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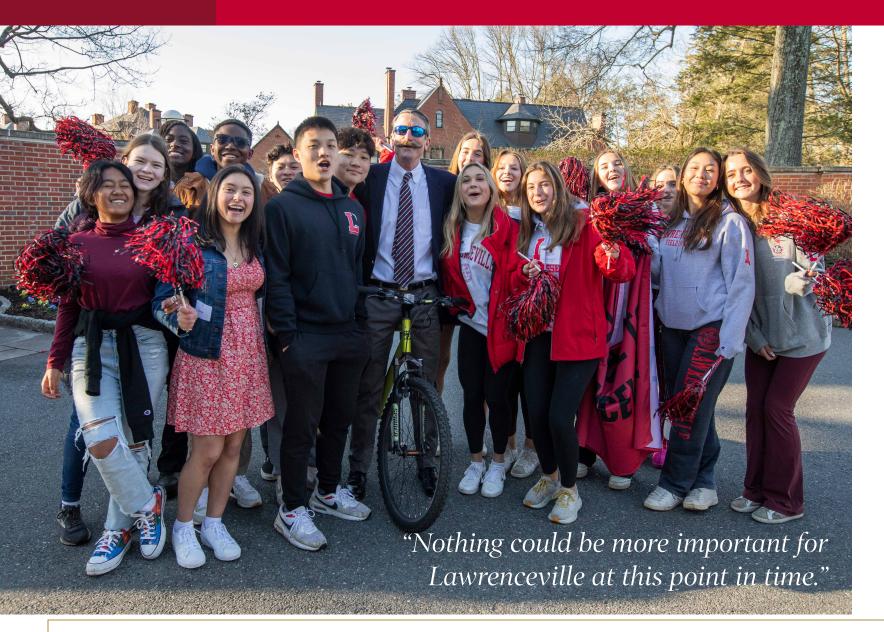
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From the Head of School

Great schools demonstrate an ongoing commitment to learning and improving – they wither if they stand still. Healthy traditions and enduring values should be respected and maintained, and just as important, the institution must have the courage to evolve forward where necessary.

Wellness Team offer a public health perspective on the Lawrenceville has long been committed to learning and challenges we face and why it is urgent that we devote significantly greater time and energy to the overall health and improving, and this strategic plan, House, Harkness, Heart: A wellness of our students - who are at the center of our enduring New Era for Community Wellbeing is the latest demonstration of this commitment. As we bring to a close our most recent purpose. Following this, we offer a summary of our framework strategic plan, A Vision for the Future: Lawrenceville 20/20, we for engaging our community in this planning process, we offer consulted with students, faculty, parents, alumni, and trustees to our vision statement for campus wellbeing, and then finally an identify the next stretching aspiration to energize our community. ambitious and far-reaching set of initiatives aimed at fulfilling that vision. As we develop lifelong learners who will head out into In the process, it became abundantly clear that campus wellbeing, with a particular focus on our students, was the right the world equipped to thrive in complex environments and lead through times that may demand elements of the mind, body, direction. and spirit, student success means staying closely attuned to our collective wellbeing. Nothing could be more important for Lawrenceville at this point in time.

For quite some time, we have been tracking and studying the nation-wide, rising tide of adolescent mental health needs and have worked to understand the implications for our own context. Similarly, we devoted enormous institutional resources to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, not simply to put it behind us, but to learn from it. Both during and after, we have worked hard to understand the longitudinal impact on adolescent development and community wellbeing and the pandemic's exacerbating impact on already worrisome trends.

In articulating our vision for this next phase of Lawrenceville's history, we will face and take to heart lessons learned in our own

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Munay

Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16 '21 The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head of School "While the pursuit of academic excellence remains pivotal, the wellbeing of our students is paramount."

From the Wellness Team

Dr. Rae Chresfield, Dean of Campus Wellbeing

As Lawrenceville continues its wellbeing journey, we are focused on developing tools to help students navigate these formative adolescent years. The journey from childhood to adulthood has always been marked by physical, emotional, and psychological changes. We are committed to guiding our students to harness their innate potential, while also understanding the importance of adaptability and resilience.

The digital age has revolutionized the way that adolescents communicate, learn, and socialize. While technology offers positive opportunities for learning and connection, it has also introduced a set of challenges that previous generations did not face. Further, virtual platforms are often seen as being "consequence-free," making it more difficult, at times, to choose between right and wrong. Equipping students with tools to handle technology wisely, and how to develop and engage in healthy relationships, will serve them beyond their time at Lawrenceville.

