Honoring Our Legacy, Defining Our Future

PINGRY

STRATEGIC PLAN
Our History

Almost 150 years ago Dr. John Francis Pingry founded a school with a broad vision and roots that extended well beyond academics. Beginning with a commitment to classical education, Dr. Pingry envisioned an institution that would not only foster intellectual vigor, but also instill in his students a sense of honor, strength of character, and a commitment to service both to the nation and the world. With firm adherence to these highest of academic, personal, and social values, he established a standard for private education that has defined The Pingry School’s legacy throughout its history. Today, more than ever, that standard and that legacy continue to shape our mission for the future.

Dr. John Francis Pingry

Dr. Pingry’s vision was to instill in his students a vibrant intellectual energy, a firm moral fiber, and a passionate social conscience.
Our Beginnings

The school John Pingry founded in Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1861 challenged students with a classical curriculum of Greek, Latin, mathematics, and English and, in the 1880s, science. In addition, The Pingry School cultivated an environment that focused on building character, a community that emphasized honor and responsibility, and an ethos that centered around a strong commitment to service. The Pingry student was expected not merely to challenge himself intellectually, but to develop the character to apply his education in a purposeful and principled life, confronting the trials and embracing the opportunities of the world at large to serve the greater good.

Honor Code

In 1926, Pingry’s students took the commitment to character to a new level, establishing a rigorous Honor Code. They alone shouldered the responsibility of making the Honor Code an integral part of the life of the school for almost a quarter of a century, until the faculty adopted it as well in 1949.

Now an integral part of the school’s ethos, the Honor Code represents the embodiment of Dr. Pingry’s original values and the moral guidepost for each and every member of the Pingry community.
Campus Expansion

Ideals are a good beginning, but a school requires a substantial campus to carry out an ambitious mission.

Dr. Pingry’s vision of an exemplary school was born physically in the modest confines of an existing schoolhouse in Elizabeth. In 1865, he built a more fitting structure nearby.

Over the ensuing years, to sustain the continual improvement implicit in Dr. Pingry’s vision, the School moved twice, first in 1893 to a larger campus on nearby Parker Road, and then sixty years later, in 1953, to the handsome Hillside Campus.

In the 1970s, Pingry’s growth took two new directions: in 1974 it merged with the Short Hills Country Day School, and in 1976 it graduated its first female students. Boys and girls were introduced to The Pingry School’s classical curriculum at Short Hills before switching in Form I to the Hillside Campus for Middle and Upper School.

Pingry completed another long-anticipated move in 1983 when Forms I through VI moved to the new and even more expansive campus in Martinsville.

Today, change remains the only constant. In 2007, the state-of-the-art Carol and Park B. Smith ’50 Middle School opened on the Martinsville Campus, allowing students in Grade 6 to join their older peers. Pingry’s Lower School students, now Kindergarten through Grade 5, still enjoy the beautiful wooded campus in Short Hills.
BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY

Today, The Pingry School, responsible for educating over 1,000 students from Kindergarten through Form VI, is widely recognized as one of the outstanding independent schools in the country. Students are expected to live up to that reputation by daily demonstrating exceptional achievement in the classroom, on the playing fields, on stage, and in the studios. Their intellectual grounding in the liberal arts and their training in leadership, integrity, responsibility, and service lead them, as alumni and citizens of the world, into positions of significant personal and professional influence. This is their legacy.

As a school, beholden to our founder, to the hundreds of teachers who have brought the school through the challenges of 150 years, and to the thousands of alumni who carry the Pingry name forward, it is our legacy—and our obligation to thousands of future students—to continue to constantly redefine the country-day philosophy. We will accomplish this through an unwavering commitment to our original and timeless ideals: an exemplary academic experience delivered in an environment that fosters honor, character, and service to others.
OUR MISSION

The mission of The Pingry School is to foster in students a lifelong commitment to intellectual exploration, individual growth, and social responsibility by inspiring and supporting them to strive for academic and personal excellence within an ethical framework that places the highest value on honor and respect for others.
OUR HONOR CODE

Pingry believes that students should understand and live by standards of honorable behavior, which are essentially a matter of attitude and spirit rather than a system of rules and regulations. Decent, self-respecting behavior must be based on personal integrity and genuine concern for others and on the ethical principles which are the basis of a civilized society.

