

SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY



Independent College Preparatory Day School | Preschool-Grade 12 | Philadelphia

OUR MISSION

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**.



Each and every day, our extraordinary student body enjoys the benefit of an inspired education of big and small moments, one guided by gifted teachers at every turn, whose expertise, enthusiasm, and care are unmistakable. Here at SCH, we meet students where they are and grow their competence—and confidence. In addition to developing core knowledge and skills within a demanding curriculum, students learn to draw wisdom from their varied experiences across the academics, arts, and athletics.

And wisdom, we know, is hard earned! Yes, we inevitably teach students how to “do” school in an evolving knowledge economy. Beyond that, though, we teach them how to “do” life in an increasingly unknowable world, by maximizing the vast resources of our handsome campus, compelling city, and vibrantly diverse school

community. Our students learn to ask really good questions, play around with ideas, push beyond boundaries, discover and create solutions, and express themselves responsibly. They learn to link learning to life. As a result, they can hold their own, even in a room filled with grownups!

You will know this the minute you step foot on campus. And when our students head for home at the end of a full day, you can rest assured that their time was put to good use and that what they did—what they learned that day—mattered!

Warmly,

Delvin M. Dinkins, Ed.D.
Head of School

WHAT MAKES AN SCH EDUCATION?



To kickstart their Upper School experience and build class spirit, each incoming class of 9th graders participates in a five-day Outward Bound excursion, hiking and camping along the Appalachian trail or in the Delaware Water Gap Recreation area.

AN SCH EDUCATION IS AS RIGOROUS AS ANY WHEN IT COMES TO ACADEMICS AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE. IT'S ALSO MUCH MORE. THESE SIX FEATURES OF OUR SCHOOL SPEAK TO THE BREADTH OF OUR PROGRAM AND WHY AN SCH EDUCATION GOES BEYOND THE EXPECTED.

SINGLE-SEX TO COED

At SCH, our students learn in single-sex elementary and middle school environments followed by a coed high school experience. This allows our youngest students to socialize and explore interests free from the constraints of gender stereotype, while giving our older students exposure to different perspectives and experiences that will prepare them for college and the world beyond.



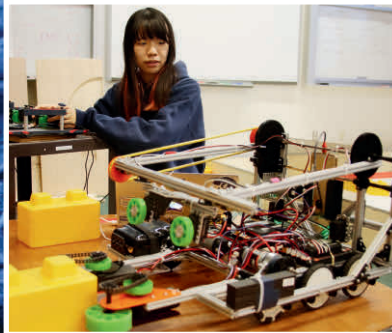
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In SCH's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) program, students build an entrepreneurial mindset—our school's signature approach to creative problem solving. Integrated throughout the Pre-K to 12 curriculum, CEL courses and experiences encourage students to take on challenges related to their passions and create their own solutions, giving them a competitive edge and a drive to "build the future."



ROBOTICS

SCH didn't field a World Champion Robotics Team just by being able to assemble a robot. Reaching that pinnacle requires collaboration at the highest level; hands-on experience with the principles of mechanics, physics, and electronics; resourcefulness; creativity; and the ability to problem solve on the fly—all hallmarks of an SCH education.



OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Not all classrooms have walls, and nature is always knocking at our back door. With the Wissahickon Valley only a stone's throw away, our curriculum finds innovative ways to incorporate trees, rocks, water, and wildlife into our students' everyday lessons, whether they're studying leaf shapes, learning about native species, or testing water quality.



ARTS & NEW MEDIA

SCH's Arts and New Media program offers students a wide array of media for expressing themselves—from woodworking and photography to painting, music, and digital animation—all while learning important lessons in craft and perseverance as they work to build their skills and solve the intellectual puzzles that attend any creative process.



ATHLETICS

SCH's robust athletic program encompasses 17 Upper School and 16 Middle School sports, most offering varsity and junior varsity levels. Our teams participate in the region's most competitive sports leagues, and our senior athletes are regularly recruited to play at the college level. Guiding all of our athletic activities are the principles of good sportsmanship, responsibility, teamwork, and leadership.



