

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are an inclusive community on a mission to inspire unbounded curiosity and independent thought in every one of our students. In a unique educational environment that extends well beyond campus, we nurture students' knowledge of themselves and the world, expanding their full academic and personal potential while preparing them to lead lives characterized by thoughtfulness, integrity, and a quest to effect positive change.

## DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Diversity is a condition of excellence. Embracing a diverse, inclusive community is fundamental to providing the most rigorous, globally competitive education. At SCH, we aim to engage, understand, and celebrate the broad range of human experiences and perspectives. Through our curriculum, professional development, community-centered events, and daily interactions, we are committed to cultivating empathy and inclusion, and to nurturing the authentic expression of every individual.

## VALUES

Integrity, Courage, Diversity,  
Thoughtfulness, Resilience

Click on underlined  
text for links to  
other content.



SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY

WHERE TRADITION MEETS THE FUTURE  
WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE  
WHERE THE CITY MEETS THE WOODS  
WHERE AMBITION MEETS OPPORTUNITY

## OVERVIEW

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (SCH) is the largest independent school in Philadelphia with a 160-year history of academic excellence in preparing young men and women for their futures. SCH offers a rigorous pre-school to high school college preparatory curriculum to more than 1,050 students from over 100 regional zip codes and international origins.

SCH is the product of a merger of two historic single-sex schools, Springside School (est. 1879) and Chestnut Hill Academy (est. 1861). Its unique educational model of single-sex classrooms in Pre-K through 8th grade capped by a coed experience in 9th-12th empowers students to thrive as independent creative thinkers.

SCH is distinguished by signature programs in entrepreneurial leadership, engineering and robotics, arts and digital media, outdoor education, and athletics and is guided by the principles of environmental accountability and sustainability.

Situated on a 62-acre campus in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, the school prides itself on preparing students to be global citizens who lead lives characterized by thoughtfulness, integrity, and a passion to effect positive change.

## SCH FACTS AT A GLANCE



### FOUNDED 1861

SCH is the largest independent school in Philadelphia, built on 160 years of tradition, innovation & academic excellence.



### ENROLLMENT

**35 %** Racial diversity

**1,080** 2020–2021 Enrollment†



### ENDOWMENT

**\$42 M**



### SCH FACULTY

**73 %** hold advanced degrees & an average of **19** years' teaching experience.



### CLASS OF 2020

**89 %** accepted into one of top 2 college choices.



### CLASS SIZE

**15-18** average



### TUITION

Pre-K	25,100
Kindergarten	28,250
Lower School	32,400
Middle School	38,700
Upper School	43,100



### % FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

**40+ %** in 2020-2021

†

### ACCREDITATION

Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools

## THE SCH PROGRAM

SCH is committed to fostering the time-honored fundamentals of intellectual rigor, critical analysis, and thoughtful evaluation, and to developing young men and women of character and self-knowledge who can hold to their compass north while navigating an ever-changing world.

An SCH education prepares students to step into the world as thoughtful, engaged citizens with a desire to do good and make a difference. Through their SCH experience, students learn that no challenge is insurmountable if approached with the right amount of creativity, resourcefulness, and resilience.

SCH students learn in an authentically close community where they are nurtured and encouraged by a dedicated, passionate, and highly educated faculty. The community created by students and faculty is one in which each student's unique gifts and capabilities are respected and valued, and in which diversity across all dimensions is welcomed and deemed essential to the school's long-term health and vibrancy.

## CAMPUS

SCH is situated in the beautiful and historic neighborhood of Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia. The school's urban-suburban campus comprises 62-acres adjacent to the Wissahickon Valley Park and encompasses 11 buildings, including recently renovated athletic fields and facilities and a new Lower School.

Each division is housed in its own building on a different part of campus. SCH also has a head-of-school residence, which is located across the street from campus.

Distinctive campus features include 17 laboratories, including a 1,600-square-foot state-of-the-art Engineering and Robotics Lab, 3 design and fabrication labs; and 10 science labs; a historic national landmark Wissahickon Inn; 5 Sol Lewitt art installations; a half-acre solar array installation; low and high ropes course; and a soon-to-be-renovated historic performing arts venue.

