



STRATEGIC VISION 2018



A WORD FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Since the founding of Saddle River Day School in 1957, our commitment to the academic education and the social/emotional well-being of our students has remained unwavering. Decades of dedicated teachers, administrators and trustees have devoted themselves to our Mission and Core Values, making Saddle River Day School the excellent school that it is today.

This new Strategic Vision, which was created with the input of all constituencies, recognizes that education is not a static endeavor, but one that must constantly adjust to the fluid world in which we live. It must be responsive to the current needs of the students, not only to provide them with the best education possible, but to lay a strong foundation for their future.

Please dedicate some time to reading our collective vision for the next few years at Saddle River Day School. Some sections are intentionally open ended so that we can adjust to our rapidly changing world; we are committed to making sure that our students are learning the skills they will need not only for college but also for the world they will step into once they finish their formal education.

Eileen Lambert
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Edward Tafaro
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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NOT A STATIC
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WHICH WE LIVE.



Saddle River Day School executed the 2013 initiatives under a fiscally responsible budget every year.

APPROXIMATELY EVERY FIVE YEARS, WE SET A NEW VISION AND ESTABLISH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES THAT GUIDE US IN UPHOLDING THE MISSION OF SADDLE RIVER DAY SCHOOL.

CELEBRATING A VISION FULFILLED

Saddle River Day School launched a comprehensive and ambitious strategic vision in the fall of 2013, which has been largely completed. Based on the strategic initiatives listed in 2013, we:

- Expanded our challenging course offerings in the Upper School, including several Advanced Placement courses as well as Engineering and Freshman Seminar.
- Prioritized individual instruction of critical learning skills in mathematics and language arts.
- Focused on integrating a strong STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) curriculum.
- Built the IDEAS Lab (Innovation, Design, Engineering, Art and Science) for students to actively explore concepts in 3D printing, coding, robotics, electronics and other advanced uses of technology.
- Hired a full-time research librarian, who has created a defined and integrated research curriculum in every division.
- Raised teacher salaries, provided tuition assistance for pursuing master's degrees and funded a robust professional development program—to ensure we attract and retain the best educators possible.
- Reinforced our commitment to technology, adding a Bring Your Own Device program for the Middle and Upper schools; expanding our graphic design, videography and photography opportunities; and educating students about the ethical use of technology involving social media and plagiarism.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As we embark on the next strategic plan, we know that much of the work is never fully complete. We will continue to:

- Draw the finest teachers in the region to educate our students.
- Challenge and support each one of our students.
- Create new, innovative and relevant academic offerings.
- Offer our distinctive STREAM-based programs and integrate them into our curriculum.
- Grow our endowment and run a fiscally sound budget.

OUR MISSION REMAINS STEADFAST.

MISSION STATEMENT

We inspire each child to achieve
personal and academic excellence
and to become a caring and ethical
contributor to society.

CORE VALUES

EVERYONE COUNTS

At Saddle River Day School,
all children and adults matter;
their talents and
contributions are prized.

LOVE OF LEARNING

Saddle River Day School engenders
a lifelong love of learning in our
students with a caring and committed
faculty, staff and administration.

INTELLECTUAL RISK TAKING

Intellectual risk taking is encouraged and
celebrated through a nurturing, intimate
environment that ensures the physical
and emotional security of each child.

THROUGH OUR MISSION AND CORE VALUES,
WE CULTIVATE AN EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES STUDENTS TO
SUCCEED AT TOP COLLEGES AND IN PRESTIGIOUS CAREERS.

FORGING A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE.

INITIATIVE 1



**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

INITIATIVE 2



**ROBUST
STUDENT LIFE**

INITIATIVE 3



**BUILDINGS
AND GROUNDS**

INITIATIVE 4



**FINANCIAL
STABILITY**

1 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

OBJECTIVE

WE WILL REVIEW AND REVISE THE COURSE OF STUDY TO ENSURE STUDENTS ARE PREPARED TO SUCCEED IN THEIR COLLEGIATE AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

COLLEGE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM

Saddle River Day School will continue to provide a diverse liberal arts curriculum—from Pre-K to Grade 12—which infuses the traditional academic disciplines with multiple opportunities for student inquiry, analysis and critical thinking. Following a curriculum that develops strong communication and collaboration skills as well as creative self-expression, students will feel prepared for the independence of collegiate studies.