While the pursuit of academic excellence remains pivotal, the wellbeing of our students is paramount. As academic pressures increase, we must empower our students to balance ambition with maintaining their mental health.

We aim to emphasize strong social connections, emotional regulation, and goal-oriented behaviors to help our students develop the foundation of their wellbeing. By championing empathy, dialogue, and acceptance, we are shaping a generation of students who can thrive intellectually without compromising their inner peace.





Blake Eldridge '96 H'78 '12 P'25, Dean of Students

At Lawrenceville, we have always adjusted to deal with the strengths and challenges that characterize each generation of students. The opportunity to live in a reflective community (both House and campus) with a range of personalities and perspectives has been Lawrenceville's true genius.

Our current students started to come of age during the pandemic, and the confusing messages and tensions of that period informed their development. Their experiences at that impressionable age were typically family-focused and self-directed but also included fears of resource scarcity, social isolation, over-reliance on digital and social media, having academic grades/performance be the only measure their schools could make of them, and the potential viral dangers of public places. Consciously or not, these same aspects now seem coded into the students' sense of themselves and their experience of community.

House life combats all of those pandemic challenges and can help rewrite that code. And House life is most successful when students' eagerness for social interaction, their desire to explore different aspects of their identity, and their willingness to balance their own desires with respect for others' needs all complement each other in a supportive environment. That combination for House life closely mirrors the recipe for personal wellbeing. The discussions and experiences in the Houses, coupled with a general atmosphere of kindness and dignity, can continue to do the essential work of creating individuals prepared for thoughtful, informed decision-making and readiness for post-Lawrenceville independence.

Dr. Chris Renjilian, Medical Director

The most protective force in the lives of young people is us recognizing all that is good and right within them. When we actively choose to view young people in this way – with our focus centered on their strengths *and* their potential – we earn the power to behold them with unconditional positive regard and, without contradiction, hold them to high expectations. This is the foundation for the connections and conversations that help young people to grow continuously into lives of authentic wellbeing.

This has always been at the heart of great parenting and great education. There is nothing new or faddish about it. Yet, we live in a world that seems to blare, at the incessant pace of a 24-hour news cycle, that adolescents are constantly in crisis, moving in the wrong direction, broken. It can be easy for anyone to lose sight of who they *really* are: good inside, growing, and capable of becoming the adults who we need to lead our world tomorrow.

Now is the time to strategically focus on wellbeing, not because we believe our students are broken, but because we know that they are whole. We owe it to them to reaffirm, re-center, and re-animate protective forces in a modern and changing world. The world needs us to do this work because, while prevailing messages suggest we cannot cultivate the elements of wellbeing in teens today, *we absolutely can* – and in doing so, we chart a path for others to follow.





Planning Process and Engagement

House, Harkness, Heart: A New Era for Community Wellbeing evolved over many months of meetings and conversations, beginning in March 2022 with a student-initiated town hall. Central to this process were the student voices on Student Council, the Wellness Council, House leadership, and representative Houses from the Circle and the Crescent, as well as focus groups of faculty, staff, parents, and the Board of Trustees. The School also carefully considered survey results, specifically the November 2022 satisfaction survey by Lookout Management, Inc. and the annual Employee Engagement Survey modeled after the Gallup Q12. Results of these surveys, including themes and recommendations, were shared with the community, including the Board of Trustees, and provide the data that underscores the urgency underpinning the choice of this path forward.

We held visioning workshops, information sessions, and conversations throughout the winter and spring of 2023 with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and trustees, forming a better understanding of the School's current strengths and aspects of the Lawrenceville experience we wish to preserve and enhance. We also sought the community's perspective regarding the most urgent challenges facing our school today, and how we might better understand and address those elements over the next three years.

The resulting strategic plan is deeply rooted in our mission, established in 2016 as a foundational component of A Vision for the Future: Lawrenceville 20/20:

Through House and Harkness, Lawrenceville challenges a diverse community of promising young people to lead lives of learning, integrity, and high purpose. Our mission is to inspire the best in each to seek the best for all.

