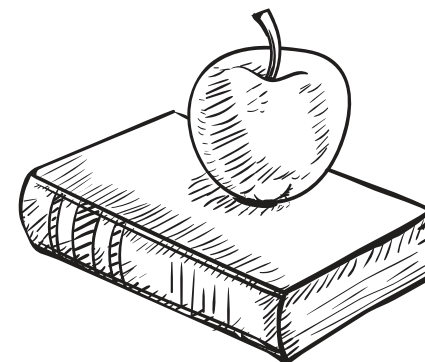
Be prepared to be challenged here, be ready to take a risk, embrace a failure or adversity, help one another, learn about a culture different from your own, experience the joy of helping someone not as fortunate as you, and do them all in a place that continues to believe that all things are possible.



William S. Hawkey, PhD



13 Average
CLASS SIZE

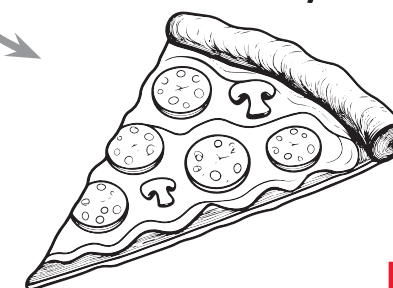


25 HONORS
Classes

19 AP Classes

yummy

Tuscan bistro
PIZZA or **PASTA**
every day



90+
Student **CLUBS AND**
ACTIVITIES

70+ GUEST
SPEAKERS
in 2023-24

fast
FACTS

100% student participation
in **COMMUNITY service**

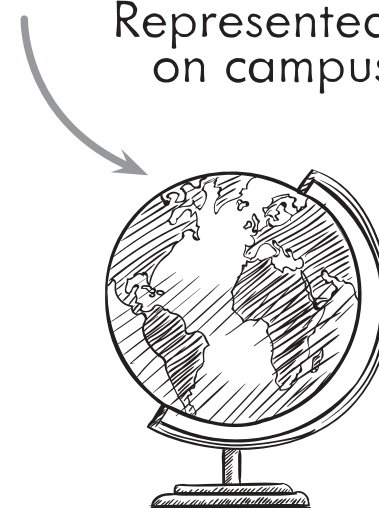
50+
Yearly **ARTS**
PERFORMANCES



42
ATHLETIC
Teams

41 COUNTRIES

Represented
on campus



100% college-bound
seniors ACCEPTED
to 4-year colleges and
universities

535 STUDENTS

100 in Middle School

6:1 RATIO

Students to Teachers





PENNINGTON TRADITIONS

Pennington students and teachers enjoy a large number of special celebrations throughout the year. Here are some highlights:



Convocation is the formal opening ceremony for a new academic year.

Middle School Launch and Retreat:

These fall events get the year off to a spirited start for our younger students.

Senior Sunrise in September kicks off a year of special activities for Grade 12 that culminates with the **Horizon Experience program**, **Senior Week**, and **Commencement** at the end of the year.

Homecoming welcomes alumni back to campus for reunions and activities with current students, who celebrate **Spirit Week** with fun themes each day.

Lessons and Carols is a moving holiday service before winter break in December.

HomeFront Holiday Party: Senior Peer Leaders bring the Pennington community together by collecting gifts and other items to provide holiday cheer for more than 100 families from HomeFront, a Mercer County organization devoted to helping families break the cycle of poverty. Pennington's annual HomeFront Holiday is

a day of celebration when our students and faculty host a special party and delicious meal on campus in December.

Community Days engage every student and faculty member in activities that support the School and the surrounding community.

Chariot Races are held on the turf field or Heritage field each spring at the end of classes.

Kingswood Day might be the favorite tradition of the year. Ask any Pennington student why!



A day in the life of Middle SCHOOLERS

To get a taste of Pennington's Middle School, follow along through the day in the life of a typical Middle Schooler.*

7:55 A.M.

DROP-OFF – Middle Schoolers arrive at Stainton Hall, the Middle School building. The Middle School lobby offers words of welcome, kindness, and wisdom and features an ever-changing artistic display of current student work and topics of study.

PERIOD 1

ENGLISH – English classes at Pennington help students develop into critical and creative communicators, readers, and thinkers. Sixth-graders study English in their Humanities class, a double-block, interdisciplinary language arts and social studies course. After Grade 6, Middle School students take separate English and history classes.

PERIOD 2

HISTORY – Seventh-graders take U.S. History and Government, while eighth-graders study Global Perspectives. Sixth-graders study geography, history, diverse cultures, and current events as part of their Humanities course.

SPECIAL

SPECIAL – The Middle School schedule also offers a block of time each day for “Specials” that include Chapel, Community Meetings, Class Meetings, Clubs, Physical Life Skills, Advisory, and the Junior Proctor program.

PERIOD 3

SCIENCE – In the Middle School science curriculum, sixth-graders take Life Science, where they are introduced to topics in biology and ecology and learn to think scientifically. Seventh-graders take Earth Science and study climate, rocks and elements, natural resources, and the earth's interior. Eighth-graders take Physical Science, which provides students with a sampling of physics and chemistry.

