



# THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

**For Immediate Release:**

**November 11, 2021**

**Contact:** Julia Molchansky, [julia.molchansky@pennington.org](mailto:julia.molchansky@pennington.org), 609-737-6158

**PENNINGTON, N.J., Nov. 10**---On Wednesday, November 10, The Pennington School honored senior Rafael Ponce de Leon, of Pennington, who signed the NCAA National Letter of Intent to play Division I soccer at Villanova University.

Ponce de Leon put up staggering numbers during his four seasons as the starting goalkeeper for the Pennington varsity boys' soccer program. A four-year starter from 2018 through 2021, Ponce de Leon amassed 30 career shutouts while making 114 career saves and was selected to numerous All-State and All-Prep teams along the way. Ponce de Leon provided his team with a rock-solid foundation on defense, which was a key reason for The Pennington School earning national rankings in three out of his four seasons in goal. Ponce de Leon is sure to pick up more honors as the local news services select their 2021 teams. Ponce de Leon is also on the watch list for Player of the Year within the Mercer County soccer scene. Ponce de Leon was on the high school All-American Watch List and was selected to play in the High School All-American game this spring.

Ponce de Leon also shines in goal for his club soccer team, Players Development Academy (PDA), where in the summer of 2021 he was selected U17 MLS Next Best Goalkeeper.

Congratulations to Rafael Ponce de Leon!

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

–30–

**Photo caption:** (from left) Pennington Varsity Boys' Soccer coach Chad Bridges, Pennington School senior Rafael Ponce de Leon, and Assistant Varsity Boys' Soccer coach Ryan Stokes.