UNBOUNDED CURIOSITY

A photograph of four young boys in a classroom setting. They are all wearing dark blue long-sleeved shirts with light blue horizontal stripes on the sleeves. They are gathered around a table, looking intently at something out of frame, presumably an experiment. The boy in the foreground has red hair and is leaning forward. The boy to his right has dark curly hair and is also looking down. The background is slightly blurred, showing other classroom furniture and materials.

Children's natural curiosity is their best teacher, calling them to explore, test, and learn. At SCH, students are encouraged to pursue their own learning through the lens of what interests them and to take an active role in their education. As they open doors to the unknown and step through, their teachers are right by their side, helping to guide, encourage, and point out new avenues for exploration.

Lower School boys observe as one of their classmates conducts an earth science experiment.



“AS A PARENT, I WAS DRAWN TO SCH’S UNIQUE ABILITY TO FOSTER CREATIVITY AND CURIOSITY IN STUDENTS OF EVERY AGE. MY MIDDLE SCHOOLER LEARNED TO BUILD HIS OWN COMPUTER IN THE ROBOTICS LAB AND MY KINDERGARTEN DAUGHTERS RECENTLY MADE A BUG HOTEL IN THE WISSAHICKEN WOODS... THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!

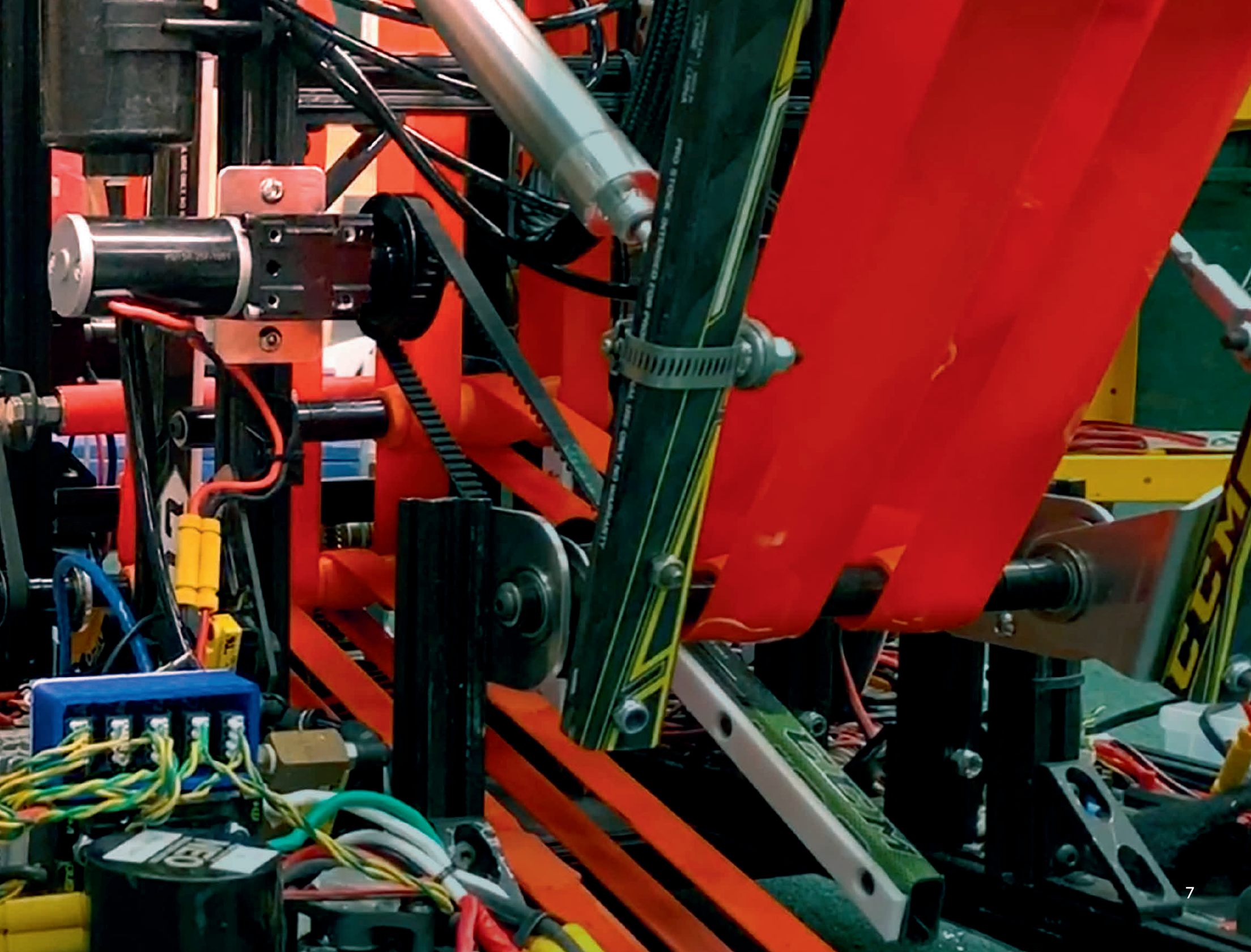
~ SCH PARENT '25, '29

INDEPENDENT THOUGHT

A close-up photograph of a student with dark hair and safety glasses, wearing a plaid shirt, focused on working with a complex array of colorful wires connected to a robot's electronic components. The background shows a workshop environment with various tools and equipment.

At SCH, we emphasize “doing the hard work” of gathering information from credible resources and weighing different perspectives before forming an opinion. Today, building the essential skills of critical thinking is more important than ever. Instead of following the herd, we urge our students to use their minds and think independently—to be guided by the facts of a situation or event and to always act fairly and thoughtfully.

Finetuning their robot's electronic circuitry is just one of many complex tasks that members of SCH Academy's 2019 FIRST World Champions robotics team perform in preparing for competition.



UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



Lower School boys take in the vista from the top of Hawk Mountain, a popular destination in the school's Lower School Outdoor Program.