PERIOD 4

EXPLORATORY/ELECTIVE – During the Exploratory/Elective period, students rotate through a variety of quarter-long courses. Exploratory courses include health, music, and art and are assigned by grade level. Electives are choice-based courses and include offerings such as instrumental ensembles, rock band, chorus, puppetry, yearbook design, photography, filmmaking, technical theatre, and ceramics. These elective classes allow students to pursue a passion or try something for the very first time.

**The schedule above is not an actual Middle School schedule, but lists all the classes in a typical course of study. The Pennington School uses a rotating schedule with a different class period beginning each school day.*



meet

Head of Middle School Maria Capelle-Burny



Maria Capelle-Burny joined The Pennington School in July 2024 as head of Middle School. Prior to coming to Pennington, she worked at Smith Street Arts et Lettres in Brooklyn, NY, where she held the position of assistant head of school and elementary division director.

Prior to that post, Capelle-Burny spent many years at Grace Church School in Manhattan,

first starting there as an associate teacher in 2011, then taking on increasing responsibilities as a third-grade classroom teacher, then as elementary and middle school French teacher, a class advisor to Grade 7, a class dean for Grades 7 and 8, a scheduler for all grade levels from pre-K to grade 8, and an advisor to families of color. She also served as a member of the middle school leadership team at Grace Church School. She began her career at the International School of Brooklyn, NY, as an associate elementary teacher. Capelle-Burny earned a BFA in theatre and French from Concordia University in Canada and a master's degree in educational theatre from New York University. She speaks Spanish and Portuguese and is fluent in French.

Head of School William S. Hawkey describes Capelle-Burny as “a thoughtful, dynamic educator who centers her educational philosophy on her students while maintaining an open door for conversations with colleagues. I know that she brings an exceptional set of skills and experience to our Middle School.”

Capelle-Burny has a wealth of experience with students of middle school age and says, “I feel it is essential to impart to students social and emotional skills, coping mechanisms, as well as executive-functioning and time-management skills. When we hold students accountable to high standards and support them as they navigate their way through school life, all while prioritizing their agency, independence, and emotional well-being, we see incredible things happen.”

LUNCH

LUNCH – At 11:25 a.m., you might spot groups of Middle Schoolers running at full tilt toward the Dining Hall—lunch really is that tasty at Pennington! The Dining Hall has an abundance of healthful options for students, although it's not uncommon to see the Middle Schoolers eat dessert first! Middle School students have a dedicated lunch period when they eat and then can participate in a variety of activities outside before heading back to class.

PERIOD 5

LANGUAGE – All Middle School students are required to take a language class. In Grades 6 and 7, students choose between Spanish and French. In eighth grade, students have the option of taking Upper School Latin, Spanish, French, German, or Chinese.

OR

STUDY HALL – Study Hall gives Middle Schoolers the opportunity to read, complete homework, study, or collaborate on a group project during a dedicated period, lessening the amount of work to be completed at home. Each student is assigned to a Study Hall supervised by a faculty member.

PERIOD 6

MATH – Middle Schoolers are placed in math courses depending on their individual proficiency level. Courses range from Math 6, a foundational course for sixth-grade students, to advanced Upper School mathematics.

3:00 P.M.

CLASSES END – but the school day continues with extracurricular activities!

3:05 P.M.

EXTRA HELP – All Pennington students have the opportunity to avail themselves of extra help after school, from any of their teachers. This is the time to clarify an assignment, ask questions, or just check in to be sure they are on the right track.

3:30 P.M.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES – After school, it's time for sports, Middle School Play, Art, Yoga, or Outdoor Club. Each Middle Schooler plays at least one team sport per year. There are three athletic seasons, and students can choose from sports such as soccer, field hockey, cross country, basketball, ice hockey, swimming, lacrosse, and track. From first-time players to experienced athletes, there's a place for everyone to learn, grow, and have fun.

meet **JENNY**

and discover how Pennington's broad array of extracurricular opportunities set our students up for success!

For a student like Jenny (Xiaona) '25, Pennington's exceptionally diverse academic and extracurricular offerings, along with an incredibly supportive and hands-on team of teachers, mean that she never has to impose any limits on herself. In the true Renaissance tradition of championing all knowledge and developing skill sets in a wide variety of disciplines, Jenny has fully immersed herself in activities which span the entire campus. From the sound-proof instrumental practice rooms of the MMAC to the engineering Makerspace in Stainton Hall, this rising senior has flourished at Pennington by refusing to choose just one area in which to develop her potential.

A strong STEM student, Jenny has found plenty of avenues at Pennington to tap into those strengths. During her junior year, she tied for first place in the state at the Physics Bowl, an international competition organized by the American Association of Physics Teachers. She is also a member of the School's award winning Computer Science Contest team, which was recently crowned international co-champions in the Senior Division of the ACSL (American Computer Science League) contest.

"Here at Pennington, I can always get support when striving to be my best. The community is always here to lift me up, and help me build the confidence and enthusiasm to try everything," Jenny says. "I have participated in so many clubs and groups that have fueled my passion for math and music. The Pennington School has given me the key to discovering my own path to excellence."

