

January 19, 2023 | Issue 55

A Message from the Head of School

Mead Hall Strategic Planning Process



Last week I wrote about the Mead Hall Parent Survey and this week I will focus on the strategic planning process. These are both part of our wider effort to prepare for reaccreditation and strengthen and improve our school's academic, institutional and community life over the next five years as well as our preparation for our re-accreditation by SAIS in November of 2023. Our accreditation is with the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS), the premier organization of independent school accreditation and association in the Southeast.

The timing of our re-accreditation is perfect as this is our first year free of the direct impact of the pandemic on our school. We spent much of the last three years focused on navigating the pandemic and keeping our students learning. While this period of the life and history of our school has been challenging, we are now breathing fresh air and looking forward with hope as we plan and build for our future.

The last formal strategic plan was initiated six years ago with our most recent accreditation in 2017. The school has made wonderful progress on the 2017 Strategic Plan by updating curriculum and enriching the academic program, increasing enrollment, reaching a balanced budget, updating classrooms and technology, and implementing best practices of school governance by the Board of Trustees. With many of our goals met or in process, in the 2019-2020 school year the Board of Trustees initiated an interim strategic plan by updating goals and implementing new goals. Further progress was made in the above areas as well as in implementing more inquiry-based and experiential curriculum, increasing annual giving, updating the master campus plan, and increasing faculty compensation to retain and recruit great teachers with the 6% increase in compensation this year.

Our next strategic plan is being created with the input of our major stakeholders – parents, students, board, administration, faculty, and staff – so that the whole Mead Hall community is involved in this process of envisioning our future, a key element of our self-study. We have designed our self-study to derive from the drafting of a five-year strategic plan. We are delighted to have Dr. Lynn Caravello as the chair of our Strategic Planning Committee to guide us through this process. Dr. Caravello is a retired high school principal and educational psychologist from New Jersey, who has served on the boards of both Aiken Prep and Mead Hall.

In November we invited parents, faculty/staff, and high school students to complete a school survey in preparation for our accreditation. This feedback will be helpful to us in several ways. The survey results were shared with the Strategic Planning Committee and the Division Heads. The comments are also helpful and will be used to inform the administration in addressing specific areas where the school can improve.

On Saturday, January 7th, the Strategic Planning Committee brought together a representative group of stakeholders comprised of board members, administration, faculty, parents and high school students. The day was expertly facilitated by Dr. Caravello, with her valuable experience in strategic planning. The day began with reflection on important information and data points, including the interim strategic plan, the school survey, and our current financial and enrollment data. In four small groups, the participants identified areas of strength and areas for growth, and presented these to the whole assembly for further reflection. Next the groups set to work identifying major goals they believed the school should implement in a strategic plan over the next five years. The groups came together again and shared their priorities with each other, and we found that there was a great deal of commonality among the four groups. After the strategic planning day, Dr. Caravello followed up via email with all of the participants and shared the goals they had identified so that each participant could rank the goals by importance. These prioritized goals have been shared with the Strategic Planning Committee, which is meeting today. The committee will now take this feedback to propose a set of goals to the Board of Trustees.

Next week the Board of Trustees will consider all of this input and adopt a strategic plan for the next five years. Each goal of the strategic plan will be further formed in the months to come. A team will work on the development of each goal with specific objectives, means and timelines. The board will direct that each team be composed of individuals drawn from the board, the administration, faculty, and others who are best equipped to address each particular goal.

The Board of Trustees and I will share more about the strategic planning process over the months to come. I am excited about the years ahead of working with the board and the school community to move Mead Hall forward into realizing our common vision and hope. These are exciting times for Mead Hall, a school full built on strong foundations with a future full of promise.

Faithfully,

Frank Sawyer

REMEMBERING TOM YOUNG SR.

