



HOLY GHOST PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA
PRINCIPAL**

START DATE: JULY 1, 2019

WWW.HOLYGHOSTPREP.ORG



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES



HOLY GHOST PREP

Mission

Holy Ghost Preparatory School, founded by members of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, the Spiritans, is a private Catholic school dedicated to the quality education of college-bound young men.

With Christ at the center, Holy Ghost Preparatory School aspires to form young men morally, intellectually, and spiritually in the Spiritan tradition. This tradition fosters the development of community in “one heart and one mind,” the cultivation of each student’s unique gifts, academic excellence, and generous service to the poor.

OVERVIEW

Holy Ghost Preparatory School is an outstanding Catholic college preparatory school for young men in grades 9-12. Rated No. 3 out of all 100 Catholic schools in Pennsylvania, HGP is a community of faith and learning, driven by mission, focused on excellence, and defined by its powerful Spiritan tradition.

Founded in 1897, HGP continues to be mindful of its founding history as a seminary as it seeks to form young men morally, intellectually, and spiritually. The school serves God by serving each student through a commitment to excellence in liberal arts and sciences education and through a deep concern for moral, spiritual, and ethical values, grounded in the traditions of Roman Catholicism and the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

HGP currently seeks a high performing and enthusiastic Principal with outstanding leadership and organizational skills to serve as the day to day leader of school operations. In this capacity the Principal will lead a strong team of direct reports and oversee a superb and dedicated faculty. The Principal will also have an opportunity to continue implementing Vision 2020, the exciting strategic plan that is currently in year-three of a five-year strategy.

SCHOOL HISTORY

Holy Ghost Prep was founded in 1897 as Holy Ghost Apostolic College, a preparatory school and junior-college seminary for young men studying to become members of the religious order of the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers. In the 1950s, the school moved its college-level program to Duquesne



University and opened its doors to non-seminarians in 1959 for the first time.

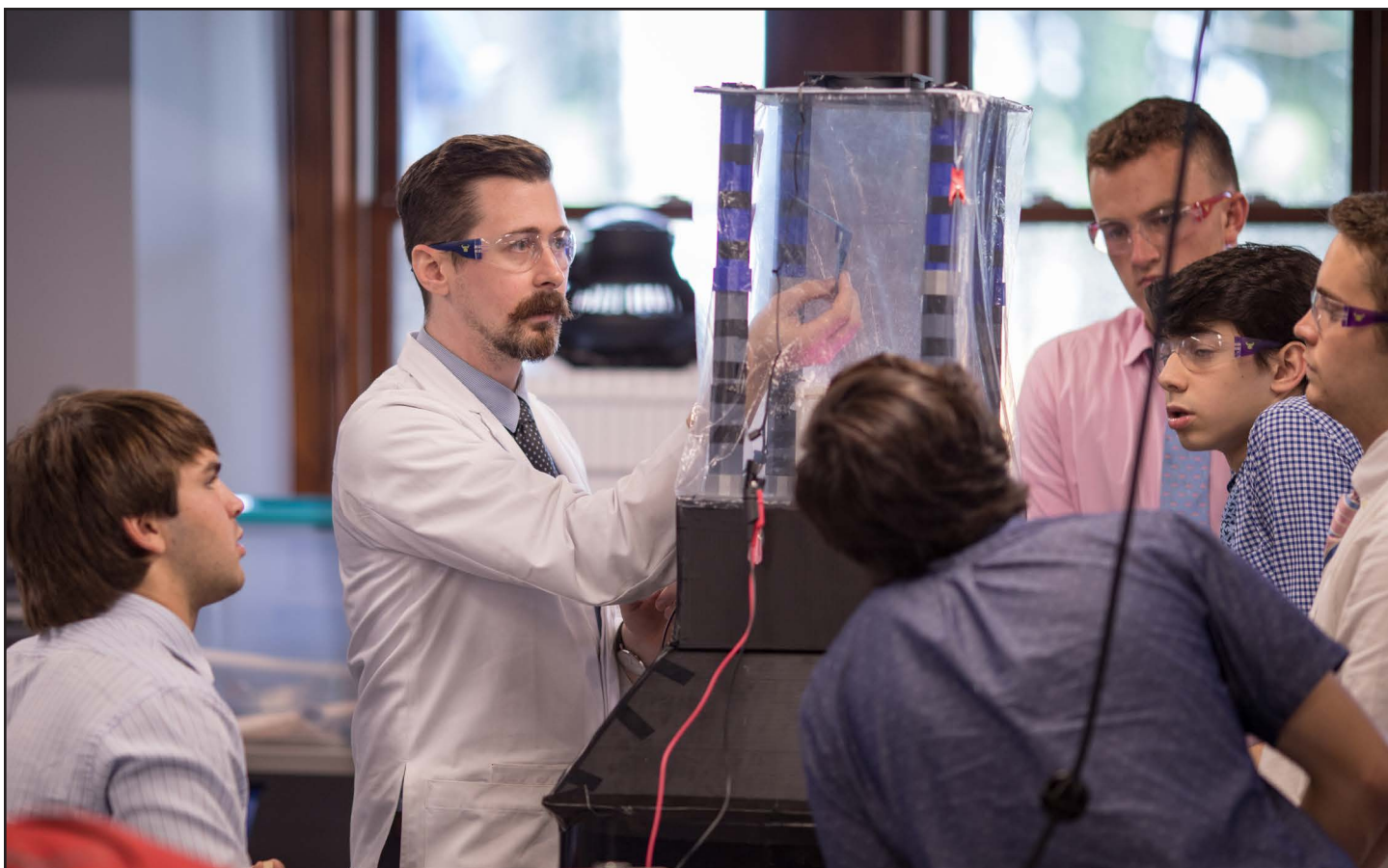
In the 1990s, the school began a long-range planning process that resulted in significant campus enhancements. A 400-meter all-weather track and field event complex was built, surrounding a new soccer field. An additional baseball field was added, and the existing field was redone. Founders' Hall, containing a new library, classrooms, and computer labs, was built to enhance the educational opportunities for all students. The entire Firebird Fieldhouse was renovated in 2003, including a new maple hardwood floor, new locker and bathroom facilities, a new weight and fitness center, and full climate control.