Achieving the Key Aspirations inspired by our vision requires that we create the requisite organizational capacity, including time, resources, and talent. This work has begun with several important adjustments to our staffing:

Dean of Campus Wellbeing

Create and endow the position of an inaugural Dean of Campus Wellbeing, charged with implementing a holistic and inclusive strategy towards promoting student wellbeing.

Build a student-centered Wellness Team inclusive of the Dean of Campus Wellbeing, Medical Director, and Dean of Students to:

Wellness Team

- Create a campus environment that prioritizes student socialemotional health
- Foster a residential culture of care and inclusion
- Provide leadership and support for student organizations that promote health and wellness

Deans and Docs

Establish a "Deans and Docs" group including the Dean of Campus Wellbeing, Medical Director, Dean of Students, Dean of Academics, Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Director of Educational Support to help ensure a holistic and proactive focus on student wellness and individual case management.



Vision Statement

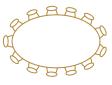
Lawrenceville seeks to build an even stronger community to which all members contribute and have the opportunity to grow and thrive physically, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually. Overall wellbeing is enhanced when students feel safe, supported, and empowered in an environment that promotes kindness, respect, joy, and a measured pace of life.

Our **House** system, vital to a sense of belonging at Lawrenceville, is strengthened when House culture, spirit, and values are purposefully developed, when Heads of House, advisors, and prefects have a robust tool kit for the care and nurture of their students and of themselves, and when every student helps make the House a fundamentally friendly and welcoming community.

Essential to **Harkness** teaching is the democracy of voices engaged around a table, where no voice is marginalized, and differing perspectives and independent thinking are encouraged. We support the growth and development of our teachers as we maintain high aspirations for learning and achievement for our students, and we reexamine rigor and the allocation of time to make sure that creativity, reflection, curiosity, and a love of learning are universal aspects of the academic experience.

Throughout the **Heart** and soul of the entire community, all members are invested in positive systems of compassion, empathy, accountability, and self-advocacy – and this, indeed, is where House and Harkness come together at the core of our strategic plan. We instill hope and optimism as we foster a culture of responsible stewardship of our natural resources and a sincere desire to seek the best for all. Together, these become tangible aspects of the lived experience for all individuals, especially our students, who are central to our enduring purpose to develop caring leaders who will head out into the world to make it a better place.





Harkness





Key Aspirations

It is clear that community wellbeing is best supported through a collaborative approach that weaves throughout the fabric of each individual's Lawrenceville experience – a path that is shaped through a multitude of factors and can thus take many forms. Our Key Aspirations are informed by careful listening in small group settings and as a full community, internal surveys and third-party research, and partnerships with leading public health and mental health organizations – all supporting our ability to develop a set of aims that meet the expressed needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

House and Harkness are established elements of our institutional DNA, and the notion of Heart, at the intersection of House and Harkness, is core to our plan and core to our strength as a community. Approaching our work through House, Harkness, and Heart brings us together under the familiar tenets and values of the Lawrenceville experience, while also respecting the unique developmental, social, and academic journey that each individual pursues through the School.

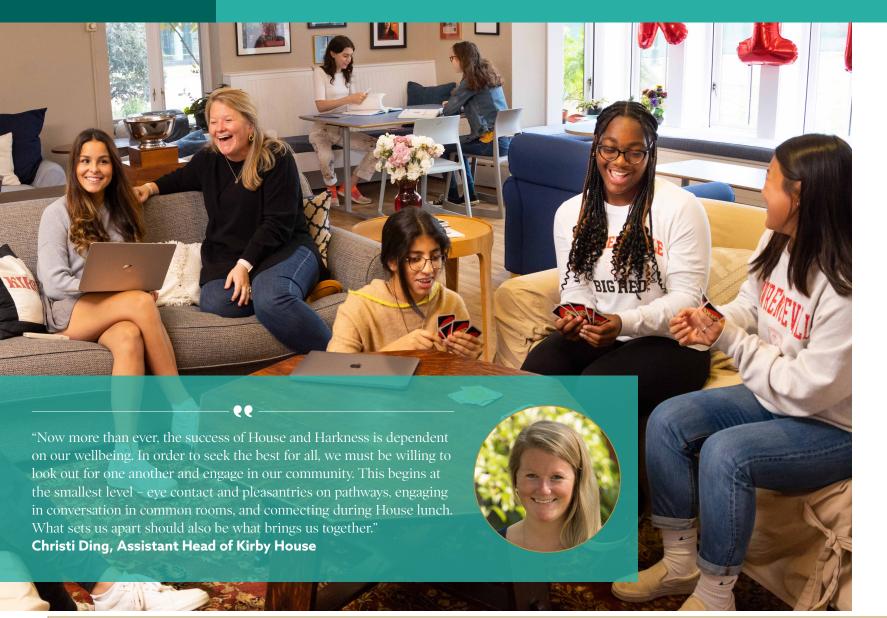
Our Key Aspirations include:

Foster an inclusive and supportive campus environment that honors individuality within a context of belonging and community wellbeing. Promote a collaborative academic culture that fosters discernment, curiosity, and empathy and provides a foundation for students to lead lives of high purpose.

Create a more measured academic pace of life for students that facilitates growth inside and outside of the classroom.

Provide engaging opportunities that enhance the awareness and skills of community members, while building our collective capacity to adopt wellbeing measures in a meaningful way.

Instill a greater awareness of our immediate surroundings and steward our natural resources in a way that generates hope for a sustainable future and provides the tools to achieve it.



Foster an inclusive and supportive campus environment that honors individuality within a context of belonging and community wellbeing.

- Conduct an assessment of school climate and culture to inform areas of need, resource allocation, and future initiatives.
- Develop a residential life curriculum that fosters a supportive and inclusive environment and encourages open communication, positive relationships, and a sense of community among students.
- Examine the role gender plays in each student's overall experience, including an evaluation of differences among the Houses and an action plan to foster a sense of belonging in spaces across campus.
- Using the proven framework of restorative practice, equip community members with the language and skills to strengthen community bonds, and develop pathways for addressing situations in which community norms have not been met, respected, or upheld.
- Develop clear expectations and rules in community handbooks to support a culture of transparency and respect by broadening the scope of our code of conduct to include an exhaustive definition of bullying, implementing a well-defined supervision protocol for students who have been dismissed from the school premises, and establishing an effective and efficient response mechanism to all allegations of potential bullying.
- Establish a partnership with a bullying prevention specialist to develop and implement programming that empowers students to advocate for themselves and that educates community members on how to identify and address bullying.
- Create opportunities for education and skill-building to encourage positive sleep habits and wind-down activities.
- Reimagine student orientation to establish community norms, communicate expectations, and create opportunities for students to engage with their peers and classroom faculty in meaningful ways.

House

Vital to a sense of belonging at Lawrenceville, House encompasses purposely developed culture, spirit, and values.

"If our students leave Lawrenceville and find college communities that support and encourage them to be emotionally whole, intellectually inspired, and socially adept lifelong learners, they are positioned exceptionally well for whatever comes next. Lawrenceville's focus on wellness is one of the wisest investments we can make in developing thoughtful learners and leaders of the future. It is not a passing fad – it is foundational to the entire enterprise of education at both the secondary and post-secondary levels." Courtney Roach, Associate Director of College Counseling

DAN NO

lives of high purpose.

- ongoing professional development to support these efforts.
- styles.
- facilitate student choice and passions.
- provide alignment for various student pathways.
- inquiry, reward creativity, and build community.
- artificial intelligence for learners and learning.

Promote a collaborative academic culture that fosters discernment, curiosity, and empathy and provides a foundation for students to lead

 Re-center Harkness teaching and learning as our defining pedagogy, engaging civil discourse around complex topics and promoting diversity of ideas, people, and perspectives.

Evaluate and define department-specific best practices in Harkness teaching, and provide

Provide assistance, training, and leadership for faculty to support students' various learning

Assess, and revise as needed, curriculum sequencing and graduation requirements in order to

Conduct curriculum reviews in core academic areas to accommodate learner needs and

Provide shared, Form-wide academic experiences that extend classroom learning, promote

Continue to explore and document the effects and advantages of machine learning and

Harkness

Essential to cultivating differing perspectives and independent thinking, Harkness engages student voices through thoughtful inquiry.



into account.

- decisions are data driven and our progress forward can be tracked.
- access to peer-to-peer support.
- with documented learning differences.
- management, stress management, and executive function.

Create a more measured academic pace of life for students that facilitates growth inside and outside of the classroom.