Jenny has also been a key member of the Better Kitchen Sink (BKS) project, a student-driven water filtration service effort initially created for the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi. Paired with one other key project member, Jenny competed in an international entrepreneurial innovation competition—the 2024 Diamond Challenge Summit—at the University of Delaware and

placed second in the social innovation category, receiving a funding infusion of \$8,500 to be used towards refining and testing of the filter design, as well as patent approval.

The School's Applied Science Certificate Program is yet another area in which Jenny is able to challenge herself and grow in knowledge. The program gives students unique opportunities to grow their STEM skills with creative learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. In describing Jenny, program director Susan Wirsig says, "Jenny is bright, talented, and exceptionally capable, but I think her real magic is her positive energy. She lights up every room she walks into, always bringing enthusiasm."

Music is another area of particular passion for Jenny; she plays cello, bass, and erhu, a Chinese two-stringed bowed musical instrument similar to a fiddle, and just last year she was inducted into Pennington's chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. In addition to the numerous concerts which are part of Pennington's music program, Jenny has participated in a concert for the Westminster Conservatory Community Orchestra and was invited to study with that ensemble's conductor alongside Princeton University student musicians, and she has earned spots in both the NJ Regional Jazz Band and the NJ All-State Jazz Choir.

Jenny is especially grateful for the limitless opportunities she has found here: "Pennington's music program encourages me to explore different genres, multiple instruments, and vocal parts, with constant support from Dr. Dolan and Mr. Horan." In keeping with that Renaissance spirit, Jenny has also fully embraced new genres and approaches to music. "Growing up in China, I was most familiar with traditional Chinese and classical music, which require strict adherence to the score. Dr. Dolan introduced me to jazz, which I now truly enjoy."



learn
more



The Edmund V. Cervone **CENTER FOR LEARNING**

an acclaimed college-preparatory program for
bright students with learning differences

The Pennington School is proud to embrace students with learning differences, who have enriched our community since 1975, well before most other schools. The Cervone Center for Learning program remains highly regarded nationwide and is a model for similar programs across the country. It provides a college-preparatory program of academic support for bright students with diagnosed learning differences.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Identify each student's educational difficulties and address them through individually tailored academic supports and accommodations;
- Facilitate development of academic skills needed for independent scholarship in college and beyond;
- Help students take full advantage of the traditional, challenging, college-preparatory curriculum and environment at The Pennington School;
- Transition students out of Cervone Center classes before graduation from Pennington in order to achieve the independence and confidence that will support their success in college.

BENEFITS

- Enrollment in a traditional, challenging, college-preparatory program of study;
- Small, parallel classes in English, mathematics, and Spanish with differentiated instruction, taught by skilled learning specialists;
- Daily one-to-one Compensatory Skills classes that focus on building strengths and minimizing the impact of weaknesses;
- Specialized study hall support for boarding students;
- College placement guidance for all program participants;
- Outstanding faculty members dedicated to meeting the needs of a diverse community of learners;
- Commitment to a program rooted in the philosophy that there is no one best way to learn;
- Fifty years of experience teaching children with specific learning difficulties.



meet **CASSIDY**

and learn how living on Pennington's campus fosters leadership involvement and commitment to community!

Ask Cassidy to define what home means to her and she'll likely paint you a detailed picture of her dorm room in Buck Hall, share details about formal dinners and spa nights spent with roommates and friends, regale you with stories of weekend excursions to museums and sporting events, and recount invaluable study sessions and heart-to-heart conversations with faculty hall parents. Cassidy readily recalls receiving her Pennington acceptance letter with the flood of hope it brought for her future. "The day I moved into the dorms for ninth grade marked the day Pennington became my home," says Cassidy, who fondly recounts her "nightly walks with my advisor, Ms. Balerna, who constantly gets pulled by her dogs, Tess and Teagan."

While incredibly special, Cassidy's overwhelmingly positive experience as a residential student at Pennington isn't unique. Approximately 25% of Pennington School students live on campus alongside more than half of the School's teaching staff, which translates into empowering community connections that build independence, self-reliance, and academic success.

The comfort and support which Cassidy found on campus soon enabled her to become a leader in the residential community. Not only did she become a Peer Leader during her time at Pennington, she also served as a prefect—similar to a resident advisor—for several halls on campus. Robert E. Martini Associate Head of School Chad Bridges calls Cassidy, "a friend to all. Cass has an exceptional way of making students feel welcome. As a prefect, she went above and beyond in her role and was the big sister to all our students living in Buck Hall. She helped our residential faculty carry out the responsibilities of being present and available 24/7 within our dorms."

Pennington's residential facilities comprise ten different residence halls divided among three separate dormitories. Within each you

will find a diverse community that represents many different U.S. states and well over a dozen different countries from across the globe. In addition to fostering close bonds among the residents, boarding at Pennington is an adventure in independence. Both in the classroom and in her dormitory, Cassidy's self-reliance and leadership skills flourished. Pennington's bucolic 55-acre campus is situated within walking distance of shops, restaurants, pharmacies, hair salons, banks, and a dry cleaner, and within this environment students quickly grow in self-discipline and organizational abilities.