SCH's campus is accessible from all areas. It is a five-minute walk from a city commuter train line (St. Martin's station) and a 15-minute walk from a bus stop (at Germantown Avenue and Willow Grove Avenue). SCH also has free busing available from 12 public school districts and a private van transporting students from Center City.



The older ECC group practices their engineering and building skills.

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## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### Embodying Excellence. Inspiring Inquiry.

SCH has a long and proud academic history of preparing students for higher education and the world beyond. Our rigorous curriculum is aligned with the highest level of secondary academic standards. Grounded in the best thinking and practices of each discipline and infused with a spirit of innovation and creativity, it challenges students to continually grow and expand their intellectual boundaries—to go beyond the expected.

From the youngest ages, SCH students are encouraged to explore and problem solve—to deepen their understanding, synthesize their knowledge, and hone their analytical skills. Behind everything is the expectation that students will invest their best and that faculty will give their best.

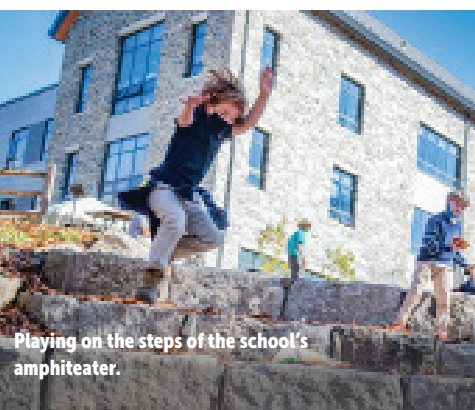
Our comprehensive Upper School curriculum is designed to offer students a taste of intellectual freedom. With 42 honors courses, 13 AP-level courses, and more than 100 electives, the curriculum enables students to pursue a wide variety of subjects at different levels of depth and intensity and to delve deeply into their passions.

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## ACADEMIC DIVISIONS

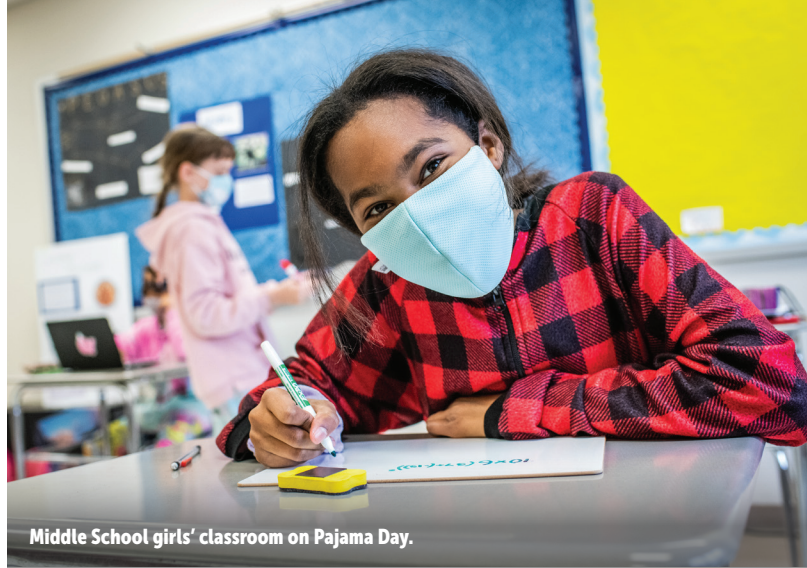
### Early Childhood Center – Ages 18 Mos through 4 Yrs (Coed program)

SCH Academy's Early Childhood Center (ECC) opened its doors in January of 2020, offering a warm and stimulating private



preschool environment for young learners based on the internationally respected Reggio Emilia method, which emphasizes child-centered, teacher-guided exploration in a relationship-driven environment, with a strong focus on nature and community as sources of learning.

