

Girls Preparatory School

NO LIMITS – PREPARED FOR LIFE

An integral part of the centennial celebration of the founding of Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga in 1906 was a firm commitment to the goal of the school's founders. Providing the best possible education to girls remains the resounding aim of the school's faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees.

"Traditions tie us to our past and also give us a course for our future," states GPS Headmaster Randy Tucker. "And in a sea of technological changes that are altering the educational landscape, traditions bind the most recent graduates with the students of 1906."

For more than a century, Girls Preparatory School has created leaders by engaging the mind, stimulating the spirit, instilling values and self confidence, and challenging girls to recognize their membership in the global community. During that century of service, GPS has welcomed families from all walks of life, under a wide range of financial circumstances. Firmly believing that quality education should be available to all, GPS now provides need-based financial assistance to approximately one-third of the school's 600 students.

The three women who chartered the school envisioned an educational institution founded on principles of character that would prepare girls for college through academic training. The school would also start young girls on the road to useful and productive lives in the home and the communities in which they lived by instilling in them high principles of honesty, integrity, and consideration for others.

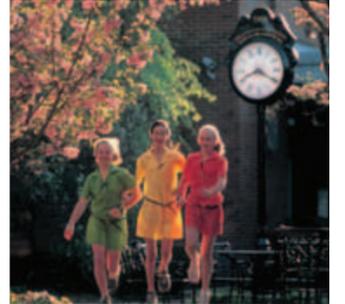
Growth and expansion over the years led to the creation of a new school campus that now includes a library, science building, dining hall, student center,

gymnasium and fitness center, dance studio, theater, and natatorium. The naming of Girls Preparatory School a National School of Excellence in 1991 was the fulfillment of the founders' vision. GPS is also recognized for the number of students posting perfect SAT scores and for the many who earn National Merit Scholarships and the Presidential Scholar designation.

A program combining strong academics, technological initiatives, competitive athletics, and community service helps prepare the school's students for the next chapter in their lives. The dedicated faculty of over seventy-five full-time teachers focuses on individual attention and believes that learning is a lifelong process. They encourage students to involve themselves in activities designed to create a sense of strong moral responsibility and service to the community. GPS students can often be found participating in service efforts that impact communities both far and near, such as raising money for a girl's school in Pakistan, assisting a refugee family from Burundi move into temporary housing, or collecting recyclables in community-wide efforts to go "green."

"GPS stands among the nation's leading schools," Randy Tucker explains, "and our academic mission remains focused on sending forth

graduates who are such a force in the community that they are recognized as models of active and ethical citizenship both locally and globally."



► Three girls in the iconic GPS summer uniform run across the school patio toward classes.



▲ The student body celebrated the school's Centennial by walking across the Veterans Bridge in a tribute to the three founders and their daily walks through Chattanooga with their students. The Centennial celebration was held at Memorial Auditorium at the conclusion of the walk. The girls are dressed in their class colors, led by the Headmaster Randy Tucker, retired Associate Head Rickie Pierce, and retired Middle School Principal Starlet Speakman.

▼ Aerial view of the GPS campus and athletic facilities on the Tennessee River.

