

Dear Episcopal Day School Community,

October, 2011

After a forty year career in independent education, the last twenty three as a headmaster, I have decided that this will be my last year at Episcopal Day School, and I will leave this summer. I am so grateful to the Board of Trustees of EDS for hiring me a little more than seven years ago which is the longest time I've been headmaster at any school. The Board's hard work in creating the mission statement which guides the school, and the strategic plan which moves the school forward has made EDS stronger. Personally, the board and school were there for me during dialysis and my kidney transplant, and I will never forget that. I am also grateful to the faculty and staff who teach, mentor, provide leadership by example, and work with our students on a daily basis with such care and professionalism. Their working on and revising seven parts of our curriculum these past seven years has immeasurably strengthened our school academically while not compromising the emphasis we put on character education in an Episcopal school. It's what we do building character through chapel, sacred studies, guidance, golden awards, and our nurturing faculty which separates us from other schools. Parents play such a positive role at EDS by helping in all areas of school life and funding programs through the PTA for our students and faculty. Thank you, parents, too for entrusting your children to this great school. Should the church and school expansion be accomplished, a new beautiful worship space will be created, and EDS will be able fulfill its mission in a much stronger fashion with a new teaching area. Lastly, the students at EDS are the greatest and are the most important stakeholders in the school. I will miss their joy, kindness, happiness, good cheer, big smiles, and character most of all.

The board will have no problem finding someone who would like to lead Episcopal Day School. In fact, over the past year I have worked together with the board on a succession plan. We have a great reputation in the North Carolina independent school association and among Episcopal schools. Episcopal Day School is a first rate school.

Beth, Kate, and I have lived here in Southern Pines for twelve years and hope to stay, but that will depend on work which may be as a consultant with a national firm which helps children, schools, and families here in the United States and abroad, or as an interim headmaster which is a one year position, but nothing is set in stone.

Episcopal Day School provides a superb early childhood education for children and will for years to come. I will be forever grateful for my years at EDS, and wish all of you the very best for this year and the future.

Warmest regards,

Jay St. John
Headmaster