The Reggio approach aligns with SCH educational priorities and values the child as strong, capable, resilient, and rich with wonder and knowledge. The program emphasizes project-based activities, the arts, the environment, family participation, and community.



Middle School girls' classroom on Pajama Day.

### Lower School – Pre-K through Grade 4 (Single sex) (Separate boys' and girls' programs)

Whether they're drawn to blocks or bugs, sports or space, SCH Academy's single-sex Lower Schools provide learning environments that encourage our youngest students to explore their interests freely without gender pressure or expectations. Classes incorporate a wide range of learning opportunities for individual thought and journaling, discussion in pairs and small groups, and collaborative work in teams. In addition, students are encouraged to build, make, do, and reflect on their work.

At SCH, students are valued and nurtured as the unique individuals they are. Each child's passions and special talents are celebrated and shared, contributing to the well-being and enrichment of the larger community.

Creative problem solving is introduced early into the curriculum, enabling even our youngest students to develop confidence in themselves and their ability to find solutions. An emphasis on social-emotional tools parallels and supports our students' academic learning, enabling them to develop the communication, empathy, and cultural competency skills so critical to succeed in school and widely demanded in today's collaborative, global work environment.

The foundational work for developing an understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion begins in Lower School through the Pollyanna Racial Literacy curriculum, the use of the Teaching Tolerance Anti-bias Framework, and a responsive program developed by our faculty and staff called BREATHE (Be Ready to Embrace All Through Hope and Equality).

A focus on the outdoors is also an important feature of the Lower School program, supported by the location of the new McCausland Lower School building. Perched on the edge of the Wissahickon Valley Park with easy access to its woods, trails, and stream, the building has been designed to let the outdoors in and our students out into nature for regular exploration and discovery. Excursions to the park to release trout into the stream, do reflective journaling, or peek under leaves and rocks for tiny woodland creatures are an integral part of our students' learning.



Middle School girls enjoying a playground rope swing.

By the time they move on from Lower School, our youngest students have developed a strong academic foundation, love of learning, and toolkit of relational skills that will enable them to manage the academic challenges and social dynamics of our Middle Schools.

### Middle School – Grades 5 through 8 (Separate boys' and girls' programs)

In Middle School, we are committed to building on our Lower School foundation and continuing a single-sex academic experience in grades 5-8. The Middle School years are transformative, both academically and socially. When boys and girls step into our classrooms, they are able to shed gender expectations, find their unique voices, and develop a strong sense of self.

In Middle School, we emphasize both the process and the content of learning, recognizing that the skills students build through their search for knowledge are as important as the knowledge attained. Students manage their own schedules as they move from class to class, develop an increased level of independence, and learn important lessons about organization and time management.

While Middle School is a time to solidify foundations through core studies, it is also a time for students to explore new horizons and discover budding passions. Under the skilled guidance of Middle School faculty, students develop the confidence to branch out socially and intellectually, manage an increasingly challenging curriculum, take healthy risks, and exercise empathy and respect for others.

Over the four years, students analyze literature, build solar cars, craft their own poetry, lead probability carnivals, participate in math and reading competitions, and use Sketch Up to design 3D models, among countless other learning experiences. Our 8th grade students move on to Upper School empowered to tackle increased academic expectations and take the reins of leadership.

### Upper School – Grades 9 through 12 (Coed program)

The upper grades at SCH are all about rigor, self-directed work, expanding horizons, honing skills, and using one's accumulated knowledge and experience to formulate independent opinions.

In their last four years at SCH, students assume increasingly greater responsibility and independence as they build toward college-level academic expectations and performance.

Guided by a deeply committed faculty and supportive college counseling staff, students complete their core academic work and choose from a robust array of electives and activities that will help them assemble academic résumés that speak to their strengths and earn them entrance to the nation's top colleges and universities.

Through experiences like the 9th grade Outward Bound trip, sophomore CEL Capstone course, and project-based work in their classes, students deepen their problem-solving and leadership skills while exercising the resilience, perseverance, and initiative they have been encouraged to develop throughout their time at SCH.

