



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., December 13, 2025—The Pennington School Celebrates Over 30 Years of Making Holidays Special for Mercer County Families

On Saturday, December 13, The Pennington School welcomed over one hundred local families to its annual holiday party for clients of HomeFront, a Mercer County not-for-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness and poverty in central New Jersey. Over 100 Pennington School students, parents, staff, and faculty members volunteered their time to serve as hosts, food servers, playmates, readers, crafters, gift wrappers, and more for their guests.

Pennington's special relationship with HomeFront began thirty-one years ago. In December 1994, Pennington received an urgent call from HomeFront founder Connie Mercer. HomeFront's corporate holiday sponsor that year unexpectedly backed out at the last minute, leaving the organization scrambling for a venue to host their annual holiday party. Upon hearing the news, Pennington's administration stepped forward without hesitation, hosting the celebration that year and every year since.

The School's senior Peer Leaders work hard in advance of the annual party to organize a toy drive in the weeks leading up to the festivities. Juniors host a book fair to ensure that every child in attendance can choose a book to take home. In addition to the books and hundreds of warm hats and gloves, the School community collected over 300 gifts with which to fill Santa's Toy Shop. During the party, while their children were entertained with games, crafts, and dancing led by Pennington's student "elves," parents could go "shopping" and have gifts wrapped to take with them. Families also enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, courtesy of Flik, the School's dining service, and a visit from Santa helped round out the afternoon fun. According to Head of School William S. Hawkey, the true magic of this day comes from creating "a meaningful event that our entire Pennington community can get involved with to support local families at a time of year that can be difficult for so many." It is a fitting tradition for The Pennington School, which is committed to compassion, teamwork, and service, and aptly reflects the spirit of the holiday season.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

Caption for photos: Pennington elves at work, making spirits bright!