



OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

Head of School

Savannah Christian Preparatory School

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA





The School

[Savannah Christian Preparatory School](#) (SCPS) is an independent, non-denominational, college-preparatory Christian school dedicated to *developing the whole person to the glory of God*. Founded in 1951, SCPS has grown into one of Georgia's largest and most distinguished private schools. SCPS serves students from Pre-K through 12th grade on its 238-acre campus, fifteen minutes from Savannah's historic district. Its Little Raiders Learning Academy also serves children from six weeks through age four. More than 1,400 students, representing nearly 1,200 families, are on campus each day, supported by more than 200 employees. Rooted in faith, SCPS partners with families to nurture students' spiritual growth, guide them toward God's purpose for their lives, and challenge them with rigorous, engaging instruction that prepares them to think critically, lead confidently, and succeed beyond the classroom. This is accomplished within a warm, supportive community where every student is known, valued, and encouraged to flourish in their God-given gifts.

After five years of faithful leadership, Head of School Jeff Plunk will transition to another Georgia school after the 2026-27 school year. SCPS is beginning its search for his successor, who will start in June or July 2027. The next Head of School will lead a beloved, well-established school in one of Georgia's most vibrant communities, stewarding its mission, strengthening its programs, and building on more than seven decades of faithful, Christ-centered education. The Board seeks a leader of proven excellence and deep faith, with the wisdom to steward the school's mission, strengthen its programs, and carry SCPS into a flourishing future.



● EST. 1951 · LITTLE RAIDERS-12TH · 238 ACRES

MISSION

Developing the whole person to the glory of God.

VISION

A life-changing student experience.

Core Values

01 Servant Leaders

Our students and staff pursue leading with a servant's heart. It is the quiet commitment to leave every person better than you found them, fostering a community where kindness is our compass and service is our greatest strength.

02 Christ-Centered Community

We strive to make Jesus Christ the foundation and "heartbeat" of every interaction, lesson, and decision that we make at SCPS. It is our commitment to seeing all students, staff, and families as unique image-bearers of God who are united by a shared pursuit of living out the Gospel.

03 Pursuing Excellence

Students and staff alike strive for the highest standards of character, growth, and discovery. We encourage our students to have the heart to try, the grit to persevere through setbacks, and the discipline to give their best effort even when no one is watching.

04 Steadfast

SCPS desires to stand firm in love and purpose. This is the steady hope that we will not be moved from our commitment to help every person flourish, no matter what challenges come our way. It is the quiet, unwavering strength that keeps us rooted in our purpose.





SCPS At a Glance



1,400

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
(LITTLE RAIDERS-
12TH GRADE)

30

PRE-AP AND AP
COURSES

13

ON-CAMPUS
COLLEGE CREDIT
CLASSES

176

AP SCHOLARS IN THE
LAST SEVEN YEARS

100%

COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCE RATE

30+

FINE ARTS
PROGRAMS

66

ATHLETIC TEAMS IN
20 SPORTS

27

TEAM STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Academics



At SCPS, learning rests on the conviction that faith and knowledge are inseparable. Rigorous instruction prepares students to think critically, lead confidently, and grow as lifelong learners and followers of Christ. The school maintains a 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio across PK–12 and a 100% college acceptance rate.

Little Raiders Learning Academy

6 WEEKS–4 YEARS

Little Raiders Learning Academy (LRLA) serves children from six weeks through four years of age and supports their spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and mental growth. Through play-based experiences, caring relationships, and intentional instruction, the LRLA teachers build a strong foundation for lifelong learning. The Academy uses the Abeka curriculum. It is open year-round for families.

Lower School

PK–5

The Lower School provides young students with a nurturing, Christ-centered foundation in academics, faith, and character. Learning happens through hands-on experiences, balanced literacy, and active learning. The Purposeful Design Language Arts curriculum is used in K-5 and integrates research-based literacy instruction with a Christian worldview. The math program, Math in Focus, supports a deeper understanding of number sense while focusing on the “how” and “why” behind mathematical concepts. Responsive Classroom is used throughout the Lower School. This is a student-centered, evidence-based approach to teaching and school discipline that integrates social-emotional learning with academic instruction.



