

25th Anniversary Reflection



Twenty five years ago, an intrepid group of local parents had a problem to solve. They wanted a more intimate school experience for their children, without limits from government or religious entities, that could deliver success for every child...but they could not find that place in Central Illinois at the time.

So they rallied their neighbors...and they built it.

They centered Peoria Academy's identity around celebrating the dignity of individuals, cultivating each child's innate curiosity, and honoring the diverse fabric of our home: the City of Peoria and the greater Central Illinois region.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we have evolved as an institution in Peoria, and we're ready for more.

Our philosophy at Peoria Academy is to instill the rigor, critical thinking, and humanity of a liberal arts education into our elementary and middle school students so that they will be fully prepared, empathetic, curious, and nimble citizens when they graduate from our programs. We're proud to be the only pre-K through 8th grade school in the region to provide a certified International Baccalaureate curriculum for all grade levels. And we are, still, a diverse community of students, parents, and educators working together to provide a rigorous educational experience...right here in Central Illinois.

So, we invite you to join us in our mission, to act locally to bolster and safeguard a nuanced, personalized, broad-based, and humane liberal arts education for our young students, right here in Peoria.

We see the spark of curiosity and optimism every day in our students, and we welcome your help to continue our necessary work, to protect that spark, to continue being a model and inspiration for cultural understanding and social progress in our home and yours, Central Illinois.

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
cwilson@peoriaacademy.org

Brandon Jordan
Director of Community Engagement
bjordan@peoriaacademy.org

Investing in the Future of Peoria Academy



As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the school's founding this year, Peoria Academy is seeking to build a solid foundation for the future of the school, both for current students and for the next generation of students and families.

We hope that you will join us in honoring Peoria Academy's history and in accelerating Peoria Academy into the future. There are two ways to help:

- 1) Sponsor and attend the 25th Anniversary Gala celebration on April 12, 2025.
- 2) Contribute to the 25th Anniversary Fund by making a direct gift or by participating in our room naming campaign as detailed below.



To celebrate this special milestone in our school's history, Peoria Academy will host an anniversary gala celebration in April. Tickets will be free to attendees, and we hope that this will help to bring more people to the festivity and drive increased support and sponsorship dollars to support the school this year. The gala will be the primary fundraiser to support the school's operating needs, enhancing our programs, supporting faculty development, and driving improvements across the school.



Our 25th Anniversary Fund Overview

Founded in 2000, Peoria Academy provides an exemplary independent school education to a diverse population of students in the greater Peoria region.

To strengthen the mission of Peoria Academy, the school is seeking support to build an anniversary fund. This fund will be overseen by the board's finance committee, and will provide the financial foundation for a vibrant future for the school. Specifically, we envision that establishing the fund will help the school to:

focus

on moderating tuition increases and ensure access to a vibrant financial aid program

support

faculty compensation, recruitment, and professional development efforts

deepen

and improve our offerings in the arts, music, and athletics

improve

our buildings and grounds

Opportunities to Give



To provide additional gifts to support the anniversary effort, individuals and groups will have the opportunity to make single or multi-year gifts in exchange for naming rights for 5 years to Peoria Academy classrooms and spaces.

Each individual classroom space can be sponsored for the next 5 years for \$25,000, allowing individuals, groups, or organizations to name the classroom. Gifts will be designated for the anniversary effort and can be paid in whole or over a period of up to 60 months.

In addition to our classrooms, the following spaces can also be named:

- The Cafeteria (\$25,000)**
- The Art Studio (\$25,000)**
- The Science Lab (\$25,000)**
- The Library (\$50,000)**
- The Commons (\$50,000)**
- The Outdoor Education Center (\$50,000)**
- The Gym (\$75,000)**

We respectfully ask that you consider making a generous leadership gift toward this effort in order to help us strengthen the Peoria Academy program and experience for our students.

If you wish to contribute to the 25th Anniversary fund gift, please complete the information below, date, sign, and return to Peoria Academy via mail or scan to: Chris Wilson, Executive Director, 2711 Willow Knolls Dr, Peoria, IL 61614; cwilson@peoriaacademy.org

25th Anniversary Fund



We respectfully ask that you consider making a generous leadership gift toward this effort in order to help us strengthen the Peoria Academy program and experience for our students.

- Yes, I will give \$ _____ directly to the 25th Anniversary Fund!
- Yes, I will give \$ _____ to sponsor the _____ room and support the 25th Anniversary Fund!

We hope that you will be willing to provide this gift in accordance with the following proposed options (*please check one*):

- Payment in full, paid via check or online, mailed to or delivered to Peoria Academy
- Annual gift, due by Dec.31, paid via check or online, divided over _____ years (up to 5)
- Monthly gift, via credit card, paid over _____ months

Please make your online payments at <https://peoriaacademyinc.factsmgtadmin.com/give/> and select either the “25th Anniversary Fund” or the “Room Naming Appeal”

Donor Name: _____

Donor Address: _____

Donor Phone Number: _____

I hereby certify that I agree to abide by this pledge to Peoria Academy.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Please complete this form, date, sign, and return to Peoria Academy via mail or scan to:
Chris Wilson, Executive Director, 2711 Willow Knolls Dr., Peoria, IL 61614;
cwilson@peoriaacademy.org

Gala Sponsorship Opportunities



PLATINUM SUPPORT-\$15,000

- Full-page advertisement in gala event program
- Company name & logo featured at gala
- 4' x 10' banner with company logo displayed on Willow Knolls Drive for one month
- Recognition in Peoria Academy website, social media, newsletter, in school commons, and verbal commendation by Executive Director during event

GOLD SUPPORT-\$7,500

- Half-page advertisement in gala event program
- Company name & logo featured at gala
- 4' x 10' banner with company logo displayed on Willow Knolls Drive for one month
- Recognition in Peoria Academy website, social media, newsletter, in school commons, and verbal commendation by Executive Director during event

SILVER SUPPORT-\$2,500

- Quarter-page advertisement in gala event program
- Company name & logo featured at gala
- Recognition in Peoria Academy website, social media, newsletter, and in school commons

BRONZE SUPPORT-\$1,000

- Sponsorship name printed in gala event program
- Recognition in Peoria Academy website, social media, newsletter, and in school commons

Additional Ways to Give



Caterpillar Matching Program

The Caterpillar Foundation is proud to offer the year-round Matching Gifts Program to support Caterpillar employees, U.S. retirees and members of its Board of Directors in their contributions to worthy causes. Eligible Caterpillar participants may request an annual combined total maximum match of \$10,000 USD each calendar year to charities to which contributions are tax deductible. Please contact Brandon Jordan at bjordan@peoriaacademy.org or visit caterpillar.com/matching-gifts for more information.

Stock Transfers

Did you know that when you donate stock, you avoid the tax on the gain while deducting 100% of the value of the contribution? When you give stock, you may earn 2-3x the tax savings vs. donating cash. It's a win-win for you and us. And now it's fast, safe and easy to do. Peoria Academy has partnered with DonateStock.com to enable our supporters to make stock donations easily.

Our DonateStock page <https://donatestock.com/peoria-academy-inc> enables you to donate stock from your brokerage directly to our account through a secure portal, making the gifting process fast, safe and easy. Visit our DonateStock page or contact Ken Bachelor, kbachelor@peoriaacademy.org for more information.