An SCH education goes far beyond the classroom—from Philadelphia’s museums and historic district to the rugged forests of the Appalachian Mountains, from the neighboring woods of the Wissahickon to the bay and creeks of the Eastern Shore, and from the early industrial ironworks of the Pennsylvania countryside to New York’s high-tech Google headquarters. Wherever our students go, whether urban site or natural landscape, they’re learning about the world around them and that every place has something valuable to teach.

KNOWLEDGE OF THEMSELVES AND T

A background photograph showing a group of students at a conference. In the foreground, a young man with glasses and a young woman with dark curly hair are smiling. In the background, another student is visible, partially obscured. The setting appears to be an indoor event space.

Helping our students grow into self-aware and empathetic citizens is at the core of an SCH education. The ancient Greek maxim, "Know thyself," informs our work of nurturing students' potential and helping them find positive ways to express their individuality. As we encourage students to speak their own minds, we also teach them to respect the right of others to speak theirs. Through exposure to different voices, experiences, and perspectives, our students learn the value of diversity in all its dimensions.

Upper School students share stories during a session of SCHout, the annual student-led conference that draws students and faculty from schools around the region for an open dialogue on race, gender, sexuality, religion, discrimination, and inclusion.

A group of diverse students are smiling in a classroom setting. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair and glasses is smiling, wearing a brown sweater. To her right, another young woman with long brown hair is smiling, wearing a light blue jacket over a yellow shirt. In the background, a student in a red hoodie is holding a blue and black backpack. The overall atmosphere is positive and inclusive.

HE WORLD

“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.

~ RAYNA GUY, SCH DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION, P'26

FULL ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL POTE

A Middle School girl celebrates her first courageous trip down a zip line during a class excursion to the Poconos.



NTIAL

At SCH we build foundations—instilling the confidence, knowledge, and skills that will enable our students to pursue whatever path interests them and to grow into the person they were meant to be. Whether that’s a talented athlete, inspired artist, curious scientist, or expert engineer, what matters is that they develop the capacity and confidence to reach their potential and go as high as they want to go.