The positive momentum continues at Holy Ghost Prep. In 2017, the school opened the Holt Center, the school's new 27,000-square foot performing arts, athletic, and activity space. Step One of the STEM Tower, the Brennan Family Innovation Center, opened in August 2017. The rest of the STEM Tower was completed in time for the start of the 2018-19 school year.

THE SCHOOL

HGP today is a vibrant community of 465 young men preparing for college and adult life through a challenging program that stresses the cultivation of students' unique gifts and talents, academic excellence, and generous service to the poor.

Situated on 50 acres in Bucks County adjacent to the busy I-95 corridor in the metropolitan Philadelphia area, Holy Ghost Prep attracts students from more than 75 elementary feeder schools from throughout metropolitan Philadelphia counties and New Jersey. Classes are small, so interaction



and active learning are a given. With a 9-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, an unmatched faculty of 40 – many of whom hold advanced degrees – gets to know each student personally, as well as his hopes and dreams. All graduates go to college, so students leave Ghost perfectly equipped to make those dreams come true.

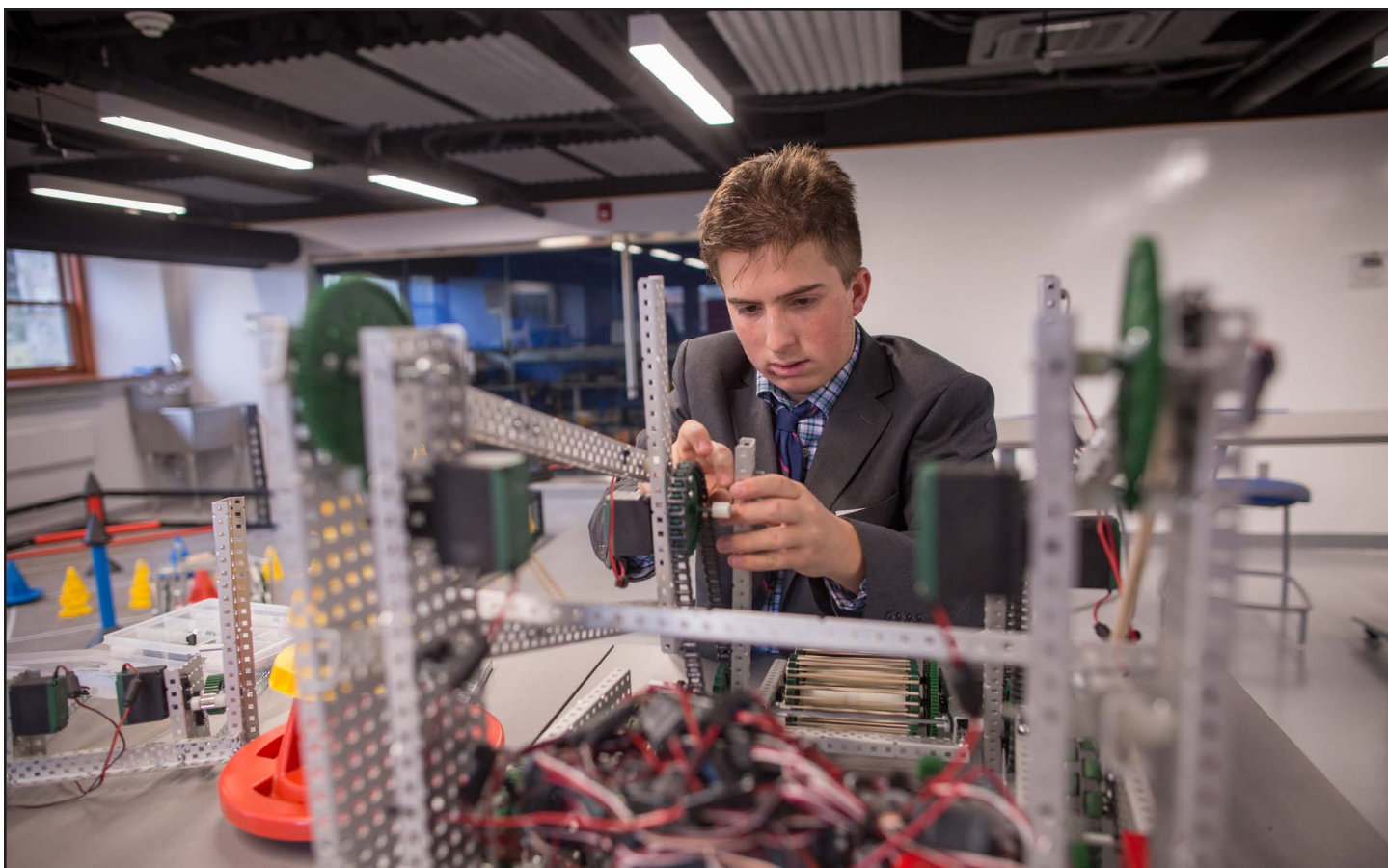
Central to the mission of Holy Ghost Prep is its motto *Cor Unum et Anima Una*, which means, “One Heart and One Mind.” HGP is a community dedicated to awakening and guiding the hearts of students to become compassionate, caring, and faith-centered young men. Critical thinking, intellectual curiosity and rigor, and the drive to be one’s best self are the hallmarks of the Holy Ghost Prep educated student.

ACADEMICS

At Holy Ghost Prep, students’ mind and character are tested while being prepared for college and for life. Students are exposed to a rigorous liberal arts and sciences core curriculum which teaches critical-thinking skills, enabling students to successfully navigate life’s complex issues.

Classes at Holy Ghost Prep don’t follow the norm. They are creative, energized, and aim for the deeper understanding of topics. Boys are challenged to learn a world that is more than calculus, Spanish, or robotics. They are shown how to think differently and nimbly, and taught how to hone their unique gifts, so they can, in turn, change the world.

Students pursue coursework in Computer Science and Engineering, English, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Religion, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages (Spanish, French, and Latin). Honors



and 22 Advanced Placement courses are available, and related clubs and organizations provide students a means to pursue passions and interests in particular areas. Technology is thoughtfully integrated in the curriculum and students are taught responsible usage.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

In response to the growing interest of students, the burgeoning of STEM careers, and the school's commitment to innovation, HGP successfully launched a VEX Robotics program in 2017. Thanks to the department of computer science and engineering and a group of truly gifted and dedicated students, Holy Ghost Prep's robotics program is already one of the best in the state, as evidenced by HGP's second-place finish out of 74 competing teams at the 2018 state championships.