We remember with deep respect and appreciation Tom Young, Sr., who passed away last Friday. Tom has been a Mead Hall dad, a grandfather, and board member. We are grateful for his support of our school over many years and we miss him dearly. May he rest in peace and rise to glory. Mr. Young's funeral is on Friday at 2:00 pm at Milbrook Baptist Church. His obituary is here:

<https://www.shellhousefuneralhome.com/obituary/thomas-young-sr>

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

"We are thrilled to share with our Mead Hall families that our seniors have been accepted at the following colleges and universities with scholarships totaling \$1,682,000. We will continue to update this list as we hear from our seniors. College decisions will be released through the first week of April."

Class of 2023

62 college acceptances

34 colleges and universities

13 states

awarded **\$1,682,000** in scholarship dollars *(received 1/17/23)*



Created with mapchart.net

*Aiken Technical College
Anderson University
Appalachian State University
Auburn University
Belmont Abbey College
Berry College
Catholic University
Charleston Southern University
The Citadel
Clemson
Converse University
DePaul University
Francis Marion University
Franciscan University
Georgia College
High Point University
Lake Forest College*

*Lander University
Loyola University Chicago
Marshall University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
North Greenville University
Presbyterian College
Queens University of Charlotte
Saint Leo University
St. John's University
University of Kentucky
University of South Carolina, Aiken
University of South Carolina, Columbia
University of Tennessee
Valdosta State University
Western Carolina University
Wingate University
Winthrop University*

RE-ENROLLMENT

We are excited to announce that **Priority Re-enrollment for our current Mead Hall families opens February 1, 2023 and will continue through February 28, 2023.** Several families from outside of our Mead Hall community have toured our campuses and they are waiting to apply. Hence, if you are planning to secure a space for your child/children, we urge you to complete the re-enrollment paperwork by **February 28, 2023.**

If you are planning to enroll a new student who is a sibling of a current Mead Hall student, you will be able to apply (for the new student) beginning February 1, 2023. We are paying close attention to our enrollment numbers and once we've determined availability, we will begin offering admission to current families first and then to new families beginning Monday, March 13, 2023. Once we've reached our capacity for a specific grade, we will communicate that to you promptly.

We are glad to offer affordable tuition levels that are of excellent value for an independent school education in the CSRA. As you know, in comparison with peer schools, our tuition is the most all inclusive in the area with no additional required fees other than the annual registration fee. We are also glad to serve lunch daily at no additional cost. For your reference, the tuition schedule for 2023 - 2024 is linked below. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

[2023-24 Tuition Schedule](#)

The Board of Trustees has set the school tuitions for 2023-2024. The board is committed to raising the salaries of our dedicated faculty and staff who make such a difference to the education of our students. Therefore, the primary purpose of the increase in tuitions this year is to continue to improve compensation to our faculty and staff. Please note that in 2023-2024, the kindergarten tuition will increase to the same level as the rest of the elementary grades in accordance with the tuition policy set by the Board of Trustees. Priority Re-enrollment will open on February 1st and continue through the month of February. In March we will open admissions to new students.

MEAD HALL'S PANTHER CLUB
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2023

AIKEN GOLF CLUB

9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

PTO EVENTS AND UPDATES:

Save the date for these spring events -

February 27th - March 3rd is Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week at STC and APC. Parent volunteers will be needed to provide breakfast items and mailbox treats throughout the week at both campuses. A Sign Up Genius link with more information will be available next month. Thanks to your support of our events, PTO uses funds raised to gift all of our Faculty and Staff with Downtown Dollars and a catered lunch on Friday.

Friday, March 24th will be our last Chick-fil-A lunch day of the school year. Pre-orders will begin the week of March 13th and will be open to both Lower and Upper school students

April 17th - 22nd will be our Spring Scholastic Book Fair Week in the APC Gym. Parent volunteers will be needed throughout the week to take shifts to run the cash register.



Strawberry Festival 2023

Saturday, April 22nd is our 39th Annual Strawberry Festival on the APC field. The Strawberry Festival is our largest and most successful fundraiser of the year but it can't be done without your support! The PTO is in the early planning stages and more information will be shared weekly - if you are interested in being a part of the planning committee, please email PTO@meadhallschool.org

Important Dates to keep in mind - Pre-Orders for Strawberry Festival Shirts & Wristbands will begin the week of March 13th. Backpack mail regarding classroom donations will be sent home the week of April 10th.

