

# The Pinewood Path

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



TRADITION OF  
EXCELLENCE.

CULTURE OF  
CHARACTER.



FOCUS ON  
THE FUTURE.



Strategic Plan  
2020-2025

## MISSION:

Founded in 1952, Pinewood Preparatory School is an independent, college-preparatory school dedicated to academic excellence and character development. Through the core values of risk, truth, and exploration, the school enriches community—locally and globally.

# *Pinewood Strategic Plan* **2020-2025**

- Reaffirming Our Commitment to **Academic Excellence**
- Creating an Exceptional **Student Experience**
- Investing in a Vibrant **Learning Environment**
- Ensuring Our Students' **Safety and Security**
- Strengthening Connections to Sustain **Our Financial Future**

# Old School Meets New School.

## DEAR PINWOOD FAMILY:

As a global pandemic shook our academic institutions to the core, what emerged was our true character. Some schools merely survived, but Pinewood is thriving. How? By asking tough questions: “Who are we as a community? What do we stand for? What do we value?”

We found answers in our guiding mission and core values of risk, truth, and exploration. *This is the Pinewood Path.*

From day one, we prioritized face-to-face instruction and the social-emotional development spurred by healthy peer interactions and inspiring adult role models. Challenges never deterred us from doing what is right for our students, teachers, and parents.

This strength and conviction fuel a future of growth and enhancement. Exciting opportunities abound—in the classroom and across our community, programming, and facilities. We are planning true strategic adjustments in the years ahead—not educational fads that come and go. Or knee-jerk initiatives, lacking the substance to succeed. Building on sustainable guiding pillars, we are taking specific actions to improve Pinewood for generations to come.

The Pinewood Path will bolster our reputation of excellence across the Lowcountry. **Plans may be big and bold, but they protect our intentionally close-knit nature, where every student is known and loved.** Our rigorous academic experience, rooted in a college preparatory model, is complemented—not supplemented—by new technology. And we remain a community where character, manners and high standards matter.

Deepest thanks to all who helped forge our path forward.

Today Pinewood. Tomorrow the world!



**DR. DAN SEIDEN**

Head of School



*Dr. Seiden's daughters attend Pinewood and their dog, Birdie, is a frequent visitor on campus.*

# REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO Academic Excellence

100%

College acceptance rate, with

66%

earning college credit  
at Pinewood

Did you  
know?

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Our greatest goal is to instill a lifelong love of learning. Rooted in a robust, well-rounded curriculum, we challenge our students to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a high-performing, college-preparatory environment. The strategic plan focuses on key areas, including STEAM, foreign language, and technology integration to cultivate the proficiencies needed to compete and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**KEY POINTS INCLUDE:**

- Adding foreign language instruction for all lower school students.
- Adopting best practices at every level while determining key investments and instruction to aid technology integration.
- Full evaluation of all subject areas to ensure a balanced and updated curricula, with special emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math).
- Enhancing vertical alignment across curricula with an emphasis on divisional transitions.

**FAST FACTS:**

- 100% college acceptance rate with 66% earning college credit at Pinewood.
- 13 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as well as video production and digital arts classes.
- 15 years of teaching experience, on average.
- More than twice as many Master Teachers compared to other independent schools in South Carolina (16).
- 1:1 counseling to guide each student's post-graduation plan.

IDEA Lab (Imagine, Design, Experiment, Apply) is Pinewood's signature STEAM program, applying the engineering process to hands-on activities centered on science, technology, engineering, arts & mathematics. Students may obtain an Engineering Diploma through a STEAM course sequence.



## CREATING AN EXCEPTIONAL Student Experience

More than

# 70%

of students participate in  
both athletics and the arts.

Did you  
know?

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To complement rigorous academics and cultivate a well-rounded student, Pinewood provides exceptional opportunities in the arts and athletics. The strategic plan seeks to strengthen both areas through key investments in facilities, personnel, and communications, while exposing students to more enrichment and college opportunities.

#### KEY POINTS INCLUDE:

- Setting a timeline for construction of a new theatre, art gallery, and athletic facility.
- Expanding the school's role in college recruitment for athletics, performing, and visual arts.
- Maintaining the highest professional standards and certification for all coaching staff, while growing the athletic training program and improving communication among student-athletes, parents, alumni, and community.
- Conducting a third-party expert review of the music, art, and drama curriculum from Pre-K3–12 to ensure effective integration and full mastery of skills.
- Creating greater exposure to college arts opportunities through school trips to galleries, productions, and art exhibits, while planning more outside adjudication of student performances.

