mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STRATEGIC PLAN
2016 – 2025

IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED...

PLANT.
NUURRE.
GROW.
...YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE,' AND IT WILL MOVE. NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
Matthew 17:20

MISSION:
Mount Pisgah Christian School provides an outstanding college preparatory education grounded in Christian faith and values.

VISION:
To teach foundational truth in an ever changing world, empowering students to think critically and creatively and to act with courage and compassion.
WE BELIEVE
IN BUILDING A LEGACY.

Dear Friends,

As we prayerfully consider the mission and vision for Mount Pisgah Christian School, the parable of the mustard seed reminds us of the power of faith and how God has blessed the growth of our school over the past 30 years.

We are thankful to God and humbled by the School’s progress since the launch of our last strategic plan, Vision 2020, including:

- Hiring of dedicated Christ followers in our faculty and staff who love God, young people and sharing their faith in the classroom and beyond
- Construction of the 48,000 square-foot state-of-the-art upper school Geier Hall
- Completion of the 33-acre Patriot Athletic Campus (the PAC)
- Expansion of academic technology preschool – 12th grade, including the new preschool STEAM lab
- The five-fold increased investment in faculty training and professional development
- More than $3 million dollars in annual scholarships received by graduating seniors over the past few years
- Enhanced security with the addition of a full-time nurse and campus security officer
- Upgrade and expansion of the academic offerings in all divisions, including K-12 curriculum mapping
- Strengthened academic learning support programs in grades JK-12
- Completion of the $20 million Building for the Future Campaign and achieved record Annual Fund participation rates for parents, alumni and faculty

Building upon the success of these initiatives and grounded in prayer, an ambitious effort was undertaken to update Vision 2020 and chart a dynamic course for the next decade. A strategic planning committee, led by trustees Joe Gaynor and Gray Vallely, began work in the spring of 2015.

Thanks to the thoughtful input of parents, students, teachers, administrators, staff and trustees, as well as area church, school and community leaders who participated in 26 focus groups, Strategic Plan 2025 came to fruition. The passion that our stakeholders expressed for our school and its mission of service to families is inspiring, and we are deeply grateful to many people for their valuable ideas and feedback. The MPCS Board of Trustees approved Strategic Plan 2025 this spring and is now entrusting the administration to implement.

As we look to the future and pray for our continued success and growth, we eagerly anticipate all that God has in store for Mount Pisgah. With Christ as our beacon, there is no telling what amazing things are in store for His school. Leading through the power of the Holy Spirit, our school’s faculty and staff change lives in dramatic and profound ways. Our teachers and coaches partner with parents to provide excellence in education on every dimension, academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. This strategic plan paints a powerful portrait of a school grounded in its founding spiritual mission and core values since 1986, and yet enthusiastic to grow even bigger and better over the next 30 years.

In His Service,

Ruston Pierce
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Doug Williams
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GROWING FAITH

GOAL:

AFFIRM the foundational concept of spiritual formation as a means of enhancing the quality of Mount Pisgah community life. "Spiritual formation" is an intentional Christian practice that has as its goal the development of spiritual maturity that leads to Christ-likeness. Common practices include prayer, scriptural study, worship and service.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

• Formally adopt and communicate that the Apostle’s Creed is the primary doctrinal statement of Mount Pisgah Christian School.
• Enhance the JK-12 Bible curriculum and religious life co-curriculum (e.g. chapels) by strengthening Bible literacy as well as advancing personal spiritual development and service.
• Expand program opportunities for students’ spiritual development and leadership.
• Increase outreach efforts for MPCS leadership to build relationships with the leadership of local churches and social service organizations throughout north Atlanta and across the state.
• Expand and enhance opportunities for Christian missions and community service locally, nationally, and globally.

WE BELIEVE each student is in a unique phase of spiritual development, discovering his or her God-given talents and purpose.

HE SAID TO THEM, "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION."
Mark 16:15

NOURISHING IN CHRIST AND IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

5,954 Upper School students’ total service hours
475 students grow in their faith through Middle and Upper School spiritual retreats
JUST AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE VARIED GRACE OF GOD.

1 Peter 4:10

PLANTING A HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

WE BELIEVE each student learns individually and benefits from differentiated instruction and exceptional personal attention that will challenge and encourage each to reach his or her full potential.

GROWING EDUCATORS

GOAL:

CONTINUE to attract and retain excellent faculty who are impassioned about their subject areas, experts in their field, committed to the mission of the school, and excited about building personal relationships with students and families.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

• Continue to support and invest in a top-tier teaching faculty comprised of passionate Christian educators from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

• Ensure the School is the employer of choice among the most qualified teachers who are passionate about sharing their faith.

• Foster a collaborative working environment that includes mentorships, input from students and families, and professional peer feedback and coaching.

• Develop more robust professional development and faculty recognition and excellence awards.

100% employees who sign a profession of faith

68% teaching faculty who hold advanced degrees

5% top MPCS ranks nationally among Christian schools in investment to support faculty professional development
ARTS
• Continually assess and expand the arts offerings to encourage each student to discover and develop his or her God-given talents.

• Increase participation in the Arts to expand each student’s creativity and appreciation for life, beauty and culture.

ACADEMICS
• Develop a Center for Exceptional Children in the Lower School.
• Expand existing learning support programs.
• Develop a Center for 21st Century Leadership.
• Develop a Center for Writing Excellence.
• Develop a Center for Technological Innovation and STEAM.