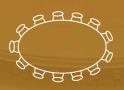
• In partnership with Independent School Management, lead a multi-year assessment of the daily schedule that examines all facets of the Lawrenceville experience and takes community needs

Adopt a comprehensive survey that assesses a broad range of wellbeing measures so that our

Provide targeted training for peer tutors in math, science, and writing, and expand student

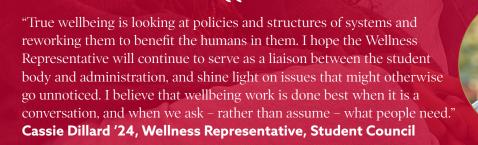
Increase the resources available to students through Educational Support, which serves students

Define and support the role of the academic advisor to help students improve time



Harkness

Essential to cultivating differing perspectives and independent thinking, Harkness engages student voices through thoughtful inquiry.



Provide engaging opportunities that enhance the awareness and skills of community members, while building our collective capacity to adopt wellbeing measures in a meaningful way.

- facilitate open, effective communication and expression of needs.
- empowering students to access help when needed.
- resolution, and bystander intervention.
- Consulting.
- welcoming campus.

Continue to stay attuned to the School's dining options to help ensure they are responsive to a wide range of student needs, and create educational resources for promoting healthy eating behaviors.

Partner with mission-aligned organizations to educate students on developing healthy technology habits, with a focus on social media and emerging research on its relation to wellbeing.

Develop common language and vocabulary around wellbeing and related facets of student life to help

Provide engaging opportunities that enhance the awareness and skills of community members, while building our collective capacity to adopt wellbeing measures in a meaningful way.

Provide education regarding on-campus resources to assist with mental health and life concerns,

Implement enhanced training programs for faculty and students to foster a shared responsibility toward student wellbeing, including developing skills in resilience, emotional regulation, conflict

Conduct an external review of the services and programs offered through the Counseling and Psychological Services Office with the American College Health Association's Health and Wellness

Further develop the student Wellness Council, whose mission is to amplify student voices to facilitate a school atmosphere where mental health is normalized, prioritized, and ultimately curates a safe,



Heart

The soul of our community and the focus of this strategic plan, Heart is achieved when we invest in ourselves, in one another, and in our environment.



Instill a greater awareness of our immediate surroundings and steward our natural resources in a way that generates hope for a sustainable future and provides the tools to achieve it.

- New Jersey Pine Barrens, and Jersey Shore.

- Hopewell Valley Open Space.
- as recycling, thrifting, bike repair, and composting.
- Olmsted's legacy on our campus.

• Promote in our students an appreciation for and an understanding of a "sense of place" by expanding curricular and co-curricular opportunities to find joy in outdoor experiences and understand both natural and human history on a local and regional level. These include indigenous American history, the history of slavery and manumission in Lawrence Township, the Frederick Law Olmsted legacy that shapes our surroundings, and regional natural landmarks such as the Delaware River, Appalachians,

Establish a strategy for the expansion of regenerative farming practices at the Big Red Farm, which will also increase the educational value for students of this valuable asset.

Improve campus waterways by reducing stormwater runoff and continue the existing campus commitment to River-Friendly Certification with the Watershed Institute, and involve students in the long-term oversight and assessment of these measures.

Partner with a consulting engineering firm to develop a strategy to reduce Lawrenceville's carbon footprint by 50% by 2035 and the long-term potential for carbon-neutrality. Include hands-on curricular elements so students are involved with creating solutions.

Improve management of natural areas on campus for wildlife habitat, in partnership with Friends of

Develop and promote waste reduction by implementing effective programs in a variety of areas such

Implement a campus tree-planting initiative that teaches students about the impact of Frederick Law



Heart

The soul of our community and the focus of this strategic plan, Heart is achieved when we invest in ourselves, in one another, and in our environment.





Wellness Wheel

The Wellness Wheel provides an opportunity for community members to reflect on the seven dimensions of wellness and consider the areas in their lives that are going well. It can also help identify and articulate areas that need attention to improve overall wellbeing. The wheel reinforces a common understanding of what we are working toward as a community. Environmental Occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support wellbeing Intellectual Recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills

Social Developing a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system

CCC CC

Your Wellbeing Professional Creating personal satisfaction and enrichment from one's work

Emotional Coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships

Physical Recognizing the need for physical activity, healthy foods, and sleep

Heart

Spiritual Expanding a sense of purpose and meaning in life



Wellbeing Lexicon

A foundational Wellbeing Lexicon supports our ability to have productive community conversations, and to be better equipped to communicate our needs to one another. By working off of a common vocabulary, we can more effectively identify how we are feeling and how to ask for support. These definitions are gleaned from across the wellbeing landscape, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other sources used by mental health clinicians, including mental health diagnostic guides.