"Before coming to The Pennington School, I didn't know who I was," reflects Cassidy. "At the time, I was a shy fourteen-year-old girl who lacked self confidence. Coming here and living on campus allowed me to discover my hobbies, passions, and values, and it was a catalyst for me to finally start believing in myself. The tight knit community at Pennington allowed that shy teenage girl to grow into someone who will be able to tackle whatever life throws my way with strength, resilience, and conviction."

When choosing her favorite memories as a residential student, Cassidy certainly has a colorful array from which to pick: bowling nights, roller skating trips, color fun runs, visits to the Jersey shore, trips into New York City for Broadway shows, and, of course, the annual Hall Olympics, a friendly campus competition to drive away the lingering dregs of winter that features trivia challenges, paper airplane contests, and dodgeball games. Thanks to the supportive and close-knit residential community at Pennington, students like Cassidy graduate well-prepared for college and ready to navigate any challenges which lie ahead.





GLOBAL STUDIES

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

As of September 2024, Pennington has awarded almost 300 Global Studies certificates since the program began in 2016. The program continues to operate in service of four goals: to appreciate diversity, exercise agency, listen and speak with empathy and integrity, and explore the world with curiosity and wonder.

Each **Global Studies Certificate Program (GSCP)** graduate completes humanities-rich coursework (including the Global Studies Seminar), engages in at least forty hours of an extracurricular global experience or activity, and participates in a globally-themed Horizon project. The students also complete digital portfolios in which they reflect on their growth through these program experiences.

The Global Studies Seminar introduces students to human-centered design thinking, a problem-solving methodology that incorporates the human element into every step of the process. The curriculum also features such topics as media literacy, sustainability, human rights, and global issues. The Seminar culminates in each student's preparation and delivery of a TED-style Global Talk on an issue important to them. Global Talks are recorded and professionally edited, and they become part of the student's portfolio. The talks are designed to help students fuse the academic exercises of research and argument with the GS program goal of participatory citizenship.

Since 2016, GSCP seniors have traveled to Zimbabwe, Colombia, Spain, Germany, The Bahamas, Peru, and many other destinations for their Horizon projects. Others have worked in community development, participated in special projects that meet GSCP goals, or interned at local companies with global connections or that address global issues. Pennington seniors have participated in volunteer activities as varied as equine therapy in Louisiana, animal conservation in Zimbabwe, and work with organizations including the World Bank, Ocean Action, and Special Olympics.

GLOBAL STUDIES ON PENNINGTON'S CAMPUS

It's not necessary to travel internationally to be a global citizen and take part in the Global Studies curriculum. Rich opportunities to participate are available on campus all year long. Each year, several speakers are invited to address students about global issues and careers that focus on worldwide initiatives.



Pennington also offers a rich palette of clubs and activities that celebrate our community's diversity of cultures and backgrounds, such as United People of Many Colors, Intersectional Feminism, Black Student Union, Green Team, and Community Service. Every spring, our Culture Fair invites students and their families to share their heritage with art activities, delicious foods, traditional artifacts, performances, and a bustling World Market. Our student body includes dozens of international students in both the boarding and day populations. In 2024-25, Pennington is proud to welcome families representing more than forty-one different cultures on our campus.



GLOBAL STUDIES OFF CAMPUS

Each year, multiple international travel opportunities are offered for students to travel during spring break or at the end of the academic year. A new program offers two-to-four-week study abroad programs at schools in France and Spain. Pennington is a member of RoundSquare, an international network of over 250 schools that hosts seminars and service programs that encourage students to develop a sense of responsible leadership and a deeper understanding of global issues. As this magazine goes to press, several exciting opportunities are being planned for the 2024-25 academic year, including trips to Iceland, the Czech Republic, Malawi, and more.



check out the **TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES**

Experience the world with Pennington!



Travel opens a window to the world, fosters cultural understanding, and builds character strengths such as resilience, which lead to much personal growth. We believe that travel supports and enhances students' informed participation with global ideas, issues, and communities—both at home and abroad. Cross-cultural experiential learning opportunities offer students the ability to learn in depth about cultures other than their own. Each year, The Pennington School plans domestic and

international travel programs that complement on-campus academic programs and activities. Travel opportunities are typically posted in September for the current school year and the following summer.

Faculty-led travel reinforces the School's mission and objectives and supports the academic, service, athletic, and spiritual growth of our students. They can practice language skills, participate in service opportunities, or explore new geographic and cultural destinations. Every experience is carefully planned to respond to learning objectives that provide an in-depth study of different disciplines. Planning includes scouting the places we visit and making local connections to make these experiences authentic and affordable.

Pennington sends students to events including Model United Nations, the annual People of Color Conference, PORGMUN, or PORG Model United Nations, which is a MUN conference in Prague, and global conferences hosted by RoundSquare,

of which the School is a member. In 2023-24, Pennington School trips included visits to New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Malawi, Peru, Spain, and China. Students also participated in academic exchange programs in France and Spain.