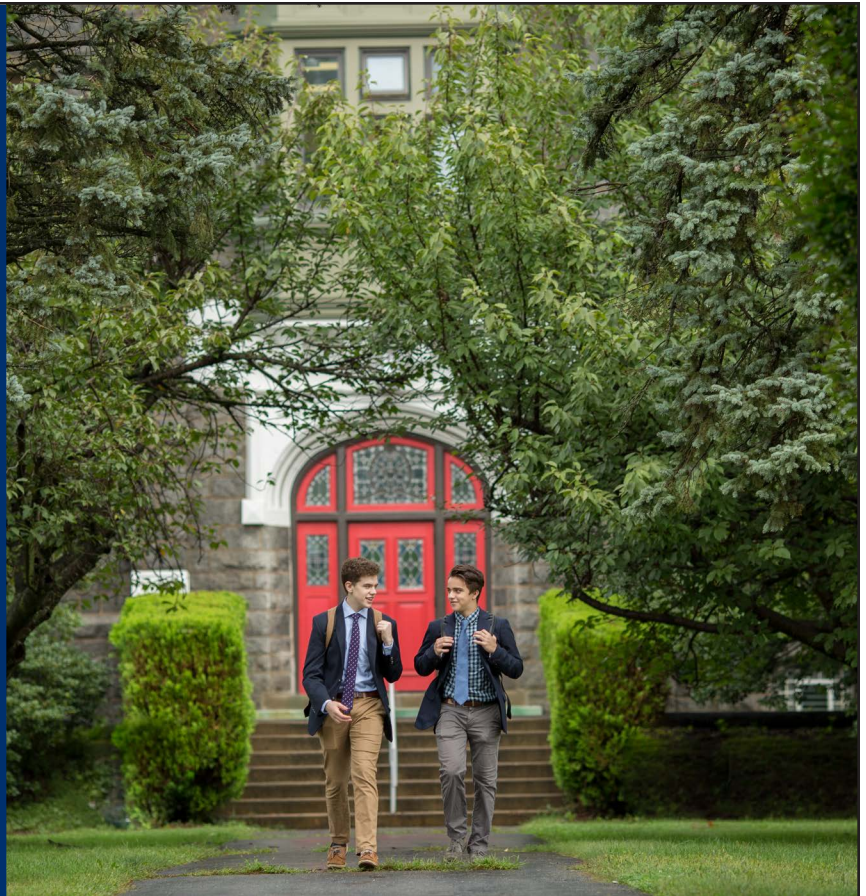
The Leadership Externship Advantage Program (LEAP) initiative targets juniors who have interest in pursuing a particular field of study with Holy Ghost Prep alumni who have interest in providing real life experience in the work environment. Students in the program are exposed to professional skill-building, networking opportunities with company employees, and an overview of future collegiate applications in their area(s) of study.

Holy Ghost Prep also offers service immersion programs that sets the school apart from other Philadelphia area high schools. These Spiritan-influenced immersive experiences include a student exchange program with Blackrock College in Ireland, as well as service trips to the Dominican Republic, Tanzania, and West Virginia.

College Placement

The following is a selection of colleges to which Holy Ghost Prep students have matriculated over the previous three years (2016-18):

American University
Boston College
Boston University
Colby College
Colgate University
Cornell University
Davidson College
Duke University
Duquesne University
Emory University
Fordham University
Georgia Tech
Gettysburg College
Harvard University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
Michigan State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Providence College
Rutgers University
Seton Hall University
St. John's University
Swarthmore College
Tufts University
University of Arizona
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Xavier University



COUNSELING

The Holy Ghost Prep Counseling Services begin with 9th grade and extend through 12th grade graduation. Services are available to all students, parents and school staff in a variety of settings and are developmental, preventative, and remedial in nature. Counseling services and guidance programs are vital components of the educational process which enable students to assess their needs, recognize their abilities, and formulate strategies to achieve their potential in a community dedicated to academic excellence and generous service to the poor.

HGP believes the college search process should be holistic in its approach to finding the “best fit” college for each student. The school strives to help its students learn more about themselves to help make informed search decisions so that they will be fulfilled by their college experience academically, spiritually, and socially. Beginning in sophomore year, students attend college guidance class once a cycle. Classes cover topics including career interest, the college search, SAT prep, financial aid, essay writing, senior year planning, and more.



ARTS

One of the tenets of a Holy Ghost education is helping each student develop his unique gifts. Robust opportunities to perform and create – in the visual arts, music, and theater – encourage students to become creative problem-solvers, divergent thinkers, and positive risk-takers. Through development of skills in these areas, students learn to recognize the unique gifts in themselves and others.

In art, students are guided in a process of self-discovery and exposed to as comprehensive a fine arts program as possible. The fine arts include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and design. A variety of clubs, organizations, exhibitions, and performance opportunities are also available to students.