Most Important Needs - Donations of Frozen Casseroles/Pies and Baked Goods, Pound Cakes, Silent Auction Items, and Numerous volunteers to work various booths on festival day!

More information and a Sign Up Genius link will be forthcoming.

SCHOOL STORE



Store Hours:

January 23rd - 27th

Open: Monday - Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Afternoons by appointment -

MHStore@meadhallschool.org



School Store Policies

No Returns – All sales are final and we do not take returns on any merchandise. No refunds or store credit is given.

Exchanges – An even exchange may be made (same item, different size) The item must be in new, unworn condition with tags still attached.

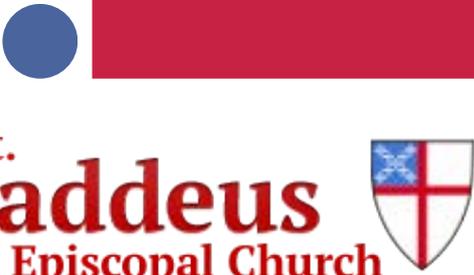
Resale Items – There are NO returns/refunds or exchanges on any resale items.

Donations – We accept donations throughout the year of gently used uniform items (polo shirts, outerwear, khaki, plaid, blazers, ties etc.)

Payment – We accept Cash, Checks, Apple Pay and all major Credit Cards. Payment is due at the time of purchase – you cannot be invoiced via Square or FACTS for in stock merchandise.

Pre-Sales – At various times throughout the year, we will have a pre-sale on a particular item. Pre-Sale items are pre-paid (via invoice, cash or check) and must be paid prior to receiving your item.

Please familiarize yourself with our updated school store policies



**St.
Thaddeus
Episcopal Church**

SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY

7:45 A.M. - Rite I (No Music)
9:00 A.M. - CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
11:15 A.M. - TRADITIONAL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY

9:30 A.M. - BIBLE STUDY
11:00 A.M. - SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL

Please join us for Sunday services. You may also attend virtually at the VIMEO link above. For those watching at home, the bulletin can be found at the SERVICE BULLETIN link above, and on the [St. Thaddeus website](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

10:00 – 11:00

Children – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, upstairs in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg
Led by Anna Akins

Drop In Class - small parlor in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg
Led by Kathie Fowler

Adult Sunday School Class – Large Parlor (cafeteria) in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg
Led by Gibert Kennedy

In addition to these Sunday classes, there is a book study that meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30AM. They meet in the sitting room in the Cornish Bldg. It is led by Burt Tiffany. Following the book study is the 11:00AM Rite II Eucharistic service held in the chapel.

Upcoming Services and Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: – 5:45pm in the Large Parlor

Ash Wednesday: – 8:00am, 11:00am, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Lent Monday – Friday: – 8:00am Prayer Service in the Chapel (Starting February 23rd)

Wednesday Evenings in Lent: – 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29

Service – 5:00pm in Chapel, dinner at 5:45pm, program 6:15-6:45pm

Program by week:

1. Introduction to the Old Testament with Canon Renegar
2. Introduction to the New Testament with Fr. Joseph
3. Church history with Canon Renegar
4. Sacramental Theology with Fr. Joseph
5. Ecclesiology: who we are as Anglicans and the words we use to define ourselves with Canon Renegar

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday in Lent at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday: – 7:45am, 9:00am – Procession will start in Tea Garden, 11:15am – Procession will start in Tea Garden

Holy Week: 4/3, 4/4, 4/5 – 11:00am Eucharist in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday: – 7:00pm in Sanctuary – Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday: – 8:00am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm in Sanctuary

Easter Vigil: – 8:00pm incense and chanting

Easter Sunday: – Regular services, Easter egg hunt at 10:15am

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