

Peter O'Neill

G. Peter O'Neill, Jr. was Head of Garrison Forest School from 1994-2014. In 1985, after a successful career as a teacher, administrator and coach at independent schools throughout New England, he became Headmaster at the Wooster School in Danbury, Conn. For nearly 30 years, he has led nationally recognized independent schools, including 20 years at the helm of Garrison Forest.

Under Mr. O'Neill's leadership, Garrison Forest's enrollment and financial resources grew significantly. In fall 2010, during the Garrison Forest Centennial, the School welcomed its largest Upper School enrollment in its 100-year history. Both endowment and The Fund for Garrison Forest (annual fund) increased dramatically since 1994, and the School saw unprecedented campus-wide expansion.

The School's 110-acre campus was transformed during Mr. O'Neill's tenure through the Campus Master Plan. Each campus facility completed since 1994 has enriched the educational experience of every student:

- The Hathaway Fine and Performing Arts Center
- The Elizabeth B. Searle '74 Athletic Center, including a Campus Center and dining hall
- The D. & J. Smith Equestrian Center
- A Student Activities Center with the O'Zone snack bar named for Peggy O'Neill
- Livingston, the renovated and expanded Lower School
- A Silver LEED-certified new Middle School building named in honor of Peter O'Neill, June 2014
- Two turf fields
- And in 2010, the renovated Centennial Courtyard

New academic initiatives furthering experiential, collaborative learning opportunities for Garrison Forest students include exciting partnerships with The Johns Hopkins University through the innovative Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) program; and the James Center, created in 2008, which brings together and expand the School's programs in WISE and STEM, community service, leadership development, financial literacy. His leadership and vision for developing an exceptional school-wide digital teaching and learning program encompass creating a fully wired campus, 1:1 tablet program for fourth - twelfth grades and engendering exceptional faculty peer teaching through a commitment to

professional development to blend the best of the traditional GFS classroom with 21st century technological resources.

Mr. O'Neill's leadership and experience has extended beyond GFS to advocacy of the broader independent school community through professional affiliations. He has served as President of Association of Independent Maryland Schools, served on the boards of the National Coalition of Girls Schools, National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, and Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, and works with Living Classrooms Foundation and the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust. Mr. O'Neill is a frequent speaker for professional organizations including the National Association of Independent Schools. Mr. O'Neill has served as an adjunct faculty member at the Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Professional Studies, where he taught a course on independent school governance. The Klingenstein Center at Columbia University recognized him as one of the country's most outstanding school heads in 2006.

Mr. O'Neill, who has spent his entire career in education, graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont with a B.A. in American Studies and earned his Master's degree, also in American Studies, from Trinity College in Connecticut. Mr. O'Neill and his wife Peggy lived on campus and participated fully in the residential life of the School. Their daughter, Cara Foley, graduated in 2008 from Garrison Forest.