ACADEMICS, CONTINUED

Middle School

6-8

The Middle School helps students build confidence and independence as they begin to take ownership of their faith and learning. A rotating drop schedule enables deeper study and builds in time for flex periods. The Middle School emphasizes executive function and social-emotional skills to help students navigate adolescence. Bible is a required core subject, and the Middle School offers a variety of enrichment courses in STEM, Spanish, fitness, and the fine arts.

Upper School

9-12

The Upper School offers a college-preparatory curriculum grounded in academic rigor, critical thinking, and spiritual growth. It includes 30 Pre-AP and AP courses and 13 on-campus college-credit classes. Over the past seven years, SCPS has produced 176 AP Scholars. The school's college counseling program supports students' college preparation through one-on-one advising, workshops, and assistance with testing, essays, scholarships, and financial aid.

**9:1**STUDENT-TO-TEACHER
RATIO**30**

PRE-AP AND AP COURSES

13ON-CAMPUS COLLEGE-
CREDIT CLASSES

Fine Arts



The SCPS arts program encompasses visual arts, band, vocal music, theater, and dance. It encourages students to embrace their God-given creativity while growing artistically and spiritually. Every Lower School student participates in the visual and performing arts. The school offers 26 fine arts courses across PK–12th grade and presents more than 15 performances for the community each year. The Savannah Christian Arts League (SCALE) provides financial and practical support to every branch of the arts, from Pre-K through 12th grade. Recent highlights include the Raider Marching Band's performance at the Sound of Gold competition and the selection of three Upper School students for the Congressional Art Show.

26

FINE ARTS COURSES, PK–12

15+

COMMUNITY
PERFORMANCES EACH YEAR

3

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR
THE CONGRESSIONAL ART
SHOW

Visual Arts

Band

Vocal Music

Theater

Dance



Athletics

THE RAIDERS

At SCPS, athletics are integral to developing the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. Coaches serve as mentors, shaping leaders rooted in faith and character. The Raiders have won sub-region, region, area, and state titles since the 1970s. They hold 27 team state championships, 30 individual state championships, and 90 area and region championships. Roughly 80% of students participate in athletics, and 15 members of the Class of 2026 signed to play in college. The Upper School competes in Region 3-A of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). The Middle School competes in the Savannah Parochial Athletic League (SPAL).

**27**TEAM STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**30**INDIVIDUAL
STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**90**AREA AND
REGION
CHAMPIONSHIPS**80%**OF STUDENTS
PARTICIPATE**15**CLASS OF 2026
COLLEGE SIGNEES

VARSITY SPORTS INCLUDE

Baseball · Basketball · Cheerleading · Clay Target · Cross Country · Dance ·
Esports · Flag Football · Football · Golf · Lacrosse · Soccer · Softball ·
Swimming · Tennis · Track and Field · Volleyball · Wrestling

Spiritual Life and Student Community

Faith is at the heart of everything SCPS does. Each division holds weekly chapel for worship, biblical teaching, and spiritual growth. Small groups provide students with a supportive community for discussion and discipleship. Juniors and seniors attend an annual Spiritual Life Retreat. Upper School students serve through mission opportunities around the world and through local partners, including Second Harvest Food Bank. Recent milestones include an Upper School Spiritual Emphasis Week. SCPS also held its first annual Alumni Chapel in January 2026, a testament to the deep loyalty captured in the school's saying, "Once a Raider, Always a Raider."



Once a Raider, Always a Raider.

