



Canterbury
SCHOOL

Lead Forward

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CANTERBURY 2019





Introduction



Dear Canterbury Community,

As Canterbury nears its fourth decade, the school finds itself at a point of inflection. Behind us are the foundational years that underpin enduring relationships, cherished traditions, and numerous successes. Ahead are terrific opportunities to be recognized and harnessed. We strive to prepare Canterbury and its students for a complex world, a rapidly changing landscape in terms of education, technology, jobs, and national and global dynamics. It is crucial now to affirm the vision of Canterbury's founding mothers and fathers and our shared, core values while establishing a new strategic position among the Triad's numerous and increasing school options.

Indeed, we are on the cusp of exciting times at Canterbury. Over the past year, facilitated by strategic consultants Ian Symmonds & Associates, a task force comprised of a wide variety of stakeholders has listened, reflected, and worked thoughtfully and diligently to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that reflects our most important priorities and highest aspirations. That plan is now complete, and as you will see, we have created a vision to guide our direction over the next five years, with an impact that will be felt for many years to come.

We evaluated all of our future opportunities with Canterbury's mission as our North Star: "To develop the whole child by challenging the mind and nourishing the spirit in a diverse community guided by Judeo-Christian values." True to Canterbury's core values of learning, loving, and serving, this plan focuses on academics, leadership, and community impact. Our goals extend beyond our expectations for students to also include critical investments in our teachers and staff, involvement of our parents and families, and a broader reach into our local community.

The implementation of our strategic plan will be carefully planned and led by senior school leaders as financial and other resources critical to implementation become available. We will share regular updates with you along the way as we strive forward to achieve our goals. We will, through this process, grow even stronger as an institution.

This plan's success hinges on the involvement and engagement of our broader school community. We are excited to begin this next chapter in Canterbury's development and to do so with each of you as partners in this challenging work. Together, we will lead Canterbury forward into our fourth decade and beyond.

The Board of Trustees and Phil Spears, Head of School

Strategic Planning Committee

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Head of School
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Our Mission

Our Mission

Canterbury's mission is to develop the whole child by challenging the mind and nourishing the spirit in a diverse community guided by Judeo-Christian values.

Our Motto

To Learn, To Love, To Serve: To Live.

Our Philosophy

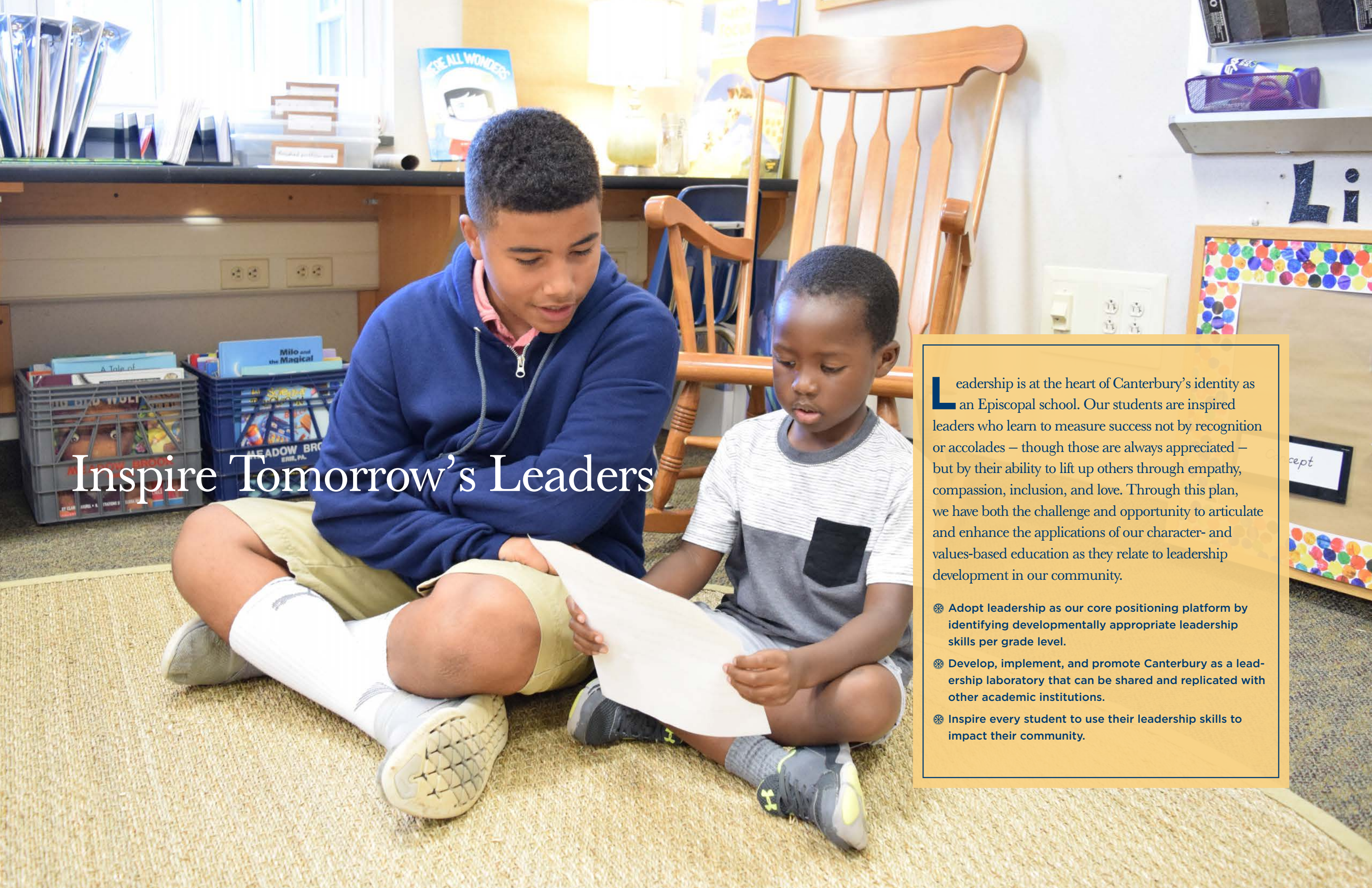
- ⊗ Consistent with the tradition and practice of the Episcopal Church, Canterbury gives a central place to both the life of reason and the life of faith. Canterbury's philosophy is that the ideal education takes place in a faith community engaging in a comprehensive and challenging search for truth.
- ⊗ We believe that the school should be broadly representative of its reachable community, for a school which serves all God's children offers an enriched environment by virtue of the diversity of its students and teachers.
- ⊗ Canterbury provides an education that is traditional in its emphasis on classical as well as contemporary knowledge and open to the use of the best techniques of pedagogy presently developed.
- ⊗ Canterbury strives to promote confidence, initiative, and to stimulate a life-long interest in learning within a caring atmosphere of individual attention and encouragement.
- ⊗ As an Episcopal school, Canterbury teaches that knowledge and service of God and humankind form the basis of wisdom. Canterbury believes that a complete education must combine the academic and spiritual dimensions.
- ⊗ By challenging the mind and nourishing the spirit, Canterbury seeks to create in each child "an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love God, and the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works."