The members of the Pingry community should conduct themselves in a trustworthy manner that will further the best interests of the school, their class, and any teams or clubs to which they belong. They should act as responsible members of the community, working for the common good rather than solely for personal advantage. They should honor the rights of others, conducting themselves at all times in a moral and decent manner while at Pingry and throughout their lives as citizens of and contributors to the larger community of the world.
OUR VISION

Building on our long country-day tradition of developing students’ intellectual, creative, and athletic abilities in an environment that values character above all, our vision is to prepare our students to be global citizens and leaders of the 21st century. By setting and holding the highest of expectations, we seek to graduate young men and women who consistently demonstrate honor and character in all aspects of their lives; who as teammates and leaders navigate easily and effectively in our diverse world; who continually challenge themselves intellectually and morally; and who are committed to ensuring that those who follow them, both at Pingry and in the world, will themselves have unprecedented opportunities.
BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PINGRY SCHOOL

To achieve our vision for Pingry, we must focus on four core themes: honor and character, intellectual engagement and rigor, inclusion and diversity, and stewardship and sustainability.

We will advance these themes over the next five years through five strategic goals:

- Attracting Exceptional Students
- Investing in the Finest Faculty and Staff
- Enriching Academic Programs
- Enhancing Facilities
- Developing Our Resources
Pingry’s goal is to develop a well-rounded student body, rich in potential and character, diverse in perspectives, backgrounds, aspirations and talents, and accomplished in academics, the arts, and athletics.

To achieve this, we will:

• Enhance marketing and branding to ensure that Pingry’s reputation is exceptional, accurate, and proactively shaped by the school
• Take ongoing steps to engage the whole family of every Pingry student and candidate for admission in understanding and committing to the school’s mission, vision, and Honor Code
• Ensure that the admissions process continues to attract, admit, and enroll the best candidates to shape a balanced and diverse student body of extraordinary character and capability
• Raise sufficient financial aid endowment funds to enable the best students who are admitted to enroll at Pingry
Pingry’s goal is to attract and retain a collaborative faculty that is exemplary in its intellectual engagement and achievement, its diversity of background and perspective, its commitment to honor and character, and its zest for students and for learning.

To ensure this goal is met, we will:

- Develop, implement, and monitor a recruitment strategy that increases the diversity of the faculty and staff so that it more closely mirrors the diversity of the student body.
- Ensure that the compensation package for faculty remains among the most generous of comparable suburban day schools and is structured to address the cost of living in our area and the life cycle needs of our faculty.
- Develop a model program of ongoing faculty assessment and professional growth that challenges complacency and supports collaboration, lifelong learning, pedagogical innovation, intellectual engagement, and appropriate integration and applications of technology.
Pingry’s goal is to offer a purposeful curriculum of academics, arts, athletics, and leadership development, continually reevaluated, that emphasizes moral and ethical decision-making, intellectual engagement and rigor, leadership, and global relevance.

To this end, our plan is to:

• Review and modify the current curriculum, with particular attention to interdisciplinary and global connections and opportunities for leadership, and develop and implement a process for ongoing review and incremental adjustment across all divisions of the school

• Review the athletics program, and define and implement clear and consistent program goals

• Evaluate and enhance the opportunities for extending the Pingry education, through service and experiential learning, beyond the borders of the campus and into the local, regional, national, and international communities
Pingry’s goal is to steward—and in some cases, develop—exceptional facilities to support every aspect of the country-day philosophy.

To accomplish this, we will:

• Assess athletics’ needs and improve, modify, and expand facilities to ensure that the interscholastic athletics program and the physical education program have the facilities they need

• Develop state-of-the-art standards for academic spaces, and bring classrooms and other academic spaces up to those standards

• Ensure that all common spaces and other spaces that support student, faculty, and staff life meet the highest standards

DEVELOPING OUR RESOURCES
Pingry’s goal is to develop resources commensurate with our stature and aspirations, and sufficient to **achieve our strategic goals**.

This will include:

- Managing and stewarding our resources—financial, physical, and human—to ensure that future generations of Pingry students will have access to opportunities even greater than those available to our students today
- Raising the funds to build and endow an athletics center and other identified needs of the athletics program
- Raising sufficient financial aid endowment to ensure that every student who is admitted to Pingry can afford to enroll, and each student who attends Pingry can, regardless of family resources, partake fully of the breadth of the Pingry experience
- Developing such exceptional connections with all Pingry constituencies that Pingry sets the independent day school standard for engagement, participation, and philanthropic support
JOIN US

As we approach The Pingry School’s sesquicentennial in 2011, this is the time to celebrate a proud legacy of leadership, to embrace extraordinary aspirations, and to define ambitious but specific goals that will secure our future.

The already-realized fruits of our historic legacy are even now yielding the seeds of this promising future. Continued success will depend on utilizing the intelligence, character, and leadership we have fostered in our community for a century and a half.

Now is the time for the entire Pingry community—alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, students—to engage in purposeful action to bring each of our five strategic goals to fruition.

By realizing this commitment, The Pingry School will continue to set the pace among the preeminent independent schools of the world by graduating visionary, problem-solving, service-oriented leaders; to achieve less would be to violate the legacy of our alumni and the very principles for which the school stands.

We invite you to join us!