



# THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

**Chad A. Bridges**

*Assistant Headmaster for Community Life*

*Dean of Students*

January 25, 2018

Dear Sophomore Parents,

This letter is to update you with more specific information for the sophomore class retreat to Princeton-Blairstown Center, which will take place Saturday, March 10 – Monday, March 12. Your sophomores are very much looking forward to this experience with their classmates, as are we. Of the utmost importance, we ask that you confirm your child's ability to attend this retreat. We are charged per person and are required to provide a total number of participants by February 24. As mentioned in prior communications, a Pennington parent made a generous donation to the Sophomore Leadership and Character Development program, and the funds for the retreat are coming from this gift. Students will not be charged for this excursion unless there is a last-minute cancellation. The School will coordinate with the Health Center and with you regarding any medical needs or conditions.

[Please click here and complete this form no later than Friday, February 16.](#)

Some helpful information about the location of the retreat: We will be using the Blairstown campus located between the Delaware Water Gap and Newton, NJ. The campsite sits on 200 acres with four separate trails. There are several indoor meeting spaces, one of which has a fully operating kitchen and provides all meals. We will be sleeping in rustic cabins with wood-burning stoves and have use of two fully equipped modern washhouses with individual shower stalls.

All of the activities involving ropes or other outdoor challenge courses will be fully supervised by the Princeton-Blairstown staff. Pennington will also be providing approximately ten chaperones. The facilitators are trained to recognize individual and group strengths, help build personal connections, strengthen communication and interpersonal skills, bring awareness of and respect for diversity, and sharpen leadership skills, much of what the Sophomore Leadership and Character Development program looks to accomplish as well.

Students should report to the lower lot off Burd Street at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 10. We will return to school at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12. Buses will be used for transportation.

This will be a technology-FREE retreat, and all cell phones will be collected upon arrival at the campsite and returned at departure time. Parents will be provided with phone numbers in case of an emergency.



## THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

### **Packing List:**

The following is a suggested list from Princeton-Blairstown and will help you pack for a 2–3-day program. Please bring clothes that you can move around in and that you don't mind getting dirty. Anything with an asterisk (\*) can be borrowed from Princeton-Blairstown Center or Pennington.

#### Clothes

Long Sleeve Shirts/Turtlenecks 2

Wool/Fleece Sweater/Sweatshirt 2

Long pants–winter weight 2

Wool Socks 3

Winter Cap/Hat/Scarf 1

Gloves or Mittens 1

Winter Coat 1

Underwear 3

Hiking Boots 1

\*Rain Gear 1

#### Personal Hygiene

Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Soap, Chapstick, Large Towel/Bath Towel, Deodorant

#### Bedding:

Sheets and Blanket or \*Sleeping Bag, and pillow

#### Miscellaneous

Flashlight

\*Backpack

\*Water Bottle

Flip flops for washhouse

Card games, board games, and other activities that encourage interaction are welcome.

#### Items NOT to bring

Jewelry of any kind

Personal food, including candy and gum

Electronics

Sincerely,