Learning to perform with confidence is an integral part of music education at HGP. The school offers a wide variety of musical avenues, including the concert band, jazz band, pit orchestra, and chorus. HGP vocalists and musicians have appeared locally and also in world-class venues such as Philadelphia's Kimmel Center as members of All-Catholic band and chorus.

Each year, HGP puts on a major spring production, where students team up with students from area all-girls schools to become a non-profit theater company. They love the sense of community that comes from working together, cast and crew, to stage a first-rate production. The success of every HGP show depends as much on what goes on behind the scenes as what takes place on stage, and the stage crew is an opportunity for students to be involved off-stage.



ATHLETICS

Holy Ghost Prep student-athletes excel where it matters most, in the classroom and in the all-important area of sportsmanship. HGP produces true student-athletes. They don't just play to win, they compete with honor. As a result, Holy Ghost Prep features first-rate sports teams, and area athletic directors have voted HGP the winner of the PIAA District 1 Sportsmanship Award in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The Firebirds have earned hundreds of championship titles in the school's rich athletic history. The basketball coach, Tony Chapman '71, has won nearly 900 games. One Ghost graduate (Nolan Jones '16) is one of the Cleveland Indians' hottest prospects, while another ex-HGP athlete (Jim Britt '00) has his name engraved on the Stanley Cup twice. Holy Ghost Prep grads have gone on to compete for Team USA in the 2018 Winter Olympics, to play in the U.S. Open golf championship, and to play professional lacrosse.

Sports include baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, and ultimate frisbee.

SCHOOL LIFE

Thanks to the 75 extracurricular activities at Holy Ghost Prep, there are virtually endless opportunities to get engaged, try new things, and nurture a passion. Clubs and organizations include astronomy club, C.A.F.E. (Cultural Awareness for Everyone), chess club, chorus, environmental club, HGP Forensic Society, literary magazine (*Embers*), Mathletes, mock trial, politics club, Spanish club, ski/snowboard club, and World War II club, among others.



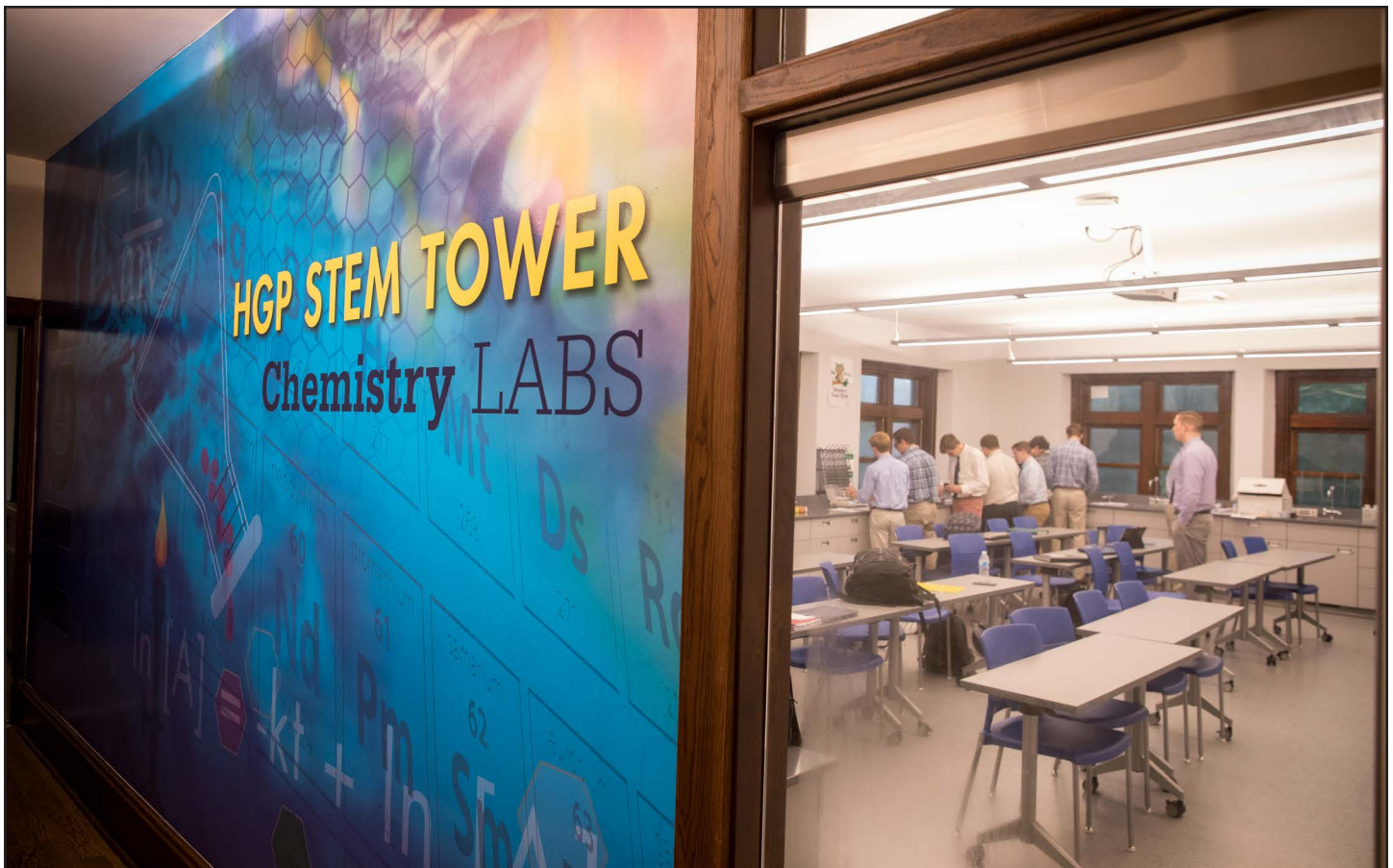
The Holy Ghost competitive speech and debate team has a long history stretching back to the 1970s. In its almost five-decade history, the team has had 37 consecutive Philadelphia City Speech championships, 18 Pennsylvania state championships, and hundreds of individual and team championships. This national powerhouse is led by a coach who has been recognized both at the state and national hall of fame level.