Older students also assume greater leadership responsibilities as leaders of the school, helping to articulate and embody important school values for those who look up to them and one day will take their place.

Upper School course electives and extracurricular activities provide an opportunity for students to engage more deeply with a personal interest or passion, whether it's creating a thought-provoking video, leading a club on diversity, crafting a scientific experiment, building circuitry for a robot, developing a venture idea, or competing on the athletic field.

Both in and out of the classroom, SCH students are developing the intellectual discipline, skills, empathy, breadth of perspective, and self-confidence that will ensure their readiness for the challenges of college and beyond.

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## **COLLEGE COUNSELING**

Our College Counseling staff, with more than 66+ years' combined college counseling experience, demystifies the decision-making behind college admissions and clarifies the critical but often enigmatic factors that colleges and universities consider when selecting a class. Most importantly, they help students focus in on what they want from their college experience and identify which institutions offer the best fit for their interests and goals.

While students are expected to take ownership of their college application process, the counselors are there all along the way to offer quality information, honest evaluation, and encouragement.

Students' unique passions, strengths, and individuality are at the heart of the college process, a journey during which the

students, their parents, and their counselors work together to identify colleges that will nurture students' interests and foster their continued self-discovery.

During 9th grade, students meet with the college counselors as a class to learn about transcripts, summer opportunities, and extracurricular pursuits—information that will help each student to plot a purposeful course through the next three years.

In the winter of the 10th grade year, each student is assigned to an individual college counselor. During their junior and senior years, students attend regular college counseling classes and enjoy unlimited one-on-one time with their individual counselors, during which they are pushed to think deeply about who they are and who they want to become.

This line of questioning leads students to find the colleges that are true “fits”—institutions where the intellectual and emotional growth that began at SCH will continue to blossom. In 2020, 89% of the senior class was admitted to their first- or second-choice college or university.

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## AREAS OF DISTINCTION

### Single-sex-to-Coed Educational Model

With separate Lower and Middle Schools for boys and girls and a coed Upper School, SCH is the only Philadelphia-area independent school structured to offer age-appropriate learning environments for every stage of a child's social and intellectual development.



Sophomore CEL Capstone project.

Faculty in the Lower and Middle Schools are experts in the different ways that boys and girls learn and have designed their curriculum to support these different learning styles. The single-sex environment offers younger learners a safe place to learn and explore free from the burden and limitations of gender expectations. The coed Upper School gives students experience in managing the diverse perspectives, shared leadership, and broader social interactions they will encounter as they move into the larger worlds of college and career.

### The Sands Center For Entrepreneurial Leadership

Established in 2012, the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) is committed to developing an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset in every SCH student. This innovative program enhances Pre-K-12 education with learning opportunities and classes that expose students to new skills and the possibility that



Middle School trip to Hawk Mountain.

they can shape their futures and the world.

The CEL program is focused on building an entrepreneurial approach to problem solving through an emphasis on four key traits that comprise the entrepreneurial mindset:

- Opportunity seeking
- Creative problem solving
- Resiliency
- Resourcefulness

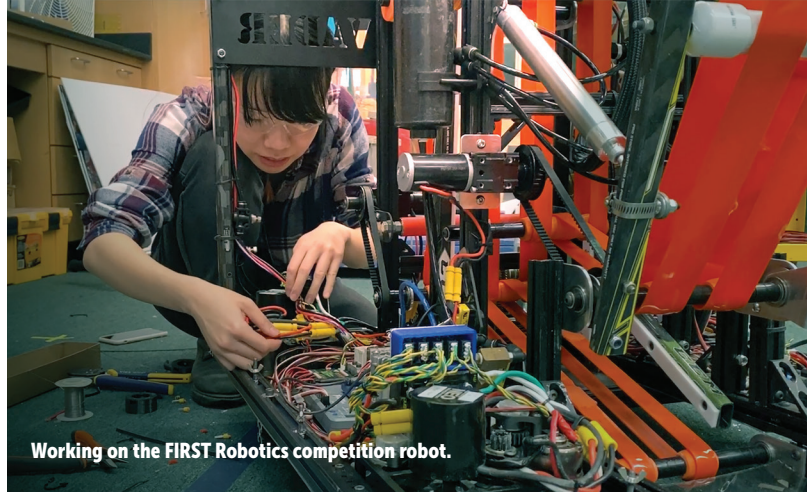
To instill this mindset, CEL is integrated into the Pre-K-12 school experience. The CEL curriculum begins in Lower School with open-ended project-based challenges integrated into the classroom activities. The formal CEL curriculum begins in 5th grade and runs through 10th grade when sophomores apply their five years of CEL learning to creating a venture of their own design in what is called the Capstone experience.

