We are pleased to publish this summary of our long-range strategic plan. This plan is the culmination of a yearlong collaboration that brought together the best thinking of the administrative team, board members, faculty, students and parents across all three divisions.

A few key themes emerged that shape many aspects of this plan: student-centered learning focused on teaching students how to think, not what to think; valuing our community’s great diversity of background, ethnicity and thought; and an entrepreneurial mindset that brings innovative thinking to everything we do.

Altogether, this plan is Forward Thinking. It provides guideposts to lead education today and tomorrow. It supports a curriculum that will evolve to best meet the needs of students for lifelong success in the 21st century. And it fosters an environment to inspire students to think about their own futures.

We believe Forward Thinking promises continued success for Saddle River Day School, and with the support of all community members, we can make that promise a reality.
We seek the personalized development of the whole individual to inspire the student, unlock their full potential and build the foundation for lifelong personal and professional success.

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

**OUR MISSION**

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.

**OUR VISION**

**OUR CORE VALUES**

A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY FOCUSED ON INNOVATIVE, STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES AND CHALLENGES ALL TO LEAD LIVES OF CHARACTER, PURPOSE AND ACHIEVEMENT.
Academics for the Future
Saddle River Day School will continue to implement inspiring and challenging offerings in every division. Students will develop independent ideas and embrace diversity of thought through entrepreneurial experiences and a continually evolving STREAM curriculum that incorporates Research and the Arts into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

The new Gateway Diplomas program in our Upper School offers a challenging honors diploma with advanced course requirements, fieldwork and a research paper.

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will expand programming into the Lower School.

We will increase academic competition opportunities, such as Model UN, MathCON, Science Olympiad and debate tournaments.

“The most important goal for a school is to prepare students for the future. Our rigorous, student-centered programs foster skills like adaptability, creativity and leadership—all crucial in the 21st century.”

JOE MCMENAMIN, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Our educational offerings will continue to differentiate us from our peer institutions and prepare our students to succeed in their collegiate and professional lives.

MOVING AHEAD
We foster an entrepreneurial mindset and essential 21st century skills that allow students to take charge of their futures.
Arts
Saddle River Day School will continue to enhance its signature visual and performing arts programs.

- We have added theater productions to our Lower and Middle Schools.
- We are expanding afterschool programs, such as music and dance.
- We will add programs that teach songwriting and animation.

Athletics
To open exceptional athletic opportunities to all students in all divisions, we will expand sports offerings and continue our emphasis on inspiring coaching.

- We are increasing our focus on certain Upper School varsity sports, such as golf and crew, and exploring further expansion of offerings, such as fencing and baseball.
- We will develop more robust Middle School athletic programs.

Student Life
Our community is widely diverse in ethnicity, culture and thought. We will foster an environment in which every child feels known and valued.

- Teachers provide insightful recommendations because faculty members in our small community know students so well.
- Our family night events help inform Upper School students and parents of the process and key information at each stage.

College Counseling
We will continue to provide dynamic opportunities that allow students to differentiate themselves in the college admissions process.

- Our highly personalized, hands-on application process begins in ninth grade.
- Teachers provide insightful recommendations because faculty members in our small community know students so well.
- Our family night events help inform Upper School students and parents of the process and key information at each stage.
- We will expand international opportunities, such as our School Year Abroad program.

"I was able to customize my path with extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities; and in terms of academics, I could choose the level of difficulty in class that my advisor and I thought was best."

ELI WEINGER ’22
Distinctive Faculty
To maintain small class sizes and support program needs, Saddle River Day School will increase hiring in key areas and continue to promote longevity of service through community building and competitive salaries.

Passion for Learning
“Love of learning” is one of our core values. When our faculty demonstrate their desire to continually learn and explore, they set an example for our students to do the same.

We continue to seek faculty with real-world experience in business and entrepreneurship, graphic arts, theater, and science and technology.

We have added a director of teaching and learning to coordinate on- and off-campus professional development opportunities.

Faculty are implementing initiatives from conferences and workshops, such as entrepreneurial projects in the Lower School and applied math projects in the Upper School.

Teachers attend Summer Institutes (APS1) to learn best practices on pacing and teaching AP curricula.

Upper School one-week “Mini Courses” between semesters enthuse faculty and engage students.

We are constantly evolving project-based learning at all levels to inspire teachers and students.

To inspire students, we must ensure our faculty is inspired.

“We must ensure that our faculty love learning. If we want our students to love learning, SRDS must have teachers who love learning.”

ROBERT REGULAR, P’31
Enrollment
Saddle River Day School will manage enrollment to provide a robust learning experience while delivering a high level of attention to all students.

- We will attract and retain a diverse student body by balancing critical mass with the benefits of personalized development and close-knit community.
- We will continually assess tuition strategies based on economic and environmental factors.

Philanthropy
We will promote a culture of philanthropy among current families and alumni to achieve our long-term vision.

- The SRDS Fund supports faculty development and the creation of unique opportunities for our students.

Sustainability
We will continue to build our endowment and explore alternate sources of revenue, such as grants and international partnerships. We will manage annual budgets in a responsible manner to meet current, future and unexpected needs.

We will attract and retain a diverse student body by balancing critical mass with the benefits of personalized development and close-knit community.

- We will continually assess tuition strategies based on economic and environmental factors.

The resources that carry SRDS into the future ensure generations of students to come will flourish.

“As parents, we want to see the school thrive. Through annual giving, we can fortify the experiences our children are having today, while securing a promising future for the Rebels to come.”

ROSANNA YOUNG, P’27 & ’30
Supporting 21st Century Learning
Saddle River Day School will provide the tools and spaces to enable students to explore passions, create and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset.

- We are enhancing academic spaces such as Main Hall and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at all levels.
- We will modernize our science labs and create defined spaces to promote collaborative student experiences.

Upgrading Facilities
We will consider how best to use and upgrade existing facilities to support athletics and the arts as part of a complete educational experience.

- We will explore field renovations and expand alternative athletic facilities, such as for crew, basketball and bowling.
- We will maintain leading-edge graphic arts space and technology and explore alternative theater/concert space to showcase the performing arts.

“It’s simple—enhanced facilities enhance the academic and extracurricular experience for our students.”
KRISTINE SWEENEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS
WE ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT WHAT MOVES US FORWARD