A QUEST TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE

From their earliest days, students at SCH are taught that they can be part of the solution—that no one is “too young” to make a difference. Whether it’s constructing a “bug hotel” to help woodland insects survive the winter or developing a process to melt used plastic bottles into 3D printer filament, SCH students are actively engaged in the world around them and using their initiative and talents to effect positive change.

Students in the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership's Venture Accelerator program plan out the marketing for their venture to sell handmade scarves and face masks produced by women in Cambodia.

GE



IDEAS

VENTURE	DESCRIPTION	TEAM MEMBERS	GOALS
PLAN IT		Carine	
BEE KIND		Nilah	
SONAR		Aysha	
STEAM/SONO		Liz	
ENVIRONMENT		Kylie & Alex	
Twisted Spirit		Tiana	
VOLEN TEAM		Kylie	
RENTING TEAMS		Finn	
Post-Service ID		Simone	gather persona focus groups
ESHA Guitars		Darius	interview people who don't have personal relationships with
Intuitive to Buy		elie	
TASK TEENS			
FORNIE FORTS			

CEL offers students a unique opportunity to problem solve in a real-world context and experience the challenges and satisfaction of bringing a venture idea from concept to reality.

THE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) is committed to developing an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset in every student at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy. At SCH, we view entrepreneurship broadly, as an effective approach to problem solving that develops resiliency, resourcefulness, creativity, and the ability to see opportunities where others see obstacles.

To instill this mindset, every SCH student, grades 5–10, advances through a series of specially designed CEL courses that build skills in the areas of business, design, and technology. Before the 5th grade, students participate in classroom-based projects in which they identify a problem or need, then work together using their developing problem-solving skills to find a solution.

CEL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN

Nature Nurturers

1ST GRADE

Mini Market

2ND GRADE

Buttons for Good

3RD GRADE

Neon Sign Making

4TH GRADE

High-Vis Vests

5TH GRADE

Adventures in New Media
Digital Storytelling—Audio
Collaboration & Teamwork

6TH GRADE

LEGO Inventions
Digital Storytelling—Video
Social Impact Entrepreneurship

7TH GRADE

Introduction to Coding
Introduction to Engineering
Media & Presentation

8TH GRADE

Toy Design
Digital Publishing
Money Matters

9TH GRADE

Business Fundamentals
Introduction to App Development
Product Design
Introduction to Microprocessors

10TH GRADE

All SCH sophomores engage in the CEL Capstone—a unique, self-directed, project-design experience. With the support of dedicated faculty mentors and access to specialized studios, students bring ideas inspired by their personal passions to life using the entrepreneurial, design, and new media skills learned in previous CEL classes.

11TH & 12TH GRADES

Students may choose to continue their work in their junior and senior year through the Venture Accelerator and other elective classes such as Psychology of Happiness and Personal Finance.

VENTURE ACCELERATOR

This culminating experience gives our older students the chance to fully launch the ideas they have investigated, tested, and prototyped throughout their earlier years in the CEL program. Venture Accelerator students connect with various mentors and investors, hire staff, file for trademarks and legal business entities, sell in the marketplace, and raise initial startup capital.



ATHLETICS

GOING FOR GREAT

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 hold them to the highest standards of sportsmanship.

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

2017–2022* BLUE DEVIL POINTS OF PRIDE

14 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

6 PAISAA state titles—boys soccer (2x), girls soccer (2x), softball (2x)—and 8 Inter-Ac championships: boys soccer (2x), girls soccer (2x), baseball, softball (2x), girls track and field

247 PLAYER RECOGNITIONS

Number of students nominated to 1st and 2nd All-Inter-Ac, All-MASA, All-Independence Hockey League & All-State Indoor Track and Field teams, including 7 Inter-Ac MVPs, 8 Scholastic Rowing National Champions, 10 Crew City Champions & 10 All-Americans (1 soccer, 4 lacrosse, 3 indoor track and field & 2 wrestling)

123 COLLEGE-RECRUITED ATHLETES

Number of students from the Classes of 2018–2022 playing a sport in college

106 TRI-VARSITY ATHLETES

Number of student-athletes who played at the highest level in three different sports

* Due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 spring sports season was canceled and the fall 2020 and winter 2020–21 seasons were shortened.



MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

FALL

Boys/Girls Cross Country*
Girls Field Hockey*
Boys Football*
Boys Golf*
Boys/Girls Soccer*
Girls Tennis*
Girls Volleyball*
Boys/Girls Crew**

WINTER

Boys/Girls Basketball*
Coed Ice Hockey*
Boys/Girls Indoor Track
Boys/Girls Squash*
Coed Wrestling*
Life Sports/Fitness+
Boys/Girls Crew Training*‡

SPRING

Boys Baseball*
Boys/Girls Crew
Boys/Girls Outdoor Track*
Boys/Girls Lacrosse*
Girls Softball*
Boys Tennis*
Girls Golf*

* Also offered in Middle School

** Experienced rowers only

+ Middle School girls only

‡ 8th grade only in Middle School



Middle School girls in art class work on their ceramic designs.

ARTS AND NEW MEDIA

IGNITING THE IMAGINATION

Our arts faculty are working artists who understand the creative process—its joys, challenges, and frustrations. They not only teach our students the skills of art making, they also teach—and model—the importance of working through technical and mental obstacles to achieve one’s creative vision.

Beginning with Pre-K, students are taught skills woven around artistic principles, concepts, and habits that grow in complexity from year to year. Under the guidance of SCH’s faculty of active artists, students pursue their interests without boundaries and extend their creative abilities into the newest dimensions of arts expression.

SCH’s new media curriculum focuses on preparing students in progressive, emerging technologies such as video and music production, creative coding, 3D and interactive design, animation, and more. We also actively engage students in STEAM-based projects as a bridge to other disciplines and our Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) program.



NEW MEDIA

The new media program offers training in video and music production, coding, design and fabrication, 3D and interactive design, architecture, photography, and animation.

VISUAL ARTS

Students move progressively through an exploration of both two- and three-dimensional work while being exposed to the art of many cultures and the skills of critiquing one’s own and others’ work.

PERFORMING ARTS

Music—Students learn music making and essential skills, including how to communicate, collaborate, and listen while engaged in the musical language of world cultures.

Theatre—The performing arts curriculum encompasses practical on- and off-stage theatre education.



Members of the Class of 2022 proudly wear the t-shirts of the colleges and universities they are now attending.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

FINDING THE BEST FIT

Our College Counseling staff, with more than 75 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, our counselors are there all along the way to offer quality information, honest evaluation, and plenty of encouragement.

“WHAT STOOD OUT FOR ME THE MOST IN TERMS OF THE GUIDANCE I RECEIVED WAS THAT IT WAS HONEST, IT WAS CRITICAL, AND IT WAS CONSTRUCTIVE. MY COLLEGE COUNSELING EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING I’M EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR, BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, I REALLY DON’T THINK I WOULD BE WHERE I AM.

~ SCH ALUMNA '17

POPULAR COLLEGE DESTINATIONS

A selection of some of the most popular college choices for SCH students in the last five graduating classes.

IN STATE

Pennsylvania State University 37
University of Pennsylvania 26
Drexel University 14
University of Pittsburgh 12
Temple University 10
Dickinson College 9
Bucknell University 7
Lafayette College 6
Lehigh University 6

OUT OF STATE

LARGE
Syracuse University 12
Northeastern University 9
University of Colorado Boulder 6
University of South Carolina 5
Clemson University 5
Cornell University 5
NYU 5
University of Maryland 5
University of Michigan 4
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill 4
University of Southern California 4

MEDIUM
Elon University 11
University of Miami 8
The George Washington University 6
Babson College 5
Wake Forest University 5
Johns Hopkins University 5
Tulane University 5
Dartmouth College 4
Fordham University 4
Princeton University 4
RPI 4

SMALL LIBERAL ARTS
Colorado College 6
Hobart College 6
Trinity College 4
University of Richmond 4
Wesleyan University 4
Amherst College 3
Barnard College 2
Bowdoin College 2
Grinnell College 2
Washington and Lee University 2

HBCUs
Howard University 6
Morgan State University 5
Spellman College 3
Delaware State University 3

FAST FACTS ABOUT SCH ACADEMY



FOUNDED 1861

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



62-ACRE GREEN CITY CAMPUS

The SCH campus borders the Wissahickon Valley Watershed and includes 1.5 miles of school walking trails as well as easy access to Philadelphia's premier natural habitat for science studies and outdoor education.



