EXPLORE . EXCITE . ENGAGE.
MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that, in life, knowledge must be guided by values.

Through a commitment to character formation and a rigorous and inspirational academic program, The Peck School strives to build in each student the capacity for disciplined learning and consideration of others.

With dedicated faculty and families, we prepare our students to succeed in secondary school and to lead healthy, productive, and principled lives.
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Dear Members of The Peck School Community,

In June 2015, The Peck School Board of Trustees adopted our new strategic plan, which sets an ambitious and exciting path forward for our beloved School. Peck has a history of providing excellence in education, and our new plan will continue that excellence while ensuring our program and school evolves to meet the rapidly changing world in which we live. We have put forth a plan with the belief that Peck should be a community that fosters exploration, that bursts with excitement, and that sparks engagement.

Throughout our inclusive process, we engaged multiple school constituencies, including students, parents, past parents, alums, teachers, staff, administrators, and trustees and, at each step, heard remarkable consensus about what makes Peck such a special school community. As a result, it’s only fitting that the first part of our new strategic plan, *Building from Strength*, sends a clear message about our commitment to honor what is core to Peck and our program. From there, we organized the plan around three pillars:

- Integrated and Inspirational Learning
- A Culture of Teaching Excellence
- A Transformative Community

The plan does not deviate from Peck’s proud history or traditional values, but it does set ambitious goals to ensure we respond to the changes around us, goals that will only ensure our School continues graduating future leaders of tomorrow.

The next few months will be spent establishing an action and implementation plan. We have clear marching orders to make exploration a core component of our learning experience so that students are excited by what they are learning and fully engaged in the process. Learning is not neat and easy; it is, when done best, a dynamic, exciting process that requires trial and error and ongoing inquiry. We are charged to maintain our deeply held commitment to develop and invest in a culture of teaching excellence that allows our teachers to grow and evolve with the changes around us. And, finally, we are challenged to ensure our community remains one that welcomes broad engagement across all school groups while continuing to widen Peck’s reach.

As you read through this plan, we hope that you share our excitement for Peck’s bright future. We are very lucky in that we come to our new strategic plan from a true place of strength, and we look forward to continuing Peck’s proud tradition of excellence.

Holly P. Brown  
Edward J. Foley IV ’85  
Andrew C. Delinsky

Trustee  
President, Board of Trustees  
Head of School

Co-Chair  
Co-Chair  
Co-Chair
Building From Strength

Since 1893, The Peck School has stood for excellence in education. With an emphasis on character education and a challenging yet inspirational academic program, Peck has many strengths to celebrate and to carry into the future. While new technology, societal shifts, and dynamic local and global trends demand ongoing attention and require programmatic evolution, we believe that core elements of the Peck experience must remain intact as they timelessly serve our students and families and represent the heart of who we are and what we do. **We commit** to ensuring Peck remains true to its history and core beliefs as we continue to prepare students to lead healthy, productive, and principled lives.

**WHAT WE PROMISE:**

- **Remain a mission driven school**
- **Continue graduating engaged, disciplined, and organized learners, while equipping students with the life skills necessary to succeed and to thrive in a complex, changing world**
- **Maintain our focus on character education, InDeCoRe, and Consideration of Others, while always seeking opportunities to build character and make value-based decisions**
- **Honor our history and remain a school of traditions, one that values a firm handshake, strong eye contact, and the everyday manners that have been a hallmark of a Peck experience for years**
- **Remain a school that deeply values relationships and connections between students, parents, faculty and staff, and alumni**
- **Continue prioritizing the growth and development of our faculty and staff**
- **Steadfastly search for families who are committed to and embrace the Peck experience**
- **Enhance our local and national reputation as a K-8 school of choice**
Part I: Integrated and Inspirational Learning

A global environment marked by rapid technological, economic, and societal change demands an educational program that prepares students to thrive in an increasingly complex and connected world. We commit to providing authentic learning experiences rooted in Peck’s Life Skills and Traits that allow for meaningful connections with each other and across disciplines.

WHAT WE PROMISE:

- Develop an integrated STEAM program with an emphasis on creativity, real-world problem solving, collaboration, risk taking, and experiential learning
- Emphasize discussion-based inquiry in the Humanities through curricular alignment and interdisciplinary teaching
- Optimize organizational structure to support STEAM and Humanities initiatives
- Incorporate a student-centered classroom approach to deepen student engagement and to prepare students for success in this evolving world
- Enhance and celebrate visual and performing art opportunities throughout the Peck experience
- Explore immersive signature and capstone experiences for Upper School students
- Affirm Peck’s leadership and public speaking programs to further distinguish the K-8 experience
- Explore hiring a lower school math specialist to develop curricula and to share best practices
- Enrich and enliven Lower School students’ secondary language experience in and out of the classroom
- Pursue opportunities to increase interscholastic academic and artistic competitions
- Reimagine existing and new campus facilities to support innovative and integrated learning
Part II: A Culture of Teaching Excellence

Peck’s success is predicated on the continued strength of our faculty. Delivering a meaningful and dynamic program requires inspired, creative teachers who model best pedagogical practices and who are encouraged to innovate. Informed by current research on how children best learn, teachers must continue to evolve instructional strategies. We commit to creating a faculty culture of ongoing growth and development and to rewarding teaching excellence.

WHAT WE PROMISE:

• Prioritize ongoing faculty growth and professional development to support a dynamic teaching and learning culture
• Reimagine the faculty goal setting and evaluation process to ensure teaching excellence at all levels
• Support a shift to more student-centered learning, including project-based opportunities and assessments utilizing digital technologies
• Strategically equip teachers with proven and relevant technologies to enhance teaching and learning
• Create a more fluid process for, and culture of, ongoing curricular review and reflection
• Create meaningful rewards for teachers honoring both loyalty and excellence in teaching
• Create a more transparent and structured faculty compensation system
Part III: A Transformative Community

Peck is a school that fosters lifelong connections, which, for generations, have powered our extraordinary K-8 experience. Our community is vibrant and joyful, and we strive to celebrate the unique differences of students and families. Inspired by our relationships, we provide experiences to attract and define a student’s career at Peck. **We commit** to deepening our own community’s connections, celebrating differences, and engaging locally and globally.

**WHAT WE PROMISE:**

- Clearly define the transformative value of Peck’s K-to-8 educational and experiential framework
- Establish a standing Diversity Committee, led by a faculty or staff member, to support the School’s commitment to diversity and inclusivity
- Analyze new ways of drawing prospective families to campus
- Ensure a seamless connection between the Lower and Upper School experience
- Expand alumni and past parent programs to further engage them in various aspects of the School
- Strengthen our connection to the Morristown community through meaningful service and partnerships
- Emphasize the ongoing health and wellness of the student community
EXPLORE . EXCITE . ENGAGE.