

MONTGOMERY AWARDS

Excellence in Planning and Design

2017 Award Winner

Celebrating

50 years

Perkiomen School

Pennsburg Borough

The Perkiomen School, a prestigious educational landmark in Pennsburg Borough, earned a 2017 Montgomery Award for creative vision, extensive planning, and a sustained commitment to growth and transformation. Over the years, this small institution of higher learning has achieved many campus enhancements to continue moving forward into the future.

History

The Perkiomen School is an independent, coed, boarding and day school for students in grades 6–12. The school has an enrollment of 351 students from 10 states and 28 countries.

Located on 172 acres in Pennsburg Borough, the school has an extensive history, enrolling its first students in 1875. It retains its rich historical connections to the Schwenkfelder Church and the Perkiomen Valley. Over the past decades, the school has continued to steadily grow and evolve, adding new facilities, renovating buildings, acquiring additional land, improving circulation and parking, and making extensive landscape improvements on campus. The school has added recreational amenities, pedestrian walkways, and student gathering areas. This sustained growth has transformed the Perkiomen School into a well-respected twenty-first century educational facility.





Vision

A major turning point for the Perkiomen School occurred in 1994 when a devastating fire destroyed the iconic Kriebel Hall, which was home to the administrative offices, classrooms, and student residences. The school immediately committed to rebuilding the hall. Using the original architectural drawings that were saved from the fire, a new building resembling the original hall was constructed. The new building was enhanced with a prominent cupola, which was depicted on the architectural drawings but was not part of the original hall due to limited resources at the time. After this defining moment, the school embraced longer term planning to achieve its future vision.

Planning

In 1998, the school completed its first campus master plan. Under this plan, the school acquired an additional 58 acres to extend the borders of its campus and provide room for future growth. In 2003, the school instituted its first capital campaign to raise funds for new facilities. From 2005–2010, many success stories were realized under this master plan. From 2005–2006, the school built a new academic center, transformed an existing science building into a new middle school, and constructed a new tennis complex. In addition, outdoor spaces, including beautifully landscaped courtyards, a pedestrian circulation system, a rain garden, and new baseball field, were created. From 2007–2010, the school renovated its athletic center, initiated a major landscape planting program for the campus, and created a mediation garden, which received the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Community Greening Award.

The student center also was refurbished, and the main floor of the 100-year-old Carnegie Library was renovated to integrate computer technology. The school also addressed student safety

Master Plan—C

Legend

01. kriebel hall
02. carnegie library
03. kehs hall & roberts hall
04. schumo academic center
05. kistler cleaver health center
06. hollenbach middle school
07. hollenbach athletic center
08. parents hall
09. duyckinck hall
10. fritz cottage
11. christman house
12. creamery
13. yellow house
14. crook house
15. hausmann-hossman cottage
16. engle house
17. maintenance
18. new arts facility
19. athletic center addition
- 20-25. new cottage dorms
26. new concessions building
27. new gate house
28. new entrance gateways
29. new landscape mounds
30. athletic center lobby / mp gym expansion
31. parents hall expansion
32. new athletic fields, courts
33. new artificial turf field, new track





Overall



and security by improving Seminary Street, the main vehicular road through campus, by establishing an attractive streetscape including a prominent crosswalk, sidewalks, and street trees.

With the first master plan now in existence for almost 20 years, and given new technology, the school completed a second master plan in 2011. The goals of this plan addressed key areas to support growth, safety, and quality-of-life for students and faculty. In 2012, the athletic center and natatorium were renovated to include a new fitness center, lobby, and pool. From 2012–2014, the school focused on addressing the need for improved faculty housing, purchasing ten nearby properties. The next highest priority focused on student dormitories and the dining hall. A new capital campaign was established, allowing the school to complete the planning for three cottage-style dormitories. Two dormitories have been constructed. Site amenities include screen buffers, pleasant courtyard spaces, and three large underground bio-infiltration areas and rain gardens planted with native vegetation. From 2015 to present, the dining hall was refurbished, offering a brighter, more comfortable, and efficient dining area. To make the Carnegie Library accessible, a 3-story elevator was installed. The lower level of the Carnegie Library was renovated and reimagined into a successful innovation lab for the new entrepreneur program. This master plan continues to be a guiding document for the school's strategic direction. Next phases include a new performing arts center, expanded student housing, new campus entry drive and gateway, signage and wayfinding enhancements, and new athletic fields.

The Perkiomen School demonstrates how excellent planning and persistence over time can achieve an important vision. Through foresight and many successful accomplishments, the school has created an appealing twenty-first century campus and continues to focus on a sustainable future.



Location

200 Seminary Street
Pennsburg Borough
Montgomery County

Project Data

Land Use

Institutional - School

Tract Size

172 acres

Zoning

Institutional

Building Area

133,000 square feet

Key Features

- Creative vision
- Planning concept
- Architectural design
- Streetscape improvements

Owner/Developer

Perkiomen School
200 Seminary Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Engineer/Land Planner/Landscape Architect

T&M Associates
525 Plymouth Road, Suite 315
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Architect

Spiezle Architectural Group
120 Sanhican Drive
Trenton, NJ 08618

General Contractor/Construction Manager

Emmaus Constructors, Inc.
1540 Chestnut Street
Emmaus, PA 18046

Warfel Construction Company
301 Lindenwood Drive, Suite 110
Malvern, PA 19355

The annual Montgomery Awards recognize the best in planning, design, and advocacy in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The program acknowledges the high-quality work and commitment of communities, organizations, and professionals.

www.montcopa.org/MontgomeryAwards



Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, *Chair* • Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr., *Vice Chair* • Joseph C. Gale, *Commissioner*



Montgomery County Planning Commission, P.O. Box 311, Norristown, PA 19404-0311 • www.montcopa.org/planning