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

SCH offers a curriculum enriched by access to the historic & cultural resources of Philadelphia & the natural resources of our neighboring Wissahickon Valley.



SCH STUDENTS COME FROM 110+ ZIP CODES



35% Racial diversity
1090 2021–2022 Enrollment



WORLD CHAMPIONS

The SCH Upper School robotics team was part of FIRST's 2019 World Robotics Championship–Detroit winning alliance. In the last 17 years, the team has finished 5 times in the top 10 at "Worlds" & won the coveted Chairman's Award 8 times. Robotics students have been accepted into the nation's top engineering programs, including Princeton, MIT, Caltech, Penn, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Johns Hopkins, Georgia Tech, Clemson, RPI, WPI, Rose Hulman & all three military academies.



#1 IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

SCH's unique Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership curriculum teaches students critical life skills and an entrepreneurial mindset characterized by opportunity seeking, creative problem solving, resiliency & resourcefulness. This unique curriculum has just been licensed internationally to an independent school in Dubai.



247 STUDENT-ATHLETES

were nominated to 1st and 2nd All-Inter-Ac, All-MASA, All-Independence Hockey League & All-State Indoor Track and Field team, including 7 Inter-Ac MVPs, 8 Scholastic Rowing National Champions, 10 Crew City Champions & 10 All-Americans (1 soccer, 4 lacrosse, 3 indoor track and field & 2 wrestling). Over the past five years, SCH teams have won 6 PAISAA state titles—boys soccer (2x), girls soccer (2x), softball (2x)—and 8 Inter-Ac championships—boys soccer (2x), girls soccer (2x), baseball, softball (2x), girls track and field.



45+ STUDENT-LED CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

SCH students exercise leadership and pursue their passions through an array of clubs and activities, including Players (drama), Black Student Union, Mock Trial, Model UN, robotics, Art Board, Book Club, Chinese Student Group, Current Events Club, Eco Club, Fashion Club, French Club, Investment Club, Jewish Cultural Club, Math Club, Multicultural Club, SCHmental Health Club, and Conspiracy Theory Club.



73% OF SCH FACULTY

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



OUR REGIONAL REACH

Located in Philadelphia, SCH is easily reached by a number of transportation options, including free public school district buses, SEPTA regional rail, and a private, customized van shuttle for Center City families called the SCHuttle.



100+ ELECTIVES

are available to Upper School students, ranging from Forensics, Architectural Design, Personal Finance, and Engineering to Songwriting & Musical Production, Global Economics & Multivariable Calculus.



89% OF STUDENTS in the Class of 2022 were accepted into one of their top-2 college choices.