The Pennington School partners with International SOS (ISOS), which is a leader in international health and security risk management and RoundSquare, which is an international network of more than 250 schools that connect and collaborate to help students develop global competencies as well as character and confidence. Pennington also provides faculty members with opportunities for professional development with international programs that bring global ideas and issues back to the classroom.





Open to all Pennington sophomores in good academic standing, the School's **Applied Science Certificate Program (ASCP)** is a two-year course of study that provides unique opportunities for students to augment their STEM knowledge, discover new passions, and explore specific areas of interest not available within the general program. As their skills and understanding grow, students make interdisciplinary connections between science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the larger world. These STEM experiences—fueled by connections to industry leaders and enriched with hands-on activities—provide creative learning opportunities through which students can forge new avenues toward positive change.

APPLIED SCIENCE ON PENNINGTON'S CAMPUS

Director of the Applied Science program Susan Wirsig notes, "When I speak to students about their college aspirations, some have a clear direction for what they want to study; however, most are still searching. Through field trips, guest speakers, and new experiences in the engineering electives, these students learn about a spectrum of opportunities in fields of STEM."

The cornerstone of the Applied Science program is engineering coursework. Students can choose to take Design Engineering and Software Engineering courses. They can take AP Computer Science and have a choice of several electives as well. Outside of the classroom, guest speakers are an important piece of the Applied Science program and have included Pennington alumni, parents of current students, and other invited guests. The Applied Science program offers many opportunities each year for students to hear from guest speakers.

Applied Science students also participate in the STEM Club, which meets weekly to work on projects in the School's Makerspace. Well-equipped with CAD and graphics software, hand tools, a 3D printer, a laser cutter, a CNC mill, and a variety of materials, students design and build solutions to challenges posed by their instructor. STEM Club students also partner with other people from the larger community. Applied Science students are also expected to pursue STEM experiences after school and/or during breaks, and to structure their senior year Horizon program project around a STEM opportunity.



APPLIED SCIENCE OFF CAMPUS

There are numerous opportunities for students to engage with applied science outside of their classroom activities. Pennington's Computer Science team has landed in first place internationally for several years; they also participate in hackathon weekends. In 2024, a junior won first place in New Jersey in the national Physics Bowl, and students traveled to the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi to test an invention they created in Pennington's Makerspace that filters precious water in order to be able to reuse it for washing up and laundry. Ongoing projects in Malawi include the design and construction of desks for local schools and a hybrid sanitary hygiene product that allows young women to stay in school during their menstrual cycles. Students work in groups outside of class using the engineering design cycle to invent, test, and innovate in order to produce real solutions to global problems and issues.



SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

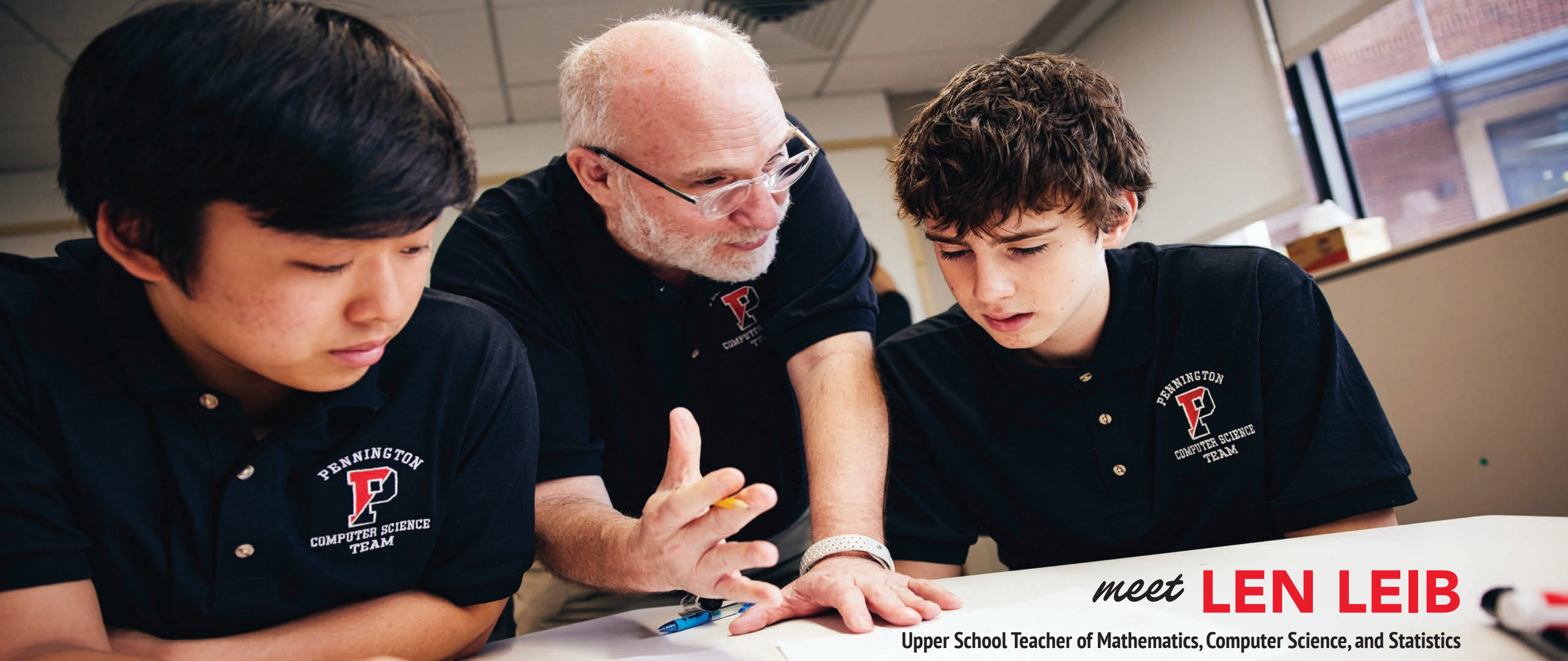
In Software Engineering students learn the basic programming skills required to design and build software, and they have multiple opportunities to apply the Software Development Life Cycle, which is the application of engineering principles to the process of building software applications. Students also develop important skills that include collaborating with fellow developers, breaking a system down into components, and learning how to complete a project on time through iterative development.

