



# THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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**PENNINGTON, NJ, September 6, 2024—Pennington Officially Kicks Off a New Academic Year**

**PENNINGTON, NJ** — The Pennington School formally opened its 187th academic year with its annual Convocation ceremony on Friday, September 6. A brass quintet played as the students entered by grade, followed by the formal academic procession of faculty and trustees.

Chaplain David Hallgren opened the program with a benediction, followed by Luke Schwalbach on trumpet, who played the national anthem. After welcoming remarks from Vandana Bhanote P'23 '26, member of the Pennington School Board of Trustees, there were greetings from various School constituencies, beginning with faculty representative Ryan Vogt, teacher of science and computer science, and engineering. Sophia Chnelich '29 and Kayla Turner '29 represented the Middle School and Aidan Prestigiacommo '25 was the Upper School representative. In his Convocation address, Head of School William S. Hawkey spoke about his theme for the year, “The Power of Connections,” and how all members of the Pennington community can benefit from closer connections to one another.

The program then concluded with a benediction from Chaplain Hallgren.

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.

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**Photo Caption:** Dr. William S. Hawkey addresses students, parents, faculty and staff, and trustees of The Pennington School