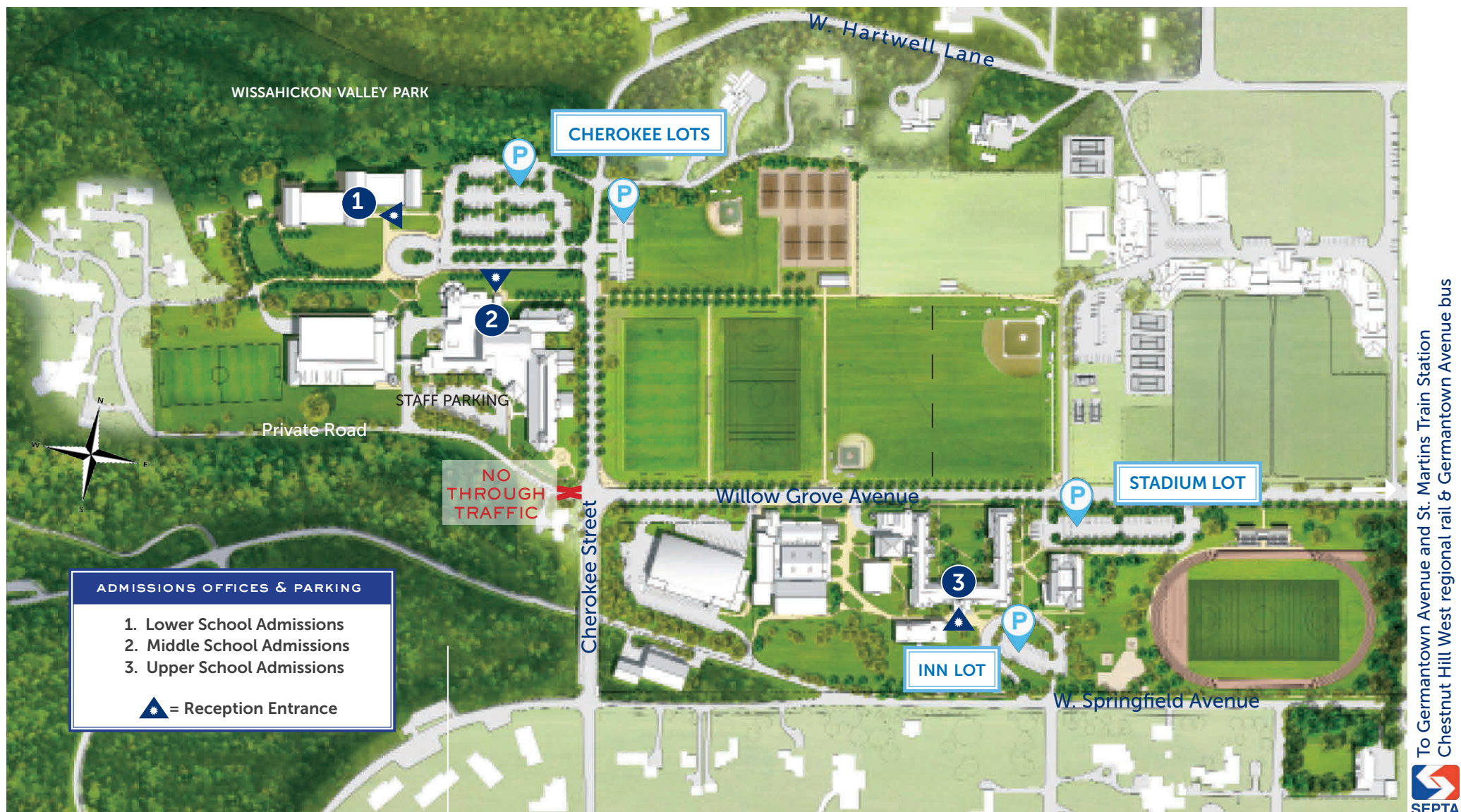
1 IN 10 PA SCHOOLS

SCH was honored in 2019 as one of Pennsylvania's outstanding visual arts communities by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association. Our Arts and New Media program fosters student creativity across a broad array of disciplines. Students have won awards in the Greenfield Youth Film Festival, CAPPIES, Scholastic Art Awards, national DiscoverDesign Competition, Philadelphia Independence Awards & the WHY Youth Media Awards. SCH students have been accepted into the leading U.S. colleges in the arts including NYU/Tisch, USC & Emerson.



GREEN FOOTPRINT

SCH is a leader in school environmental sustainability efforts, from our native arboreta, rain gardens, and certified LEED® Gold science & technology center to our rooftop solar panels & schoolwide waste-reduction initiatives. We have been recognized with a 3-Star Green Restaurant® rating for our school cafeterias & a Green Flag Award from the National Wildlife Federation.



General Admissions

500 West Willow Grove Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118-4198
215-247-7007 | SCH.ORG

Lower School Office

GPS: 8000 Cherokee Street
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-754-1609

Middle School Office

GPS: 8000 Cherokee Street
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-754-1021

Upper School Office

GPS: 501 West Springfield Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-754-1012



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