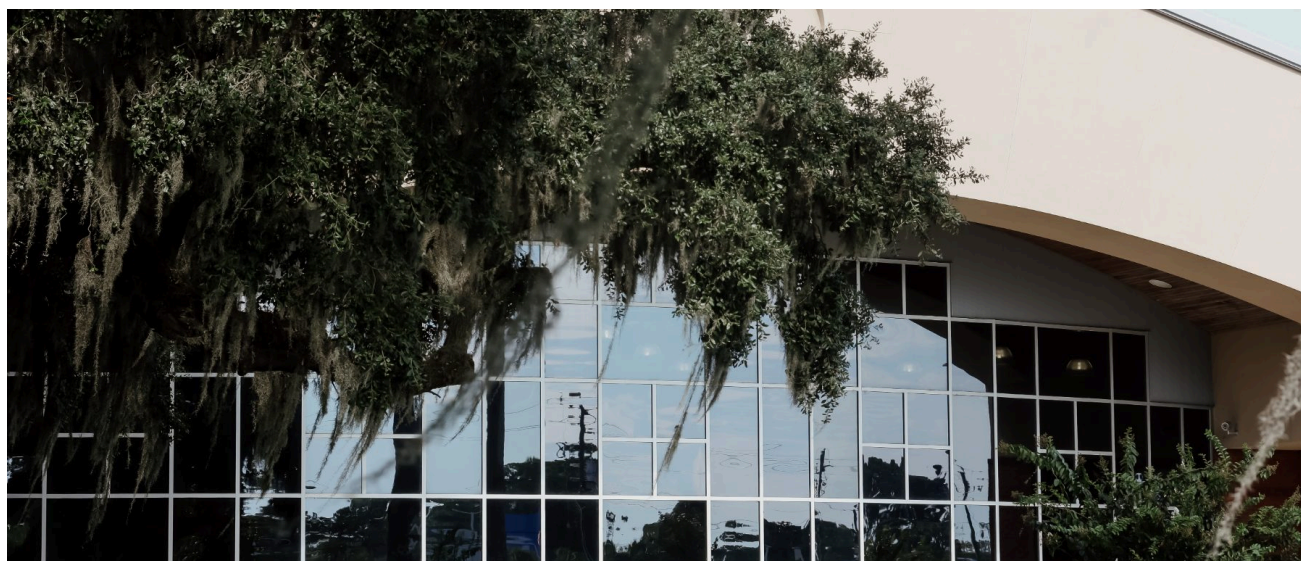
FIRST ANNUAL
ALUMNI CHAPEL • 2026

Finances and Fundraising

Savannah Christian Preparatory School is on sound financial footing. It operates on a \$25 million budget, and tuition and fees cover all operating costs. The school maintains healthy reserves, a \$4 million endowment for financial aid (Benner Endowment Scholarship Fund), and a separate foundation with \$12 million in assets. Through the posthumous generosity of Mr. Richard Eckburg, the SCPS Foundation supports financial aid, campus capital investment, spiritual life, academic programming, and operations. Debt service is minimal, at less than 3% of annual operating expenses. The next Head will build on this foundation by strengthening multi-year budgeting and cash-flow planning.

\$25M OPERATING BUDGET	\$4M FINANCIAL AID ENDOWMENT	\$12M SCPS FOUNDATION ASSETS	<3% DEBT SERVICE OF OPERATING EXPENSES
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The community's loyalty runs deep, with many multi-generational Raider families and alumni who now send their children to SCPS. That goodwill provides a strong foundation for advancement. The school has a dedicated advancement team and growing development capacity. The next Head will serve as the school's chief ambassador and lead fundraiser. They will deepen relationships with the community's most capable donors, strengthen alumni engagement, and turn the community's affection for SCPS into a stronger culture of generous giving. A feasibility study for a new Upper School building has already been completed. The community also seeks opportunities to enhance existing or build new arts and athletics spaces. Together, the next Head can lead the development of a campus vision and achieve early capital successes that build momentum for the years ahead.