DESIGN ENGINEERING

Design Engineering teaches students to use the Engineering Design Cycle. Using the numerous resources in the School's Makerspace, students will design, build, and test solutions to a given problem. Students then apply the Engineering Design Cycle to improve their design's performance. Students also learn to identify and work effectively to solve problems on time and on budget, and they develop presentation skills.

APPLIED SCIENCE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM





meet **LEN LEIB**

Upper School Teacher of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics

Prior to fulfilling his lifelong dream to become a teacher, Len Leib was a software developer and entrepreneur, having spent his thirties as the founder and principal of JBS Computing. He holds a BS from Brown University with a major in computer engineering and an MBA from New York University with a concentration in information systems. In 2001, Leib joined the faculty at an independent school in Connecticut. Then, after volunteering for a year alongside his pediatrician wife at a healthcare clinic in a resource-poor district of Belize, Leib joined the Pennington School community in 2012. Here he has taught several different math classes and has become the founding teacher for our Advanced Placement courses in statistics and computer science.

Leib served as chair of the mathematics department from 2016 to 2019, and in addition to being a popular student advisor, he is also the faculty coach for the award-winning Pennington computer science team, which in 2023-24 was an international co-champion in the Senior Division of the ACSL (American Computer Science League) contest for the second year in a row. Last year, twenty-five Pennington students participated across “varsity” and “junior varsity” teams at the senior and intermediate levels of the competition. The senior team was one of only two teams in a field of 130+ to earn perfect scores across all four sub-competitions. Leib takes great joy in mentoring and guiding many of our students along a computer or data sciences pathway. He was nominated

by students and selected as an Outstanding Educator by the University of Chicago in 2021.

Alumnus David Wan '16 credits his Pennington experience as the inspiration to pursue a career in the artificial intelligence (AI) arena—an experience that shaped his skills, confidence, and passion for computer science. He attributes much of this to the mentorship of Leib. Wan said, “Mr. Leib knew how to make the topics engaging for students at every level. Whether you don’t know anything about computer science or are into advanced coding, he finds a way to make it fun and challenging for each student.” Wan also credits his interest in AI to Leib’s suggestion for Wan to explore

the use of neural networks (algorithms modeled on the human brain that recognize patterns) as part of his senior year Horizon project.

Leib says, “Teaching computer science is so fulfilling for me—how many students can I introduce to the field who will go on to make this their life’s work? One of my greatest joys is my ongoing relationships with so many students, who continue to see me as a mentor and who want to meet even after they have moved far beyond my own level of skill in programming. This completely delights me!”

“ The Pennington School arts programs give students hands-on creative experiences, as well as an understanding of how art is integral to other disciplines, including humanities and science. ”

— Dolores Eaton
Co-director of the Arts

ARTS AT Pennington

The arts program at Pennington is multidisciplinary and connects students to humanity through hands-on experience that fosters inquiry, curiosity, correlation, response, and reflection. A robust curriculum of arts courses is complemented by many ways to experience the arts as an extracurricular activity, both seasonally and all year long. Students can expect to create original works of art in both visual and performance courses,

using skill sets that are creative and conceptual, individual and collaborative. We guide students through creative processes during which they learn to think critically, create stories, compose worlds, and identify that which unites and divides the human experience. With the tools and techniques of theatre, music, and visual arts, we teach students to make sense of and express their understanding of the world.

The arts are integral to a well-rounded education. At The Pennington School, we believe that training and engagement of the creative process are both educational and fulfilling, bringing balance to a student's high school career. All students leave Pennington with an understanding of many forms of artistic expression, and many students go on to study arts at college and pursue their passion into a career.



