



# PINECREST ACADEMY

A Private PreK Through 12 College Preparatory Catholic School



## MISSION:

To form students  
into Christian leaders  
who will  
transform society.



## OVERVIEW:

Pinecrest Academy is a private PreK-12 college preparatory Catholic school located north of Atlanta, Georgia. We provide an atmosphere of academic rigor and critical thinking, while offering personalized attention in a Christ-centered environment of faith and reason.

**AT PINECREST ACADEMY**, we're starting a new season in the life of our school, which includes **hiring a new Head of School** to provide the institutional leadership required to achieve an exciting vision for the future.

Highly talented and effective Catholic educators like you are special people. You have the training and expertise to bring a broad range of stakeholders together around a compelling plan that builds on the history and current assets of the school. While schools are complex organizations, you have the gift of administration and leadership to create the team and the culture to achieve remarkable success.

Catholic schools face enormous internal and external barriers to growth, and we understand how challenging that can be for you. We've been there and done that. But we also know that there is a better way forward—one that leverages collective strengths and experience within an organization that is committed to the path of becoming a great school.

If you want to be part of our journey to greatness, with a board that is both highly capable and professionally humble, then we invite you to apply for this opportunity to be the next Head of School at Pinecrest.

We believe Catholic education provides critical value for families today. Timeless truths of Scripture and the wisdom of the ages can be combined with modern school design and instructional strategies to provide the optimal experience for students and their families. Families across North Atlanta should have access to a high quality Catholic school that enables each person to discover and achieve their God-given purpose.

We believe Catholic educators deserve to work in a school environment that enables the fulfillment of their calling and complete development of their talents. This requires an organizationally healthy school that consistently listens, learns, and improves.

**If you believe that God may be leading you to explore this opportunity, we invite you to:**

Step 1. Review the detailed information provided below

Step 2. Submit your application here: [www.SchoolGrowth.com/PinecrestAcademy](http://www.SchoolGrowth.com/PinecrestAcademy)

Step 3. Pray diligently for God's guidance for you and for the Pinecrest Academy board, and prepare to walk a carefully planned journey of discovery

### **FAST FACTS:**

Total enrollment: 447

Total faculty: 60

Total faculty with advanced degree: 55%

Average student to teacher ratio: 7:1

**Academics:** Fundamental and distinctive to Pinecrest Academy's educational philosophy is Integral Formation®. This proven method involves the concentrated, systematic, and directed way of educating a child who becomes capable of projecting God's love into the wider community and culture around him. We view Integral Formation® as four pillars: Intellectual, Human, Spiritual, and Apostolic Formation.

**AP course offering:** 16 (AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Biology, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Macroeconomics, AP United States Government and Politics, AP United States History, AP European History, AP World History, AP Psychology, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP 2-Dimensional Art and Design)

**Athletics:** 13 (Baseball, Basketball, Cheering, Cross Country, Fencing, Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling)

**School mascot:** Paladin

## SCHOOL HISTORY:

Pinecrest Academy, a private PreK4-12 Catholic School in Cumming, Georgia, has been educating children for close to three decades, thanks to the vision, perseverance, and love of Catholic education that a handful of dedicated families had in 1993.

Founded on strong faith and humble beginnings, the school **opened its doors on September 8, 1993** at a former elementary school in Crabapple, Georgia, with a student body of 29. At that time, Pinecrest was the first independent, private Catholic elementary school established to serve Atlanta's expanding Catholic population.

In the early 1990's, the Atlanta area had few Catholic schools and long waiting lists with them. During that time, a gentleman named John Gannon received a job offer to the area but in order to take it, he wanted to be sure his children would have a Catholic education. After sharing his concern with a priest, the seed was planted, "you can start a new school," and he took the job transfer to Atlanta. At the same time, a priest named Fr. Martin, LC, also encouraged John's wife,

Arlene Gannon, with the same idea, "you can start a new school." In February 1993, Mr. Gannon participated in a retreat. During that retreat, God had placed on his heart to have a school open by September.