Governance and Accreditation

SCPS is governed by a Board of Trustees that approves plans and policies and makes decisions to glorify God and protect the school's mission for future generations. The Board has 14 active trustees who meet throughout the school year. NextEd has maintained an ongoing partnership with SCPS since 2022, when it led the search that brought Jeff Plunk to the school as Head of School. Since then, NextEd has led the Board's annual governance retreats, most recently in August 2026, supporting the Board's steady investment in its development. In 2024, the Board of Trustees approved and began implementing the [SCPS Strategic Plan](#).

SCPS is a Member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and a Member of Council with CESA (Council for Educational Standards and Accountability).



14

ACTIVE TRUSTEES

MEMBER

Southern Association
of Independent
Schools (SAIS)

MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Council for
Educational Standards
and Accountability
(CESA)



The Opportunity

Savannah Christian Preparatory School enters this transition from a position of stability and strength. In 2022, the Board of Trustees partnered with NextEd to appoint Jeff Plunk as Head of School. Since then, NextEd has worked alongside SCPS's leadership and Board and knows firsthand the strength of this community and the opportunity awaiting its next leader.

The next Head of School will arrive shortly after SCPS's 75th anniversary celebrations, marked by strong enrollment, a loyal alumni community, and a Board committed to governance excellence. As the school's current strategic plan concludes, the next Head will have the rare opportunity to honor a proud legacy and partner with the Board to shape SCPS's next chapter. Above all, SCPS seeks a leader who will embrace the school as a long-term calling and love it as deeply as Raider families do.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head of School is the chief executive and spiritual leader of Savannah Christian Preparatory School, reporting to the Board of Trustees and overseeing every aspect of school life.

Mission and Spiritual Leadership

- Serve as the school's spiritual leader, ensuring that SCPS educates “the whole person to the glory of God.”
- Guard and advance the school's Christian identity so that faith is explicit and evident across all divisions, classrooms, teams, and programs.
- Oversee a coherent plan for spiritual formation, including Bible instruction, chapel, Spiritual Emphasis Week, and service and mission opportunities.
- Hire and develop faculty and staff who share the school's faith and mission and can integrate a biblical worldview into their teaching and coaching.

Educational Leadership

- Lead a clear, unified academic vision across Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools, ensuring smooth transitions between divisions.
- Sustain the school's reputation for academic excellence and college preparation while ensuring an appropriate balance and support for all learners.
- Champion a well-rounded program in which academics, athletics, and the fine arts flourish.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES, CONTINUED

Faculty, Staff, and Leadership Team

- Recruit, develop, support, and retain outstanding, mission-aligned faculty and staff.
- Build a healthy, high-performing leadership team with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Foster a culture where teachers feel respected, heard, and supported.
- Ensure that standards for conduct and discipline are clear and consistently and fairly applied across divisions and programs.

Community, Communication, and Culture

- Be visible and accessible on campus, knowing students, families, faculty and staff, and alumni personally.
- Communicate clearly, consistently, and in a timely manner to all constituencies.
- Build strong partnerships with families and a caring community where every student is known, valued, and encouraged.
- Serve as the school's chief ambassador, strengthening its brand and reputation across Savannah and the region.

Board Partnership

- Partner with the Board of Trustees to set the strategic direction and keep the Board informed of the school's health and progress.
- Lead the development and implementation of the school's strategic plan.

Finance, Operations, and Advancement

- Provide sound fiscal stewardship of the school's operating budget, reserves, and endowment.
- Oversee admissions and re-enrollment to attract and retain mission-aligned families.
- Lead the long-range vision for campus and facilities, including new learning, arts, and athletic spaces.
- Lead fundraising efforts, including annual giving and capital initiatives, in partnership with the advancement team.



Qualifications, Experience, and Characteristics

The next Head of School will be a mature follower of Jesus Christ and a proven school leader who is trustworthy, visible, and decisive, and who will embrace SCPS as a long-term calling.