- Age-appropriate behaviors refer to people behaving as predicted by a timetable of development which is primarily based on sociallyagreed age expectations and age norms.
- Anxiety (a mental health disorder diagnosed by a *licensed clinician*) is associated with concerns for the future and is a medical diagnosis, characterized by excessive apprehension about real or perceived threats that typically result in avoidance.
- Belonging is a complex nexus of feelings, experience, and practices that originates when we acknowledge the full humanity of each other. Belonging is anchored in the ability to be fully seen, fully accepted, and fully able to participate in a given community.
- **Close relationships** are supportive, trustworthy, low in conflict, and interdependent.

- **Depression** (a mental health disorder diagnosed by a licensed clinician) is focused on the past and is a medical diagnosis, characterized by persistent sadness, loss of interest in activities that normally are enjoyed, and an inability to carry out activities of daily living.
- **Grief** is a natural response to the loss of a loved one. For most people, the symptoms of grief begin to decrease over time. However, for a small group of people, the feeling of intense grief persists, and the symptoms are severe enough to cause problems and stop them from continuing with their lives.
- Mental health refers to cognitive and emotional reserves to effectively cope with life's challenges, work productively, and make sound decisions.

- Mental health crisis is any situation in which a person's behavior puts them at risk for hurting themselves or someone else OR being unable to function and care for one's self. A crisis requires immediate attention.
- Mental health disorder is characterized by a clinically significant disturbance in an individual's cognition, emotional regulation, or behavior. It is usually associated with distress or impairment in important areas of functioning.
- **Social connections** are ties to the community, family, and organizations.
- **Stress** is a natural, adaptive, built-in response that prepares us for action, both physically and mentally. The stress response is there to temporarily increase our energy and focus - so we can tackle whatever challenge is there in front of us. Learning to take the steps to manage stress can facilitate healthy wellbeing. Stress that becomes chronic has implications on health, concentration, and mental health.
- **Support** acknowledges that you are part of a community of people who care about you, values you, and offers assistance when you need it.

- **Trauma** is an emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, serious physical harm, or natural disaster. Immediately after the event, shock and denial are typical. Longer term reactions include unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, strained relationships, and even physical symptoms like headaches or nausea. While these feelings are normal, some people have difficulty moving on with their lives
- Wellness is integrating the physical body and the mind to address how these two systems affect one another
- **Wellbeing** is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfillina life.
- **Worry** is a form of thinking ahead which can be adaptive and help us plan effectively for challenges and obstacles. Excessive worry focused on unlikely or remote events are related to a mental health diagnosis.

For more resources, scan the QR code

www.lawrenceville.org/wellbeing-resources







Looking Ahead to a Bright Future

House is where our students need to feel a fundamental sense of belonging and support; **Harkness** is where their minds are nurtured and their academic growth ensured; and **Heart** is where they intersect, setting our students up with the emotional resilience to thrive, both here at Lawrenceville and beyond. While our vision for wellbeing will evolve to meet the changing needs of our students, faculty, and staff, our commitment to these tenets of the Lawrenceville experience will remain steadfast. Together, these three pillars are essential for developing a community that prioritizes and is deeply committed to student mental health and wellbeing. We aspire to support the opportunities that students report matter to them most: House connections, friendships, inclusion and belonging, mutual respect, and a strong sense of community.

Wellbeing is not a steady state – it is a growth process and an ongoing journey of self-discovery. We recognize that our community members progress along at different rates, and there are multiple pathways for reaching a positive destination. Our Key Aspirations represent starting points, and it is only through continued campus conversations, building capacities for self-reliance and self-advocacy, and modeling the healthy behaviors and mindsets we hope to cultivate, that we will flourish as a community.

We aspire to support the opportunities that students report matter to them most: House connections, friendships, inclusion and belonging, mutual respect, and a strong sense of community.



Through House and Harkness, Lawrenceville challenges a diverse community of promising young people to lead lives of learning, integrity, and high purpose. Our mission is to inspire the best in each to seek the best for all.



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