

March 22, 2024

## Why does **your school** exist?

Write a short, bold answer in 7-10 words

*"We exist to..."*

Over the past several months, our Lowcountry Prep School community has partnered with Rhodes Branding to articulate a specific and true response to the question, *'Why does your school exist?'* Our process of discovery in pursuit of an answer has incorporated the perspective and input from constituencies with varying levels of connection across our program. To better understand the daily life experience on campus, representatives from Rhodes

facilitated focus group conversations with a broad sampling of twenty of our middle and high school students. A second focus group session was held with our faculty where the purpose behind our practices was explored. Many parents participated in a third session that was conducted to better understand the values that attracted families to Lowcountry Prep while a fourth conversation was had with grandparents and alums to reflect on the traditions and historical significance of the school.

Earlier this month, three representatives from Rhodes spent a day on campus with us where we processed the information gleaned from the focus group conversations, discussed the consistent themes, and began to identify specific words that closely represent our purpose and mission. While our journey towards an answer to the initial question continues forward, our work with Rhodes will further expand. During the month of April, a production team will be on campus, and we will be filming three thirty-second testimonial videos highlighting the meaningful connections, enriching experiences and the secure and supportive environment that are at the heart of our program and community. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this important endeavor. Thoughtful reflection and honest evaluation will provide the foundation for our future growth.

Spring is the time of plans and projects, and we are excited to share information about a project currently underway for this year and a plan we are working to implement for next year.

### ***The Project:***

The Board of Trustees has designated the formation of a new subcommittee, and our Buildings and Grounds committee held its initial meeting on the seventh of this month. With board, parent, administration, faculty and student representatives, this team is charged with the improvement and maintenance of the





facilities and grounds at Lowcountry Preparatory School, with the purpose of encouraging the continuous improvement of the entire campus.

This team has already generated a list of short-term and longer-term beautification projects. While tasks such as updating the bathrooms (flooring, countertops, wall paint and mirrors in the upper school, gym and café) will have a summer focus, the hope is that you will see some of the shorter-term refurbishments before this year concludes. The enhancement of the Upper School portico has already begun with a fresh coat of paint added to the roof overhang (thank you Michele Kirkland!), and the addition of new plants. We will be reworking that outdoor space with larger seating options and ceiling fans to expand our useable space and soften the entrance to the building. Along with landscape and interior refurbishments, this committee will also be working to develop a larger campus plan that will be incorporated into our reaccreditation report roughly 18 months from now.

***The Plan:***

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 year, we are preparing now to actively incorporate the ideal of leadership and the implementation of service to others into daily school routines. To that end, beginning in August, our fourth through eighth grade students will be engaged in a new leadership curriculum entitled *Habitudes*. Using imagery and storytelling, Dr. Tim Elmore has designed a program of study that guides students through the habits and attitudes of impactful leaders.

**our mission**

The mission of Lowcountry Preparatory School is to prepare students for college, for leadership, and for life through a demanding academic, artistic, and athletic program. Based upon service to others, we encourage our students to become informed, bold, resourceful, resilient, and ethical global citizens capable of shaping a changing world.

[Dr. Elmore](#) is an author with more than thirty published books and speaks frequently on topics such as parenting, leadership and understanding Gen Z and Gen Alpha. While his *Habitudes* curriculum will be implemented in our middle grades (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), two of his other books will be used as resources for our Kindergarten through third grade students (*I Can't Wait*) and our upper school students in ninth through twelfth grade (*The Eight Paradoxes of Great Leadership*). A book study approach will be used with our youngest and oldest students and facilitated by the classroom teacher. Additionally, this summer, the faculty will be reading another book by Dr. Elmore, *Generation Z Unfiltered, Facing Nine Challenges of the Most Anxious Population*. Next year, campus-wide, we will all be engaged with the work of Dr. Elmore and the shared vocabulary will help provide insight into leadership to our community.



# LOWCOUNTRY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

*The Ideal Learning Environment*



Coupled with the study of leadership in the classroom, we are also preparing a

Grade Level	Organization
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Helping Hands of Georgetown Food Bank
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Retirement Home
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Huntington Beach State Park
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	All4Paws
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Brookgreen Gardens
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Retirement Home
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lowcountry Veterans Group
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Teach My People
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pick their own Service

comprehensive service plan that will engage our students in the community as they volunteer routinely with local non-profit organizations. The framework of our approach is to partner each grade level (fourth through twelfth grade) with a charitable group and then, throughout the year, each month, our students would get off campus to directly engage with that organization. While the chart to the left is not a fully inclusive or finalized list, it will provide a visual

representation of the potential connections and experiences a student could have as they progress through the years at Lowcountry Prep. Given the broad scope to interactions, from working with animals, to caring for outdoor space, to spending time with veterans, the hope is that our students will develop a passion for service that will then instill a spirit of philanthropy that will carry with them throughout their lives.

Be on the lookout for more updates coming in April.

Additionally, I will be hosting an informal morning coffee session with parents on Wednesday morning, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Marlin Café from 8:00 – 8:45 am. This is an unstructured time for parents to gather and socialize with each other and with the Head of School. While no formal presentation will be planned, I will be available to answer questions about any of the projects or plans presented in this communication.

I do wish you all the happiest start to Spring and safe travels if your paths take you far during our upcoming break.

Regards,

Wes Wehunt