Shortly after their move, Arlene met Judy Guilfoil at church and she and her husband Bill joined their efforts, along with Cathy and David Hanson, long-time friends of the Gannon's. Cathy located a vacated school building in **Crabapple, Georgia**. Quickly after the find, David and John Gannon negotiated a lease for use of the property to house the first 29 students of Pinecrest Academy. Pinecrest's founders always received their lease confirmations on the **Feast of the Assumption, August 15**.

Pinecrest remained at the Crabapple location for two years, and then Archbishop Donoghue prepared the way for Monsignor Kiernan, Pastor of **All Saints Catholic Church**, to open their activities center to the young Catholic school for the next three years, where classes were held in the parish's activities center. By 1997, the 153-member student body had outgrown its temporary facilities, and because of continued dedication and the generosity of friends, Pinecrest acquired its present location in south Forsyth County, which was **originally on 53 acres**.

Our current location in Cumming, Georgia was found by Pinecrest parent, Bruce Carlisle, and a providential change in plans brought the school on the east side of the GA400 corridor with more land than the founders originally planned for.

After receiving accreditation by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc., in 1995, Pinecrest appointed its first headmaster, Dr. Brian Tierney, in 1998. **Fifteen additional acres of land** were donated to the school in 2001. And currently, Pinecrest is comprised of three **separate Lower, Middle and High School buildings** on a 68-acre campus, along with a beautiful main chapel and three additional smaller chapels, two gymnasiums, a turf athletic field, a dedicated baseball field, an additional athletic field, a cross country trail, and an outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Pinecrest Academy is **one of 154 RC Education schools** and 13 universities in 18 countries around the globe. Fourteen classes have graduated since 2007, successfully preparing graduates to be Christian leaders who will transform society.



## THE OPPORTUNITY:

### **The Board of Pinecrest Academy is seeking a proven leader who can:**

- Continue to raise the profile and value proposition of Pinecrest Academy in the broader community.
- Stabilize and grow enrollment across all divisions and in all grades.
- Increase the school's endowment through disciplined donor engagement.
- Implement the 2020 strategic plan with fidelity.
- Continue to advance the academic programs of each division by cultivating the best practices of teaching and learning.
- Advance the Talent Quotient of the entire organization by recruiting and retaining highly talented, energized, and engaged people.
- Cultivate a working relationship with the Regnum Christi locality and the community at large.

### **Desired Candidate Qualities & Characteristics:**

Pinecrest Academy seeks a mission-driven entrepreneurial leader who is unapologetically Catholic in faith and commitment. The next Head of School will need to be highly relational, visionary, and committed to embracing and promoting the school's mission and core values. Learning from and celebrating the past, while leading in the present and envisioning the future will be expected of our next Head of School.

### **The following qualities and characteristics are expected:**

- Humble servant leader who will provide spiritual direction and inspiration, embracing the Pinecrest Academy and Catholic values of the institution.
- Holds an advanced degree with proven administrative success in independent or Catholic schools.
- Dynamic, resilient, and creative leader who possesses excellent communication skills.
- Intuitive problem-solver with strong financial and business acumen.
- Poised and polished communicator who can build community and support.
- Team builder with strong values and personal integrity.
- Embraces academic excellence and research-based best practices of teaching and learning.
- Providing robust standards of professional development.
- Ability to express confidence in decision-making and establishing a strong sense of teamwork within the school community.
- Cultivating a strong relationship within the larger community.

The Board welcomes candidates from other Catholic or independent schools as well as accomplished executives from other mission-critical career venues such as higher education; nonprofit foundations, associations, charities, and the like; or the corporate, military, civic, and professional services arenas. Knowledge of school operations and growth strategies is a priority, and other qualities and experiences are also valued.

## TO APPLY:

Interested and qualified candidates should submit an online application by visiting [www.SchoolGrowth.com/PinecrestAcademy](http://www.SchoolGrowth.com/PinecrestAcademy).

\*References will only be contacted only after a serious mutual interest is established and with the candidate's permission

For general inquiries, please contact Michelle Lynch at [mlynch@pinecrestacademy.org](mailto:mlynch@pinecrestacademy.org). Please do not send any resumes or documents to this email address. All submissions must be made online.