

Architects of the





Defining, Creating, and Imagining Our World.

התנועה:

We must provide our children with the multi-faceted tools to shape the future with intention and impact generations to come.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Since its founding in 1933, The Buckley School community has embraced Dr. Isabelle Buckley's founding philosophy while recognizing the necessity of evolving our approach to be relevant for the times. The school provides students with a robust academic program and well-rounded experiences in the arts, athletics, and moral education, based on Dr. Buckley's Four-Fold Plan. Nearly 90 years later, we recognize that Dr. Buckley's founding philosophy is truly timeless.

An education that empowers has never been more important. As we near Buckley's 100th anniversary, we have been reminded like never before that the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing our global community are complex, ambiguous, and ever-changing. At Buckley, we must teach our students not only to survive, but to thrive, now and as adults. To do so, we must provide our children with the multi-faceted tools to shape the future with intention and impact generations to come.

Developed through an inclusive process with significant input from faculty, staff, families, alumni, students, and friends of the school, I am excited to present our Board-approved 2022–2027 strategic plan, *"Architects of the Future: Defining, Creating, and Imagining Our World."*

We will concentrate our efforts over the next six years on three strategic priorities, each necessary for our students and our school to flourish and tied to our mission's commitment to equity, inclusion, and the balanced development of mind, body,

and character. Important now and for our future, our plans are set upon a core obligation to institutional financial sustainability. The strategies laid out in these pages below build upon a strong educational program constructed by dynamic and nurturing educators in the context of a warm and diverse community.

With a commitment to helping students become future-ready, we will continue to build in students a foundation in critical and creative thinking developed through multi-disciplinary courses and applied in a variety of complex situations. These experiences will enable them to approach uncertainty and complexity with courage and a collaborative spirit. Expanding and pursuing the definition of wellness will teach our children to not only live a healthy life, with the strength and tools to face and rebound from challenges, but to lead their families and communities to do the same. Making explicit this responsibility to build a community of learners and leaders will prepare Buckley graduates for an ever-changing world, in which ongoing skill development is a necessity. To be leaders, students must have a strong foundation in diversity, equity, and inclusion so that they are able to anticipate and advocate for the needs of others.



Alona Scott, Head of School

We know that these pillars are the tools our students need to define, create, and imagine the world. When we hand them their diplomas, they will be prepared for college and for life. They will be the architects of the future.

Alona Scott

Realizing Our Future



FOUR-FOLD PLAN

Our founding philosophy; a timeless approach.

COMMITMENT

Our values; deeply held beliefs about how to be.

MISSION

Our reason for being. Major organizational priorities.

OUR VISION

Our shared aspiration for our students; the value of a Buckley education.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Our shared understanding of the specific skills students will need to thrive in the future. These skills drive the development of the student experience.

BUCKLEY

2020

BUCKLEY

2020



Portrait of a Graduate

TRUE FRIEND

- Uplifts others
- Listens with intention
- Turns empathy into action
- Invests in community
- Considers their impact

CREATIVE THINKER

- Practices self-reflection
- Asks a better question
- Champions innovation
- Makes unexpected connections
- Understands the past and envisions tomorrow

RESILIENT EXPLORER

- Views challenges as opportunities
- Relishes experimentation, play, and curiosity
- Seeks to understand and respects the natural world
- Attends to health and wellness
- Rebounds with zeal

INCLUSIVE LEADER

- Knows when to observe, when to support, and when to initiate
- Displays a strong work ethic
- Sees strength in difference
- Models honesty, humility, and accountability
- Advocates for justice

DYNAMIC STORYTELLER

- Communicates with clarity and purpose
- Finds joy in artistic expression
- Examines the human condition
- Engages the senses
- Discerns and promotes truth





THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our strategic plan is uniquely focused on:

It is designed to bring the Portrait of a Graduate to life, laying out plans to enhance the educational program, expand our commitment to wellness, and further strengthen community connections.

Strategic Priorities





ADVANCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Provide a foundation in critical and creative thinking developed through interdisciplinary, inquiry-based courses, so that students approach life with zest, confident they are prepared to embrace complex and ambiguous challenges with courage and a collaborative spirit.