#### FAST FACTS:

- More than 70% of students participate in both athletics and the arts.
- 34 athletic teams, from Middle School to Varsity (17 boys; 16 girls; 1 co-ed).
- 30 clubs and student organizations.
- Nationally and internationally recognized theatre program.
- Pre-K3–12 fine and performing arts curriculum.
- Only SCISA school with an artificial turf playing field (anticipated in spring 2022).

Pinewood Stage Company has represented the United States at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, while more than 100 Pinewood graduates signed national letters of intent to play collegiate athletics in the past 20 years.



# Learning Environment



Did you know?

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#### FAST FACTS:

- Average class size: 16 (Lower School); 17 (Middle School); 14 (High School).
- 9:1 student/teacher ratio in Lower School; 13:1 in Middle and Upper School.
- 43-acre campus includes Liberty Garden, an outdoor relaxation and gathering space.
- International students from 15 countries.
- Meals and snacks, chef-prepared daily at Coursey Café.

**A**t Pinewood, people are our greatest asset—but we know our campus also plays a vital role in student success. That is why our strategic plan includes both short-term action and long-range planning for smart investments in our facilities. Given the rapid growth in our region, Pinewood’s rich history and central location serve as a powerful symbol of Panther pride and community.

#### KEY POINTS INCLUDE:

- A five-year facility strategy, tracking the status of key systems and renovations in every building, allowing prioritized renovations while maintaining optimum use.
- Smaller projects like installing new sidewalks, delineating wetlands, and forming a beautification committee to deliver instant return on investment.
- Launching long-term goals, including a Capital Campaign to support construction of a new athletics and arts center.

Guitar students learn three different methods of reading and playing music: traditional sheet music, chord charts, and tabs. Exploration of different genres is encouraged. During “fun Friday jam sessions,” students showcase their favorite songs. Guitar class is not only for learning the theory and mathematics behind music, but for self-discovery and building confidence as musicians.



# ENSURING OUR STUDENTS' Safety and Security

100%

in person instruction during  
the 2020-2021 school year

Did you  
know?

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## FAST FACTS

School should be a safe haven. Now, more than ever, we are committed to providing a secure, healthy, and nurturing environment for everyone at Pinewood. Our strategic plan reflects this promise by adopting new technology, strengthening key relationships, and providing the training and education to support the physical and emotional well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.

## KEY POINTS INCLUDE:

- Adopting full functionality and usage of the PunchAlert app for emergency notifications and crisis management.
- Investing in additional security cameras, proximity card readers, and crisis planning, while strengthening the campus perimeter with gates, fencing, signage, and lighting.
- Reaffirming Pinewood's commitment to child welfare and well-being, through rigorous annual abuse-prevention training and review of mental health staffing and resources.
- Continuing to strengthen relationships with local law enforcement, first responders, and mental health professionals.

- 100% in-person learning since the pandemic began.
- Two full-time mental health counselors on campus, focusing exclusively on student well-being.
- The *only* private school in South Carolina with a full-time deputy on campus.
- 100% staff and faculty completion of rigorous annual training on abuse prevention and early detection.
- Security cameras throughout campus and sheriff's department participation in safety drills and crisis plans.

Pinewood is one of just a handful of schools across the country that has maintained in-person learning throughout the pandemic. Through careful planning and monitoring, our commitment to full-time, in-school instruction has provided students with a true, in-person experience, including cherished rites of passage like prom and a traditional graduation ceremony, with guests.



STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS TO SUSTAIN  
Our Financial Future



Did you know?

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**P**anther pride runs deep. Everyone connected to Pinewood Prep—students, alumni, parents, faculty, and staff—cherish our close-knit community.

As we continue to grow—nearly seven decades after our founding—our strategic plan focuses on strengthening relationships and communication with new and longtime stakeholders. When combined with a prudent financial model, we are positioning Pinewood for a strong future.

#### KEY POINTS INCLUDE:

- Ensuring that everyone at Pinewood feels visible, valued, and respected as part of our expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Investing in more professional development opportunities for Pinewood’s award-winning faculty and staff.
- Supporting expansion of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Panther Athletic Club (PAC), Friends of Pinewood, volunteer opportunities, and family events to foster engagement.
- Strengthening connections with alumni through events and communication, while showcasing alumni achievement to new and prospective Pinewood families.
- Developing broader opportunities and investments in the student experience, including clubs, community service, internships, college visits, and research.
- Establishing an independent endowment to safeguard our long-term financial security.