Emergence as the PreK to 8th Grade Academic Leader in Greensboro

As a PreK-8th grade independent school, Canterbury is uniquely positioned to incorporate the latest research, technology, and pedagogy while considering the developmental needs of our students at every level. As we imbue in students a firm grounding in writing, mathematics, science, languages, social studies, and the arts, we also must develop the crucial 21st century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, cross-disciplinary analysis, and more.

- ⊗ Study and articulate our core academic programs and expected student competencies
- ⊗ Develop and enhance superior co-curricular programming, building on strong current programs and adopting innovative new programs.
- ⊗ Explore and implement best academic practices at other independent schools and our own.
- ⊗ Recruit, hire, develop, and retain exceptional educators – teachers, administrators, and staff – to fulfill Canterbury's mission.
- ⊗ Rethink and reimagine time and schedule to maximize excellent teaching and learning.
- ⊗ Differentiate instruction to serve a wider breadth of learners and learning styles, with enhanced academic support services for students.



Inspire Tomorrow's Leaders

Leadership is at the heart of Canterbury's identity as an Episcopal school. Our students are inspired leaders who learn to measure success not by recognition or accolades — though those are always appreciated — but by their ability to lift up others through empathy, compassion, inclusion, and love. Through this plan, we have both the challenge and opportunity to articulate and enhance the applications of our character- and values-based education as they relate to leadership development in our community.

- ⊗ Adopt leadership as our core positioning platform by identifying developmentally appropriate leadership skills per grade level.
- ⊗ Develop, implement, and promote Canterbury as a leadership laboratory that can be shared and replicated with other academic institutions.
- ⊗ Inspire every student to use their leadership skills to impact their community.



Increase our Vitality, Connections, and Impact in the Community

Canterbury's student leaders are nurtured with the expectation that they will serve their neighbors and our world during their time on campus and throughout their lives. Service learning has been an integral part of our curriculum since the school's beginning, yet we continue to have the opportunity to deepen our relationships and engage our students and our campus in new and important work to meet the needs of our community, both near and far.

- ⊗ Define the purpose and goals of community engagement.
- ⊗ Create mutually beneficial relationships with organizations in our area that are congruent with our mission and purpose.
- ⊗ Assess the underused capacity of our physical resources and how they intersect with the greater community needs.



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