Objective

Ensure our instructional approach nurtures every student to develop the attributes and skills outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate and reflects current research about intellectual and social development.

Actions

- Continue developing a student-centered instructional philosophy grounded in interdisciplinary coursework, project-based learning, and authentic assessment.
- Ensure that Buckley's curriculum and instruction reflect our commitment to equity, inclusion, and culturally-responsive teaching.
- Engage, inspire, and empower our students by updating our current approach to advanced level courses.

Objective

Prepare students to be future-ready through engaging, forward-thinking programs.

Actions

- Nurture students to seek diverse viewpoints, convey intellectual arguments and personal stories, develop novel solutions to global challenges, and reach diverse audiences with programs in communications, technology, and media.
- Help students expand their passions, grow as scholars and leaders, and develop workplace skills through internships, mentorships, and trips.
- Ensure students explore contemporary social issues and reciprocal relationships by developing a K–12 service learning program.
- Educate students about the interdependent relationship between the environment and humankind through the lenses of innovation, advocacy, and justice.





PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Nurture the emotional, physical, mental, and social health and wellness of our students through programs, practices, and policies so that they may live lives of purpose and joy.



Objective

Foster self-awareness and belonging.

Actions

- Support students to understand themselves through meaningful homeroom and advisory programs, a K–12 health and wellness curriculum, and community experiences.
- Teach students to express and regulate their emotions, build meaningful relationships, and create a culturally competent community.
- Ensure that school programs, such as weekly schedules, homework, assessment policies, and advanced courses are structured to support well-being.
- Create a system to regularly gauge student, faculty, and staff belonging and well-being.

Objective

Expand the definition of wellness to include participation in the arts and athletics.

Actions

- Recognizing that engagement with the arts supports overall mental and emotional health, utilize performances and events to enhance community well-being by offering opportunities for aesthetic appreciation, arts education, self-expression, and community connection.
- Foster self-discovery, sportsmanship, discipline, and lifelong health through inclusive and appropriate leveled programming for beginners as well as competitive athletes.





Objective

Utilize our beautiful campus to support wellness.

Actions

- Renew our students' connection to nature by developing programs that take advantage of our beautiful canyon location, including our nature trail, organic gardens, and outdoor classroom spaces.
- Refresh under-utilized indoor and outdoor spaces to support students to discover their passions and expand programs in physical, social, and emotional growth.





INVEST IN COMMUNITY

Cultivate a culture that celebrates and honors people and partnerships, expands our impact, and ensures our future.



Objective

Expand and strengthen student relationships.

Actions

- Redouble efforts to retain, recruit, and support a diverse community of students.
- Increase financial assistance to ensure that Buckley is accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Deepen K–12 cohesion through enhanced student mentoring, buddy programs, and student leadership.
- Update inefficient indoor and outdoor spaces to support collaborative work, a sense of community and belonging, and long-term environmental sustainability.

Objective

Expand support for faculty and staff.

Actions

- Explore bold and creative ways to retain, recruit, and support faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds.
- Create models of professional development that support faculty feeling fulfilled as lifelong learners, becoming catalysts for innovation, and growing as experts in student-centered, interdisciplinary teaching practices.
- Ensure that compensation and benefits honor the inspirational role faculty and staff play in the lives of students, families, and alumni.





Objective

Build relationships in the broader community.

Actions

- Provide opportunities for alumni and parents to engage more meaningfully in the life of the school through enhanced social and educational events.
- Strengthen partnerships with mission-aligned organizations in Sherman Oaks, the greater Los Angeles area, and beyond to expand our students' horizons, reach prospective students and faculty, and further advance Buckley's reputation in the community.
- Develop an environmental impact plan to measure and reduce our footprint in our neighborhood and on our planet.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO BUCKLEY

Thank you to the 2021–22 Board of Trustees for their stewardship of the school and to the Strategic Planning Committee* for their focus and commitment to this effort.

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THE BUCKLEY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO **YOUR FUTURE.**

buckley.org/about/strategic-plan