We will extend our ability to differentiate instruction, recognizing that each student is a learner with individual needs for challenge and support. To continue to meet learners where they are, we will craft a more flexible and responsive program that leads each student to personal and academic excellence.

To remain ahead of our competition, we will create more signature programs that distinguish us from other institutions.

INVALUABLE CAREER SKILLS

The 21st-century work environment requires individuals who embrace change, take initiative and welcome new challenges. Our curriculum will continue to provide multifaceted interdisciplinary learning opportunities that calls for students to apply their full knowledge across many subject areas in solving complex problems. We will present more real-world projects for students to experience various types of workplaces firsthand.

FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to encourage, support and challenge faculty members to reflect upon their own instruction and to find innovative and compelling ways to implement the curriculum. Ongoing professional development will firmly establish our school as an institution known for employing the best faculty and the most advanced teaching methods.

We will recruit and retain a diverse and well-qualified faculty. And we will continue to require that all teachers have or obtain their master's degree within five years of their hire.



Our integrated STREAM curriculum will continue to differentiate us from our peer institutions and prepare our students to succeed in whatever profession they choose.

2 ROBUST STUDENT LIFE

OBJECTIVE

IN EVERY GRADE AND EVERY DIVISION, WE WILL FOSTER A COMMUNITY IN WHICH STUDENTS FEEL THEY ARE KNOWN, VALUED AND APPRECIATED AS VITAL MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL.

WELCOMING OUR DIFFERENCES

In accordance with our mission, we will expand opportunities to celebrate the diversity of the Saddle River Day School community, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic background. We will embrace and increase opportunities to bring the outside world into the student experience, highlighting different perspectives, ideas and opinions for students to consider.

We will continue to raise caring and ethical contributors to society who give back and welcome their responsibility to make positive change.

CULTIVATING INVOLVEMENT

Saddle River Day School will generate further opportunities to build a close-knit community through meaningful traditions on campus. These traditions will establish memorable moments for our students, enrich and exhibit academic and social progression, and produce a positive sense of anticipation of upcoming school events among students and parents.

The arts, athletics and clubs are integral to the experience of our students, parents and faculty. Therefore, we will maintain and grow our co-curricular offerings as opportunities and student demand arise.

Within every division, we will nurture an environment in which each child will feel loved and included as a member of the Saddle River Day School family.



3 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

OBJECTIVE

ACROSS OUR CAMPUS, WE WILL HEIGHTEN OUR FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, MAINTAIN OUR CAMPUS'S NATURAL BEAUTY AND ENHANCE ITS FUNCTIONALITY FOR OUR STUDENTS.

We will continue to refine our facilities to always meet students' educational, athletic, artistic and social needs.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In the coming years, we will investigate and institute methods to decrease the carbon footprint of our existing buildings. Furthermore, should opportunities for new construction or renovation present themselves, we will make environmental sustainability a priority.

PHYSICAL PLANT

We will ensure our facilities properly support the requirements of our expanding and evolving academic programs, initiatives and technology. We will reinforce our commitment to integrating the newest technology in our classrooms. And we will accentuate the beautiful parklike setting of our campus.

4 FINANCIAL STABILITY

OBJECTIVE

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE FINANCIAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY A TOP PRIORITY FOR OUR SCHOOL.



With these initiatives, we will sustain a healthy operating budget while remaining a viable option for families of all backgrounds.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

By focusing on growing the endowment and increasing alumni and community fundraising, Saddle River Day School will build a strong foundation of financial strength. We will maintain a fiscally sound budget alongside ongoing efforts to increase annual fund involvement. From a position of financial strength, we will be able to adapt quickly and comprehensively to changing student needs.

ENROLLMENT

We will manage a healthy enrollment in all grades while keeping tuition at an affordable level for a wide range of families. We will also develop innovative admissions practices and marketing strategies to attract new families to the excellence and value of a Saddle River Day School education.



**SADDLE RIVER DAY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Mr. Edward Tafaro

“WITH THE HELP OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY, I LOOK FORWARD TO PUTTING INTO ACTION THE VISION THAT WE HAVE SET FOR OUR SCHOOL.

“OUR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WILL ONLY SERVE TO ADVANCE OUR MISSION AND CORE VALUES AND IMPROVE THE EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION THAT HAS BECOME OUR HALLMARK.”

—EILEEN LAMBERT, HEAD OF SCHOOL

INSPIRE SUCCESS.

IT STARTS AT SADDLE RIVER DAY SCHOOL.



Pre-K – 12

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SaddleRiverDay.org