#### FAST FACTS

- Pinewood is the alma mater of more than 1,300 alumni.
- Nearly \$2 million raised in Pinewood’s largest capital campaign in school history, toward construction of a brand-new athletic facility.
- Named “Best Place to Work,” “Best Private School,” “Best After-School Program” and “Best Daycare” by local media.
- More than 33% of students receive financial aid to ensure Pinewood is affordable for every family.
- In 2021, Pinewood hosted its first Giving Day and raised over \$150,000 for the Annual Fund.



Recent guest speakers include: **Dr. Dondi Costin**, President, Charleston Southern University (above); **Joe Engel**, Holocaust survivor; **Dr. Bernard Powers**, founding member, African American History Museum; **Peter Roby**, Athletic Director, Dartmouth College; **Chris Singleton**, retired Major League Baseball player; **Gen. Hank Taylor**, U.S. Army Commander; **Anita Zucker**, CEO, InterTech Group, philanthropist and child of Holocaust survivors.

## *The Pinewood Honor Code*

A \$100 bill sits in Pinewood's main foyer every day.

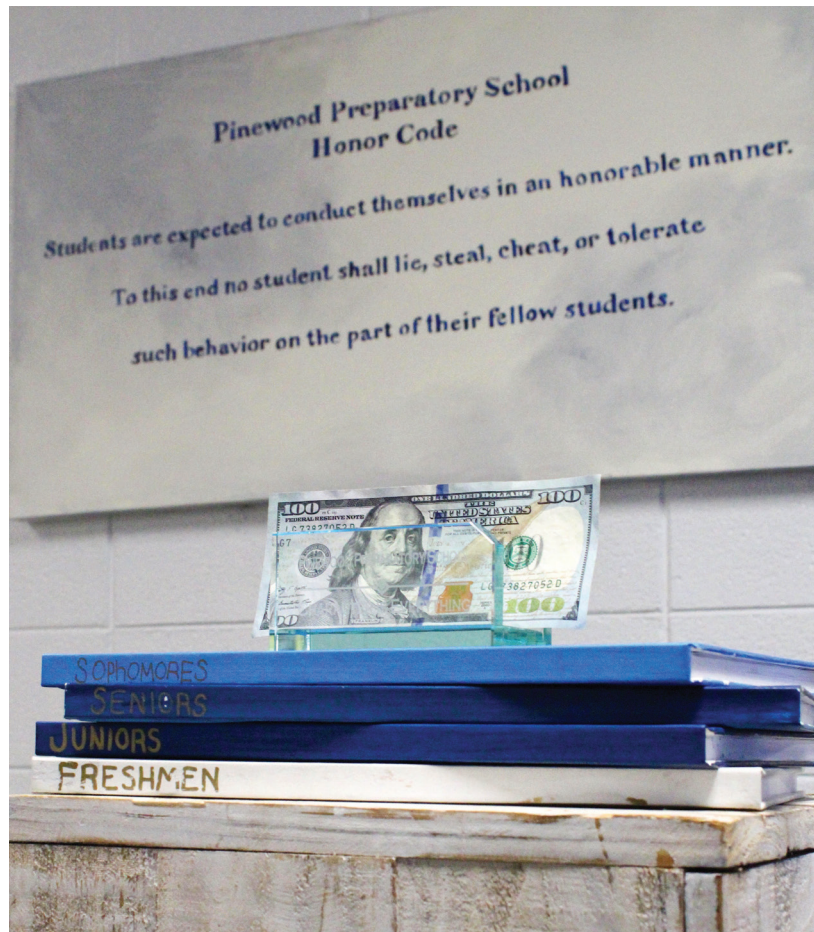
Placed in an open glass holder that reads,

“Character is everything.”

It can be found atop a pile of notebooks, signed by each student committing to the honor code:

*Students are expected to conduct themselves in an honorable manner.*

*To this end no student shall lie, steal, cheat, or tolerate such behavior on the part of their fellow students.*



*This is Pinewood.*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD**

Bill Cobb  
Jessie Gauthier  
Kenny Gardner  
Rusty Lloyd  
David McConnell  
Trudy Robertson

**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP**

Dr. Dan Seiden, *Head of School*  
Mrs. Julie Londergan, *Assistant Head of School, Chief Financial Officer*  
Mrs. Rhett Frampton, *Assistant Head of School, Head of Lower School*  
Dr. Angie Ringley, *Assistant Head of School, Head of Middle School*  
Mrs. Babette Hamilton, *Assistant Head of School, Head of High School*  
Mr. Brendan Diffley, *Assistant Head of School, Director of College Counseling*

**ACCREDITATION**

National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)  
Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)  
South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)  
South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA)  
Palmetto Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)  
Tri-County Admissions Council  
COGNIA

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Tomorrow the world!

*Pinewood*  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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**PinewoodPrep.com**