



BEAUVOIR

The National Cathedral Elementary School

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Monday, June 5, 2017

Dear Beauvoir Community,

On behalf of the Beauvoir Governing Board of Trustees and the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, I write regarding the news Amy Vorenberg has shared with all of you that she is leaving Beauvoir as Head of School at the end of this academic year to return home to New England. Amy's departure is a bittersweet development for our community and I want to express our deepest gratitude for her diligent service to our school and her unwavering commitment to both our children and the values we cherish. I also want to reassure our parents, students, staff and faculty that the Board is beginning the work of finding a new Head and will ensure stability, consistency and commitment to our core values through the transition period.

Before I provide more of details with regard to the future, I want to say a few words about Amy and her many contributions to Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School. Amy is an extraordinarily gifted educator who deeply understands early childhood education and the importance of a holistic approach to child development that includes educators, families and the community-at-large. In her four years as Head, we benefitted greatly from Amy's expertise and passion, and her teaching model that deepened students' learning. She is dedicated to team teaching, the professional development of faculty and staff and a diverse and inclusive community, an integral component of Beauvoir's strategic plan. Among Amy's other Beauvoir legacies are collaborating across the Cathedral Close, keeping tuition low, delivering a balanced budget and operating within it, and exceeding annual giving and financial aid goals.

Above all, we have been so fortunate to experience Amy's genuine love and care for the children and their families, expressed every day in the openness she modeled in her engagement with our community and her welcoming smile. Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, sums it up well: "We will miss Amy's joyful and collaborative spirit, which was transformative to the Close. I thank God for her service and pray every blessing for her and her family."

Following a service in the Cathedral on June 8, we will celebrate the gift of Amy Vorenberg and her extraordinary work, talent and gifts to Beauvoir. We hope each and every one of you will join us for a moment of thanks and celebration.

The Board is in the process of engaging a search firm to assist us with the search for a new permanent Head of School and will provide additional information in the coming weeks. In that process, the Board is committed to installing a new Head who will continue to drive our record of excellence in providing an extraordinary early education for young children, today and in the future, to address the challenges we face and to further the values-based curriculum that makes Beauvoir such a special place.

We also are identifying seasoned professionals, with deep experience in education and appreciation of our early childhood model, as candidates for the position of Interim Head, which will guide the School forward until a permanent new Head of School is hired. In the meantime, Jalene Spain Thomas has graciously agreed to be our acting Head. As you know, Jalene has served Beauvoir with much distinction as Assistant Head of School for Institutional Collaboration and Strategy and as a longtime member of the Beauvoir staff. We are appreciative that Jalene has agreed to serve in this role.

The Board and Jalene will ensure that Beauvoir's operations continue unchanged during the final weeks of the school year and into next year, and will keep the community apprised of new developments. You should also know that this change will not distract anyone from the exciting end-of-the-year work of our students, faculty and staff, nor dim the celebratory feeling for our third graders as they begin their festivities and look forward to graduation from Beauvoir and their futures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the incoming Chair of the Governing Board, Rhonda Schmittlein. **We invite you to come to a meeting with Rhonda and myself tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Beauvoir Library to discuss the transition and answer your questions about the path forward.**

I know you join the Board in wishing Amy and her family all the best and share in our appreciation for her work with us. As always, thank you for your commitment to and strong support of Beauvoir.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha R. Webb". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martha" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Webb".

Martha R. Webb
Chair, Beauvoir Governing Board

Connect with Beauvoir on Social Media!



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