ATHLETICS
• Continue to attract, retain and train excellent teachers who have a passion for coaching and for being spiritual leaders.
• Invest in appropriate capital improvements to our athletic facilities.
• Encourage each student to embrace physical fitness to be “life ready” as well as to participate in at least one sports season in both the Middle School and Upper School.

• Increase participation in the Arts to expand each student’s creativity and appreciation for life, beauty and culture.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR LIFE

WE BELIEVE in preparing students for the world by educating the whole child; intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially while reinforcing ethics and morals that will last a lifetime.

100% Class of 2016 accepted into a four-year College or University
$6+ scholarships awarded to the Classes of 2015 and 2016
13 advanced placement courses offered
70%+ students participate in Arts and Athletics

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES
GOAL:

PROVIDE excellent programs of academics, athletics and arts that inspire each student to discover, explore and pursue his or her God-given talents and purpose. Additionally, develop several Centers of Excellence to advance the School’s mission.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

ACADEMICS

ATHLETICS

FINALLY, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS WORTHY OF RESPECT, WHATEVER IS JUST, WHATEVER IS PURE, WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS COMMENDABLE, IF SOMETHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY, THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

Philippians 4:8
GROWING COMMUNITY

GOAL:

FACILITATE a healthy, loving campus community where all students, parents, faculty, and staff feel welcomed and supported so that all thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

EMBRACING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

WE BELIEVE students learn invaluable lessons about compassion, friendship and community by expanding their world to connect with others.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

• Embrace a biblically-based Statement of Diversity that articulates the school’s commitment to the value of diversity, inclusion, and love for all people.

• Intentionally build the International Students Program to encourage English language acquisition, acclimation into the life of the school community, and knowledge of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

• Expand international travel, mission trips, and exchange programs to further the globalization of the Mount Pisgah educational experience and advance the School’s connectedness to the world.

• Expand marketing and community connections to enhance the diversity of families, faculty, and staff who become part of the Mount Pisgah family.

• Embrace and celebrate the ethnic and economic diversity of peoples from across the globe and encourage them to be part of Mount Pisgah Christian School.

22% ethnic diversity in the School population 32 students in the International Program
GROWING FACILITIES

GOAL:

PREPARE for the continued growth of the school and provide a campus that is consistent with the School's mission and vision.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

- Ensure that facilities support and encourage an optimal learning environment for all stakeholders in the school community while being good stewards of God’s earth.
- Enhance existing facilities to support a growing enrollment and the expansion of programs in academics, arts, athletics and spiritual life.
- Complete the Campus Master Plan, with special attention to completing the Patriot Athletic Campus and enhancing the Lower School.
- Continue to pursue financial and environmental sustainability goals to be an excellent steward of resources.

SUPPORTING LEARNING AND ENCOURAGING STEWARDSHIP

WE BELIEVE students are greatly affected by their environment, and also have the ability to affect their environment.

AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.
2 Cor 9:8
WE BELIEVE a Mount Pisgah education is a valuable investment that provides countless opportunities for students to learn, lead and gain skills needed to thrive in college and life.

THEREFORE, AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST THE LORD, SO WALK IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING.

Col 2:6-7

GROWING OUR FOUNDATION

GOAL:

ENSURE the economic viability of the School to advance the mission for today’s students and for future generations.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND GROUNDED IN OUR ROOTS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

- Continue to operate within a balanced budget.
- Grow enrollment to expand the reach of the school and touch more lives for Christ.
- Establish an endowment to underwrite programs in spiritual formation, teaching excellence, academics, tuition assistance, facilities and diversity.
- Secure alternative sources of revenue equal to 10% of tuition revenue by 2022.
- Build relationships to strengthen a culture of giving that inspires the Mount Pisgah community to support the annual fund and future capital campaigns.

2012-2015 PHILANTHROPIC SUCCESSES

100% faculty, staff, and board annual fund participation

$20.9 million total funds raised in the Building for the Future campaign

$2.27 million secured from foundations
GROWING LIVES
Portrait of the Mount Pisgah Christian School Graduate

ACHIEVE A BALANCED LIFE GROUNDED IN SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

THINK AND COMMUNICATE WITH CLARITY AND PURPOSE.

COLLABORATE TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS, SOLVE PROBLEMS AND RESOLVE CONFLICT.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE WIDER WORLD, BY WORKING FOR JUSTICE, PROMOTING PEACE AND PROTECTING GOD’S CREATION.

SOLVE PERSONAL AND REAL WORLD CHALLENGES WITH CREATIVE THINKING, SELF-ADVOCACY, RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE.

COLLABORATE TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS, SOLVE PROBLEMS AND RESOLVE CONFLICT.

INSPIRED TO LIVE A LIFE OF PURPOSE THROUGH FAITH.

UNDERSTAND AND CULTIVATE UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO ACT ON CONVICTIONS.

VALUE AND BUILD AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS THAT BRING MEANING TO LIFE, STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL THROUGH RESPONSIBLE AND EMPATHETIC COMMUNICATION AND ACTION.

UNDERSTAND AND CULTIVATE UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO ACT ON CONVICTIONS.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE WIDER WORLD, BY WORKING FOR JUSTICE, PROMOTING PEACE AND PROTECTING GOD’S CREATION.

SOLVE PERSONAL AND REAL WORLD CHALLENGES WITH CREATIVE THINKING, SELF-ADVOCACY, RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE.

THINK AND COMMUNICATE WITH CLARITY AND PURPOSE.
AT MOUNT PISGAH, WE BELIEVE GROWING IS A WAY OF LIFE.

mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN OR THE SCHOOL, visit www.mountpisgahschool.org or call 678-336-3443