



January 2020

Forward, Always Forward



While the students continue with their studies and cocurricular activities to the familiar cadence of the steady rhythm that traditionally accompanies the third quarter (the pleasant distractions of the Christmas break are behind them, and summer break remains too distant to see), our leadership team continues planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Despite the brown winter landscape our temperate Georgia climate brings, it is truly an exciting season in the life of our school!

We continue to embrace a strategic approach that guards against mission drift, ensures the financial stability of our school, now and in the future, and strengthens our partnership with parents by teaching the precepts of our Christian faith to our students so that home, church, and school remain aligned. As a committed, professional Christian school faculty and staff, we are not issuing passports to privilege; we are connecting education and discipleship to prepare students for acceptance at a college of their choice while equipping them to share our faith in Christ with their secular friends.

Schools who fail to plan strategically engage in situational planning, which by its nature is reactionary. I am not fond of situational planning and the drama that often accompanies it, so our team works diligently to avoid it. Strategic planning never ends; the journey *is* the destination. It ensures we remain nimble so we can adjust to the changing world around us. I recently walked the faculty and staff through a presentation that outlined several significant initiatives in our [PACS 2023](#) strategic plan that have already been completed. I was pleasantly surprised as I tallied up the progress our team has made to date. Using living, planning documents that include our School Improvement Plan and Master Projects Plan (the latter being the bane of the administrative leadership team - it is their tasking, tracking, and accountability report), the accomplishments are impressive; here is a partial list:

- We have significantly increased the quality of our faculty with a record 62% now possessing advanced degrees, and we have the second-highest number of Georgia Independent School Association “Master Teachers” in the entire state!
- The overhaul of our business office’s operations included implementing new budgeting and accounting software, which has significantly improved the financial management of the school. Last school year we ran a slight surplus.
- We have increased financial aid over 274% in the past thirty-six months, making a Prince education affordable to a larger number of “mission fit” families.
- We have planned, funded, and executed multiday/night spiritual retreats at the beginning of the school year for all high school students.
- We have matured our alumni/alumnae programs by holding on and off-campus events and by publishing an alumni/alumnae newsletter.
- Case studies involving the proper and ethical use of social media have been incorporated into our middle and high school small discussion groups as a part of our Christian Character Development Program.
- Plans for initiating a capital campaign to build 18,400 square feet of new instructional space are well underway. I’m REALLY excited to tell you about this before this school year is over!



- A review of the 1:1 iPad program for grades 9-12 was completed, and we implemented 1:1 laptops for grades 6-12 in compliance with our accreditation team's recommendation.
- The Bible department and the leadership of PACS and PABC worked collaboratively to write Bible learning standards for grades 6-12 to ensure students are taught biblical principles with graduating levels of critical thinking and application.
- An Athletic Handbook was written and published for community coaches that documents policies and procedures for the leadership and management of PACS's athletic programs.
- We have instituted quarterly parenting tip information meetings to provide parents with information relevant to parenting in today's ever-changing (and sometimes morally confusing) society.
- Our high school has expanded its dual enrollment program to 42 hours. We are the *only* school in Athens, public or private, that offers this robust a program with high school and college credit courses taught on its own campus by its own highly credentialed teachers.

Critical to the successful leadership of our school is our desire to seek God's agenda for our students while maintaining the balance between our dependence on His sovereignty and our obligation to employ wisdom. I believe God has continued to bless us beyond measure as a family-school community through our consistent efforts to glorify Him. Whether in a Christian or a public school, students are being "disciplined" in some way; take comfort in knowing your investment in a Prince education ensures your child is being disciplined in the tenants of our Christian faith, daily, where she or he spends the majority of their waking hours.

With warm regards and in His service,



Seth Hathaway, Ed.S.
Head of School

Other letters from the head of school:

[Families: Better Connected but More Alone](#)
[Educational Constitutionalism and the Family-School Partnership](#)
[Mission and Vision Statements: Anchors Against Drift](#)