In 11th and 12th grade, students can continue to pursue their ventures through a variety of electives and independent study opportunities, including the Venture Accelerator in which they actually [bring their venture to market](#). Graduates of the CEL program have gone on to create many award-winning ventures, including a technology to convert plastic water bottles into filament for 3D printers, a mobile app designed to engage students in the election process, and a backpack for the homeless filled with necessities like toothbrushes, utensils, socks, wipes, and more.

## [Outdoor and Trip Programs](#)

Getting students outside to experience their surroundings firsthand builds confidence and independence in the natural world around them and a greater appreciation for the intrinsic value of nature.

SCH is fortunate to be situated next door to one of the Philadelphia area's largest natural parks, Wissahickon Valley Park, which is part of the 64-mile Wissahickon Watershed. SCH students regularly explore its trails, study its flora and fauna, and analyze the water in its creek, which feeds into



Working on the FIRST Robotics competition robot.

the Schuylkill River and supplies 10% of the area's drinking water.

The SCH Outdoor Program is designed to expand the curriculum beyond the classroom. Through visits to historic and natural settings related to their studies, students deepen and extend their understanding of what they have been learning in the classroom, while developing basic outdoor skills that they can carry with them for years to come.

SCH Lower School students spend a considerable amount of time exploring the Wissahickon Valley—an amazing resource right out the Lower School's backdoor. Their time spent in the Wissahickon focuses on learning to become good stewards of the land, studying the area's natural resources, and caring for their surroundings.

Students' outdoor experiences are capped with a five-day Outward Bound camping and hiking experience in the first few days of their freshman year, when they explore the wilds of a regional state park and bond around a shared challenging experience as they prepare to enter Upper School.

## [Arts and New Media](#)

Fueled by the passions of our students, the Arts and New Media Department provides an extensive and ever-growing list of creative opportunities throughout all divisions in music, performing arts, visual arts, and new media.

Beginning with Pre-K, students are taught skills woven around artistic principles, concepts, and habits that grow in complexity from year to year.

SCH's faculty of working artists encourage students to follow their interests without boundaries and extend their creative abilities into the newest dimensions of arts expression.

The new media program was created with the belief that all students will need to develop new media skills in order to be literate in the digital world in which we live. New media skills include learning technologies to communicate, present, author, and become a responsible digital citizen.

SCH's new media curriculum looks towards an ever-expanding array of emerging technologies with courses and after-school programs in video production, music production, creative coding,



Player on coed SCH hockey team.

design and fabrication, 3D design, interactive design, design and fabrication, photography, animation, and more.

The arts curriculum actively incorporates STEAM-based projects as a way to bridge to other disciplines and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) program.

### Engineering and Robotics

From their earliest years at SCH, students learn to become creative designers and problem solvers through the Engineering and Robotics program. Whether it's constructing a LEGO castle in 2nd grade, designing and manufacturing a marketable consumer product in Middle School, or programming milling machines to make parts for human-sized robots in Upper School, SCH students are learning important skills for the 21st century, while being challenged and having fun.

The school partners with the international FIRST Robotics program (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to bring students, ages 6-18, opportunities to apply their design and engineering skills in age-appropriate challenges. SCH has 14 robotics teams—2 Upper School, 4 Middle School, 8 Lower School—and, on average, 160 students in grades 1-12 participating in FIRST Robotics activities.