*learn
more*

Pennington **ATHLETICS**

FALL

UPPER SCHOOL

Soccer
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Cheerleading
Tennis

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Soccer
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Water Polo

WINTER

Basketball
Swimming
Winter Track

Basketball
Swimming
Ice Hockey
Yoga

SPRING

Lacrosse
Track & Field
Tennis
Baseball
Golf

Lacrosse
Track & Field
Tennis
Yoga



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL
RED HAWKS



2 MAPL League Championships

2 STATE Championships

3 Mercer County Championships

35 ALL-STATE athletes

4 COACH of-the-YEAR AWARDS

3 School records broken

4 PLAYER of-the-YEAR AWARDS

330 ATHLETES who participated in a sport

150 total WINS last year

21 recruited college-bound student-athletes

meet the teams



FAST FACTS
2023-24

Take a quick glance at Kae’s activity list here at Pennington and the phrase “all in” immediately springs to mind. Since his arrival as a boarding student, Kae has sought out ways to get involved and contribute to the Pennington School community, whether as a member of the Muslim Student Alliance (MSA), captain of the boys’ basketball team, or in his role as a Peer Leader. With its diverse array of extracurricular offerings, Pennington truly has something for everyone, and Kae has made the most of those opportunities and enriched his own high school experience in the process.

As a member of the MSA, Kae has volunteered to speak about the importance of his family heritage and beliefs to the Upper School community during a weekly Chapel gathering and helped lead fundraisers for the organization. Recollecting a particular fundraiser which raised over \$3000 for devastations in Turkey and Syria, Kae says, “This feat was just a testament of what students at Pennington are able to do once they put their mind to a goal. Teachers and staff members are always willing to go the extra mile to make sure your goals are attainable and executed with great amounts of help.” As Upper School Dean of Students Samantha Stern-Leaphart has observed, “Kae never says ‘no’ to any request to serve on a student panel or participate in a new group. His happiness and positivity are infectious and he is always looking for ways to give back to the community.”

Kae is also a participant in the Global Studies Certificate Program, whose mission is to “support and enhance our informed, active, and ethical participation in global ideas, issues, and communities, both at home and abroad.” Alongside other program participants, Kae is afforded the opportunity to listen to visiting guest speakers with diverse global perspectives, engage in “Global Experience” opportunities beyond the Pennington campus, and travel internationally with a School group as part of an experiential learning initiative.

Outside the classroom, you can most often find Kae on the basketball court, where he is praised for his mental toughness, competitive spirit, and stellar leadership abilities. According to Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach Chandler Fraser-Pauls, “Kae is a connector of people and the engine of our team. He has a special ability to bring people together and unite them towards a common goal.” Surprisingly, Kae almost passed on participating in basketball during his first year on campus: “I am so grateful that I took a risk in ninth grade and joined a sports team here at Pennington,” he says. Despite his initial hesitation, Kae now credits so much of his character development to his involvement in Pennington athletics. “Basketball here at Pennington has not just been a sport to me, but rather a cornerstone of my growth. The camaraderie with my teammates, the discipline instilled by our coaches, and the thrill of each game all shaped me into a more resilient and confident individual. It taught me the value of teamwork and perseverance, both on and off the court,” says Kae.

Pennington’s long-standing tradition of athletic excellence has as much to do with the individual character development and strong team connections that Kae references as it does with league trophies, final scorecards, and championship titles. Kae’s advice to new Pennington students is to lean into all the School has to offer, whether that’s on the basketball court, soccer field, performing arts stage, or inside a computer lab. “Because Pennington is so welcoming, I have no doubt that if you step out of your comfort zone, you will meet a wide variety of people and garner countless memories just as I did.”

meet → **KAE**

and discover the confidence and camaraderie that athletes gain at Pennington, both on and off the court!



2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

**WELCOME TO
COLLEGE**
Counseling

409
AP exams
administered
to students;
**88% scored
3 or higher**

4 full-time
college counselors;
**counselor-to-student
ratio of 1:26**

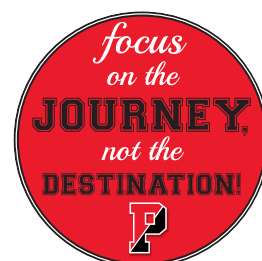
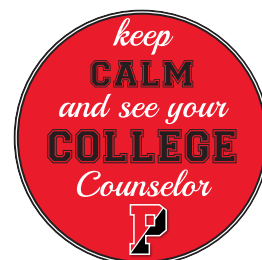
20%
of the Class
of 2024 will
participate in
**intercollegiate
athletics.**

We celebrated
523
acceptances!

Class of 2024 attends
77 colleges/universities
in **24 states**
and **4 countries**

Over **150**
**colleges and
universities**
visit Pennington each
year to recruit
our students.