At HGP, commitment to service, concern for the poor, and a global vision are woven into the school's DNA. Whether it's staying among the people of Tanzania or the Dominican Republic, caring for the homeless in Philadelphia and Trenton, taking on small construction projects each year in West Virginia, or simply visiting elderly neighbors, HGP challenges students to see themselves as servant leaders who respond to the needs of others with compassion. During the 2017-18 school year, Holy Ghost Prep students logged over 10,000 community service hours.

Second semester sophomores are now given the opportunity to participate in a student exchange program with Blackrock College, a Spiritan high school founded in the 17th century by the Holy Ghost Fathers in Dublin, Ireland. This exchange program is in its early stages of development but further illustrates the school's commitment to increasing its global awareness educational programming for students.

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

Holy Ghost Prep's Campus Ministry is a mainstream organization that unites the HGP community spiritually. Campus Ministry emphasizes respect and fellowship among all members of the school community and encourages the growth of each person's unique relationship with God by engaging in ministries of word, worship, and service. Campus ministers work hand and hand with the religion



department to make Holy Ghost not only an outstanding place to learn, but an outstanding place to live one's own life through Christ. Among their many duties, Holy Ghost Prep's campus ministers help to plan student-led liturgies, student retreats, and other service-to-others, faith-strengthening activities for all students on HGP's campus.

The religion department, working in conjunction with Campus Ministry, recognizes its unique and primary role in helping the school to fulfill its mission to "form young men morally, intellectually, and spiritually in the Spiritan Tradition." The department assists students in deepening their relationship with God through a quality balance of informative and formative experiences. Holy Ghost Prep also offers class retreats, which provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their time at HGP, grow their spirituality, and experience time away with their class.

CAMPUS

Holy Ghost Prep is a suburban, 50-acre, tree-lined campus located just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Along with the on-campus academic buildings comprised of Cornwells Hall, Founders' Hall, the Firebird Fieldhouse, and the new Holt Center, there are three soccer fields and lacrosse fields, two baseball diamonds, a winding cross-country course, a six-lane track with field event locations, and a fieldhouse that hosts home basketball games.

In March 2018, the school opened the Holt Center, the new 27,000-square foot performing arts, athletic, and activity space. The building is home to the Di Paolo Family Gymnasium, a practice gym with six basketball hoops; the Frank Frederico '00 Performing Arts Theater, a state-of-the-art performing arts space for school plays and concerts; music rehearsal spaces specifically tailored



to accommodate both group and individual instruction; an erg room for the rowing program; indoor batting cages and pitching mounds; and track and field practice space so athletes can sharpen their skills all year round.