The Upper School FIRST Robotics team has performed consistently well, garnering a first place at the FIRST World Robotics Championships in 2019. In the past, the team has won multiple awards for design, innovation, and engineering and the coveted Chairman's Award five times.

The Engineering and Robotics program offers Upper School students a college-level engineering experience in a space unparalleled among area independent schools. Students have the opportunity to work side by side with businesses, parents, and faculty mentors, who provide not only a variety of perspectives and skills but also adult role modeling.

### Athletics

The SCH Athletic Department seeks to provide each student with a sense of affiliation, motivation, and accomplishment by balancing challenge and demand with support and encouragement. Above all, we ask our athletes to win and lose with class and dignity, and we hold them to the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Our coaching staff is committed to fostering confidence, good decision making, responsibility, and leadership—qualities that will serve our student-athletes well throughout life.

SCH boys' and girls' teams are members of the area private school Inter-Academic League (Inter-Ac), the oldest secondary school league in the country, formed in 1887.

SCH has a longstanding tradition of excellence in athletics. SCH has accumulated 74 Inter-Ac championships since it joined the league in 1926 and five PAISAA state championships since 2011. Since 2017, SCH athletes have won four state titles and six Inter-Ac championships in boys' and girls' soccer, baseball, and

girls' track and field. Students are recruited every year to play at the collegiate level—66 between 2018 and 2020.

Over 60% of the Upper School student body participates on at least one athletic team, with many participating on two. The SCH athletic program fields 17 interscholastic team sports in Upper School:

Boys/Girls Cross Country	Coed Ice Hockey
Girls Field Hockey	Boys/Girls Indoor Track
Boys Football	Boys/Girls Squash
Boys/Girls Golf	Coed Wrestling
Boys/Girls Soccer	Boys Baseball
Boys/Girls Tennis	Boys/Girls Crew
Girls Volleyball	Boys/Girls Track and Field
Boys/Girls Lacrosse	Girls Softball
Boys/Girls Basketball	

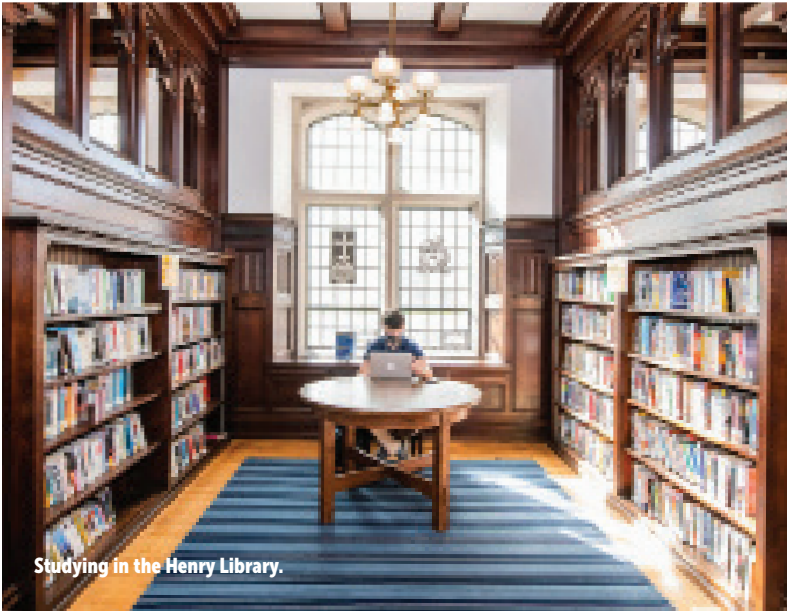
SCH's impressive athletic facilities include two multipurpose synthetic playing fields, seven tennis courts, one softball and two baseball fields, a 52,000-square-foot field house, three gymnasiums, two fitness centers, 10 squash courts, an indoor rowing tank, and 20 ergometers.