Seniors submitted
875 applications
to **246 different**
colleges and
universities



*“College is a
MATCH to be **MADE**,
not a prize to be won.”*

—Frank Sachs, former president
of the National Association for
College Admission Counseling



The Pennington **Class of 2024** matriculated at the following colleges and universities:

Arizona State University (Tempe) • Babson College • Bard College • Barnard College • Bentley University • Boston College • Boston University • Brown University • Bucknell University • Bucks County Community College • California Institute of Technology • Carleton College • Carnegie Mellon University • Chapman University • Coastal Carolina University • Colgate University • College of the Holy Cross • Commonwealth University (Bloomsburg) • Dickinson College • Drexel University • Duquesne University • Emory University • Florida Institute of Technology • Fordham University • George Washington University • Georgetown University • Hamilton College • Hampden-Sydney College • Hampshire College • Howard University • James Madison University • Loyola Marymount University • Marist College • Monmouth University • New York University • Northeastern University • Oberlin College • Penn State University (University Park) • Princeton University • Purdue University • Quinnipiac University • Rutgers University (New Brunswick) • Salisbury University • San Diego State University • Southern Methodist University • Stevens Institute of Technology • Syracuse University • The American University of Paris • The College of New Jersey • The College of Wooster • The University of Tampa • The University of Tennessee (Knoxville) • Trinity College • United States Military Academy at West Point • United States Naval Academy • University of Bristol • University of California (Los Angeles) • University of Chicago • University of Colorado Boulder • University of Delaware • University of Maryland (College Park) • University of Miami • University of North Carolina Wilmington • University of North Carolina at Charlotte • University of Pennsylvania • University of Pittsburgh • University of South Carolina • University of Southern California • University of St Andrews • University of Virginia • Ursinus College • Vanderbilt University • Villanova University • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • Washington University in St. Louis • William & Mary • Williams College



meet THE ADMISSION TEAM

It's a new year and a new beginning! Students, as you explore The Pennington School, we hope you will hear many inspiring student stories and feel excited to apply. We hope that while applying, you find ways to take pride in sharing your own unique story with us. We'd love to listen and learn more about you! We have learned that the best way to serve our interested families is to create lots of opportunities for you to visit our campus during regular school days so you can experience our community in action! Please check our website to see our wide range of small-group events.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Mike, Jenny, Sharon, Lynn, Erica, and Chandler



apply now

GET TO KNOW US @ PENNINGTON

Join us for a front-row view of Pennington's latest photos, videos, news, and announcements.

FOLLOW US AT pennington.org

 [instagram.com/thepenningtonschool](https://www.instagram.com/thepenningtonschool)

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 x.com/tps_news

 [youtube.com/user/ThePenningtonSchool](https://www.youtube.com/user/ThePenningtonSchool)

 [instagram.com/doc.hawk](https://www.instagram.com/doc.hawk)

ADMISSION OFFICE

Contact us with any questions:

Phone: 609-737-6128

Email: admiss@pennington.org



- 1** Old Main:* *Fifth Avenue Hall, Grace Hall, Green Hall, Goorley Hall, and Smythe Hall*
- 2** Buck Hall*
- 3** Dining Hall*
- 4** Wesley Alumni House*
- 5** Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building*
- 6** Stainton Hall:* *Applied Science Building, Makerspace, Middle School*
- 7** Meckler Library*
- 8** Sparks Memorial Gymnasium and Michael T. Martin Aquatic Center*
- 9** Robert E. Martini Center for Music, Arts, and Community–MMAC (Campus Center):* *Diane T. McLarty Black Box Theater, Tech Shop, Silva Gallery of Art*
- 10** Health and Wellness Center*
- 11** Operations Department
- 12** Faculty Housing
- 13** Becher Hall*
- 14** Tennis Courts
- 15** Green Street Field
- 16** Heritage Field
- 17** Harold Poore Track and Field
- 18** Tom Liwosz Turf Field at Pearl Family Stadium
- 19** Corson House
- D** Dormitories
- C** Outdoor Classroom
- A** Office of Admission* (Long Hall)
- S** Security Booth
- P** Parking Lots

* AED inside



Application Checklist

Begin Your Research:

- ☐ Visit our website and attend Pennington events and information sessions.

Start Your Application:

- ☐ Application Form
- ☐ Application Fee
- ☐ Student Questionnaire
- ☐ Parent Questionnaire
- ☐ Math Recommendation
- ☐ English Recommendation
- ☐ Principal Recommendation
- ☐ School Transcript/Report - Current year
- ☐ School Transcript/Report - Previous two years
- ☐ Interview: In-person or via Zoom

Additional Components, if applicable:

- ☐ Standardized test scores (For more information, visit www.pennington.org/admission/apply-now.)
- ☐ TOEFL or Duolingo English Test - Required for International Applicants
- ☐ Vericant or Personal Interview - For select international students
- ☐ Financial Assistance Forms (Clarity)

Additional Components for Cervone Center for Learning Applicants (Required):

- ☐ CCL Interview
- ☐ CCL Supplemental Application
- ☐ CCL Psychological Report
- ☐ CCL Educational Assessment

Optional:

- ☐ Student Photo/Headshot
- ☐ Supplemental/Character Recommendation(s)

Application Deadline:

- ☐ January 15

Financial Aid Application Deadline:

- ☐ January 15

Decision Notification:

- ☐ March 10

Enrollment Deadline:

- ☐ April 10

If you have any questions, we are always here to help! Feel free to contact us at admiss@pennington.org or 609-737-6128.



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

112 WEST DELAWARE AVENUE | PENNINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08534-1601