Spiritual Qualifications

- A vibrant, growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ, evident in character, conduct, and leadership.
- Wholehearted agreement with the school's Statement of Faith and the ability to articulate a clear philosophy of Christian education.
- A spiritual shepherd capable of leading students, faculty, and families toward authentic faith.
- Active engagement in a local church.

Professional Experience

- Senior leadership experience in a Christian school, preferably as a Head of School, Associate Head, or Division Head in a complex PK-12 setting.
- A record of recruiting, developing, and retaining excellent faculty and staff, and of cultivating a healthy school culture.
- Demonstrated success in building relationships with families, alumni, and community partners.
- Strong academic program leadership, committed to high standards and providing strong support for every learner.
- Business and financial acumen, including budgeting, long-range planning, and resource stewardship.
- Experience with or demonstrated capacity for strategic planning, enrollment management, and fundraising.





QUALIFICATIONS, CONTINUED

Personal Qualities

Spiritual leader.

Models a Christ-centered life and makes faith central to the school community.

Trustworthy and transparent.

Leads with integrity and communicates openly about decisions and their rationale.

Effective communicator.

Communicates clearly, consistently, and in a timely manner.

Visionary.

Sees where SCPS can go and inspires others to help it get there.

Visible and relational.

Present on campus and in the community, striving to know students, families, and faculty by name.

Decisive and courageous.

Listens well, then makes and owns hard decisions and leads with conviction.

Collaborative and empowering.

Builds a unified leadership team, delegates clearly, and provides mentoring.

Servant-hearted.

Prioritizes the school's success over personal recognition and will love SCPS as deeply as Raider families do.





The Charge

As SCPS celebrates its 75th year, the next Head of School is called to unite a proud, loyal school family around its Christ-centered mission and, with vision and energy, to lead the school into its next chapter. Within the first three years, the Head will:

1 Keep Christ at the center.

Ensure the "C" remains the largest letter in SCPS. Deepen authentic spiritual formation across all three divisions through Bible instruction, chapel, discipleship, and faculty who integrate faith into their teaching.

2 Lead as a visible, trusted shepherd.

Be present in classrooms, in chapel, at the carpool line, in the stands, and across the wider Savannah community. Build trust through clear, timely, and transparent communication that explains not only what is decided but also why.

3 Unite three divisions into one school.

Bring Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools together on a shared path with a clear educational philosophy, a common culture, and consistent expectations.

4 Invest in the faculty.

Recruit, develop, and retain outstanding, mission-aligned teachers. Strengthen the school climate by listening to teachers, supporting them, and building a culture where great educators want to stay.

5 Sustain excellence with balance.

Protect the academic gains of recent years while ensuring that high standards are matched by strong support, so every student has room to flourish in academics, athletics, and the arts.

6 Cast a compelling vision for the future.

Partner with the Board to articulate SCPS's next steps, steward its resources wisely, tell the school's story with confidence, and lead a campus-wide vision and fundraising effort that enhances academics, the arts, and athletics.



The Search

The Savannah Christian Preparatory School search is underway to appoint a Head of School to begin in June or July 2027. The Board of Trustees has appointed a Search Committee and engaged NextEd to support the search. Compensation will be competitive with comparable schools in the region and could include a private Head of School home on the school's beautiful 238-acre campus.

All candidates will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and discretion. Interested candidates should apply online through NextEd's website. The online application will request specific personal information and the following documents:

Interest cover letter

Resume

Statement of Christian
Testimony

Candidates invited to continue as semifinalists will complete a second round of data collection, including at least five references and other information relevant to the search. Semifinalists will also participate in a recorded video interview.

Timeline



**Candidates may be considered on a rolling basis at the discretion of the Search Committee and NextEd.*

Communication

Please direct all inquiries to:

Steve O'Neil

NEXTED PARTNER • SEARCH
CONSULTANT

970.977.4585

steve@next-ed.com

DEADLINE • NOVEMBER 20, 2026

APPLY NOW