## KEY BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

### Governance

SCH is governed by a Board of Trustees. Trustees are elected to a three-year term by the board. Trustees may not serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms unless by vote of a three-quarters majority of the board then in office and then may serve only one additional three-year term. Trustees who have served two terms may be eligible to serve as trustee again one year after the expiration of their previous term.

The head of school serves ex officio as a voting member of the Board of Trustees. The presidents of the Parents' Association and the Alumni Associations serve ex officio as non-voting members. The number of elected trustees may be between 18 and 50. The officers of the corporation are the chair(s) of the board, the president of the corporation, the head of school, a secretary, a treasurer, and, in



Studying in the Henry Library.

addition, may include one or more vice presidents.

The administrative powers of the school are held by the trustees who have charge, control, and management of the property, affairs, and funds of the school and have the power and authority to do and perform all acts not inconsistent with the by-laws.

In order to efficiently govern the school's operations, members of the Board of Trustees make up the following committees:

- Assets and Finance Committee (includes Investment and Buildings and Grounds),
- Audit Committee,
- Development Committee,
- Education and Enrollment Committee (includes Educational Policy, Marketing, and Athletics),
- Executive Committee,
- and Governance Committee (includes Committee on Trustees).

## Development

Springside School, Chestnut Hill Academy, and now SCH families have invested in the future of our school for more than 160 years to ensure the very best education for our students. Giving is an integral part of the success of SCH Academy. The extraordinary generosity of our community members makes SCH what it is today—a school with high expectations, strong values, and happy, hardworking students.

In 2012, the Board of Trustees embarked on an ambitious and comprehensive, multiphase, multiyear redesign of the school's 62-acre campus, including new construction, facility renovation, redistribution of the academic divisions, and improved traffic flow and parking.

In June 2012, the Board of Trustees approved a campus master plan to integrate SCH's two campuses (formerly Springside School and Chestnut Hill Academy). Completed in 2014, Phase I unified and enhanced the campus green space, pathways, and athletic fields. This phase also included new pathways, plantings,

and green areas as well as a water management system beneath the fields to support runoff and flooding.

Phase II, completed in 2019, entailed construction of a 77,900 square-foot lower school—The McCausland Lower School and Commons. This new space is home to both the Lower School for Boys and the Lower School for Girls. It houses separate wings for boys and girls with separate academic classrooms. Other spaces supporting the curriculum are shared, but at different times. These include a library; gymnasium; dedicated spaces for music, art, science (traditional science, environmental science, robotics and engineering) and language; a café; **maker space lab**, and a performing arts/meeting space. The new Lower School also includes outdoor learning spaces, flexible learning spaces, and galleries.

As the third and final phase of the school's 2012 Campus Master Plan, renovations to the Rec (SCH's Upper School performance venue) will support SCH's rich history of arts education. The ambitious renovation plan, estimated to total \$6 million, will transform this treasured space, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of musical, theatrical, and community events.

In addition to the campus master plan and renovations of several iconic spaces in the historic Wissahickon Inn, fundraising efforts continue to focus on the growing the school's endowment and meeting the goals of the SCH Fund.

## Admissions

SCH draws students from 100 zip codes—35% are students of color and more than 42% of families received financial aid/scholarship in 2020-2021. The table below summarizes admissions activity for the last five years.

## Auxiliary Programs

The school's attractive campus is used almost 24/7 year-round (non-COVID conditions) with robust facility and field rentals, a summer camp program that runs from June to August, an Early Bird and After School and Enrichment program for Lower School students, and, new in 2020, an Early Childhood Center serving children 18 months to 4 years.

Admissions Statistics	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Applications	446	551	583	613	554
# Acceptances	269	236	245	291	282
% Yield	61	80.5	71	67	70
# New Students	164	195	174	196	198
Opening Day Enrollment	1,004	1,020	1,031	1,057	1,080
ECC Enrollment				32	54
#Student Attrits/Withdrawals	90	46	57	55	32
% Attrition	9.7	5.2	5.8	4.6	3.5