In August 2017, the Brennan Family Innovation Center opened its doors. Engineering courses are taught here and the VEX robotics team collaborates in this space. In summer of 2018, the Innovation Center combined with the new STEM Tower, converting the school's biology, chemistry, and physics laboratories into six STEM-based labs and making HGP one of the area's leaders in science and technology education.

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

With a population of over 60,000, Bensalem is a township bordered by Philadelphia to the west and south. This suburban area is surrounded on three sides by water: the Neshaminy Creek, the Delaware River, and the Poquessing Creek. From the farms and old mansions along the Delaware River, Bensalem has grown into a commercial and residential area. The township is now home to thousands of people from various locations around the world.

Two SEPTA rail lines serve Bensalem, providing service to nearby Philadelphia and Trenton, New Jersey. The Philadelphia metropolitan area is the eighth largest in the United States. As a thriving economic center, it is home to some major U.S. corporations, including Comcast, Cigna Insurance, Sunoco, Aramark, GlaxoSmithKilne, Urban Outfitters, and others. The city is also growing as a center for biotechnology and information technology. Of course, Philadelphia's historic and cultural sites make it one of the nation's major tourist destinations.

On the cultural front, Philadelphia is home to Independence Hall where the *Declaration of Independence* was signed, and the *U.S. Constitution* adopted. Museums include the Franklin Institute, the Museum of the American Revolution, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Philadelphia Museum of Art (with the now-famous Rocky steps), and the impressive Barnes Foundation, which promotes the advancement of education and appreciate for the fine arts. With its historic neighborhoods, parklands, and remarkable building murals, Philadelphia is a wonderful city for walking. It's also a great city for dining out, with 300-plus bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) restaurants and lots of sidewalk seating reminiscent of European cities.

In education, the city is home to some of the oldest independent schools in the country and has the nation's third largest concentration of college students — including at the University of Pennsylvania, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, and Drexel University.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Holy Ghost Preparatory school is on a roll! Transformational change is underway. The campus mood is upbeat and enthusiastic about the future, and the Vision 2020 plan is meeting and exceeding expectations, attracting new families and donors, and creating a palpable buzz throughout the community. The next Principal will have an opportunity to seize this powerful momentum and lead the faculty in taking academic excellence and student achievement to the next level.

This is an exceptional opportunity for a dynamic school leader steeped in best practice to work with a dedicated team of professionals in meeting the ambitious plans of the community. Maintaining momentum and building on the mission and platform is the unparalleled opportunity awaiting the next Principal.

In particular, the next Principal should be mindful of the following opportunities and challenges:

- Continue implementing the academic components of the exciting Vision 2020 plan, including those relating to the newly developed academic vision, the Brennan Family Innovation Center and STEM program as well as forensics and the programmatic elements of the new Holt Center Arts and Athletic Activity Center.
- Consistent with the Vision 2020 plan, lead the effort to update the school's curriculum for 21st-century learning and champion the community's bold agenda to become the "premier Catholic college preparatory school."
- Bring a mission-driven, data-informed discipline to all matters affecting the student experience, and provide the vision and thoughtful, caring leadership to educate HGP boys to become young men of Spiritan faith and wisdom.

DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The school operates in the President/Principal Leadership Model in which the Principal reports to the President and serves as the day-to-day person responsible for academic and school operations. In this instance the Principal leads a strong team of direct reports eager to welcome new leadership and achieve the promise of the school's enviable market position.

In addition to being Catholic, the President and Board will expect the following qualities and qualifications:

- An outstanding team builder and coalition builder, someone who will foster community while holding people accountable for results.
- A high performing, upbeat, relational leader who will connect joyfully and genuinely with all constituents and model Spiritan values in his/her daily practice.
- A track record of high achievement, including experience implementing bold plans in a timely and disciplined fashion.
- Appropriate academic credentials to serve as the school's chief academic officer, including a minimum of a master's degree and evidence of intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning.

The school welcomes candidates from diverse educational backgrounds including other independent and Catholic schools as well as high performing charter and public schools and higher education. Culture, fit, and alignment of values are top priorities for the President and Board of Trustees.

To APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A thoughtful cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A statement of educational or leadership philosophy and practice;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted until a serious mutual interest is established and not without the candidate's permission).

Please send your materials to:

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