



MIDLAND SCHOOL

Live Your Education

Christopher Barnes
Head of School

April 19, 2023

Dear Midland community,

The past seven years have been an intensely satisfying professional challenge for me. I have enjoyed working with our on-campus and extended community to navigate Midland through turbulent times and renew the campus, curriculum, and culture in our ever-evolving world. Throughout this effort, seeing our students live their education and grow into their best selves has been and continues to be a real privilege and a joy. This community has also given our boys, Porter '21 and Rabbit '22, a gift of can-do pragmatism, passion for learning, and commitment to community, for which Molly and I are deeply grateful.

Next year, the 2023-24 school year, will be my last as Head of School. This is not a decision I made lightly and is a result of personal and professional needs and wants. Most likely, my next step in the summer of 2024 will be to spend some time lost in the wilds; and then, of course, I look forward to finding my path onward.

The last decade has been a consequential one for Midland as we right-size the gap between Midland and the outside world. As a niche school, we continue to forge our path and strive to be a robust expression of both the mission and the best of our history. We also have to be accessible to our families and supportive of the needs of our students today and tomorrow. The tensions between traditional and progressive, between our needs and wants, and between the fiscal realities and demands are ever-present challenges. I have relished the complexity of these puzzles and look forward to continuing to work on them in the year to come.

Midland faculty are deeply committed to our collective purpose and to every student. The leadership team of administrators is equally passionate and prepared, and all of them have demonstrated their competency together in trials “by fire,” COVID, and floods. They are ready to support the next Head of School largely because “Midland” is embodied in the collective community, not in a single person or leader.

The board is energized to seize the moment to seek out a great new Head of School and set the path forward. I am confident that Gretchen Collard, Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Search Committee, will ably lead the committee and our extended community through the search, hiring, and onboarding process.

Serving this community has been an honor, and I have grown and learned a great deal over my tenure. I also feel passionate about wanting my final year to be about finishing strong and laying the groundwork for future success. My priority, in line with Midland values, continues to be “to leave the place better than you found it” and then to join the many folks touched by and who have left a permanent positive mark on Midland. I am confident that Midland will continue to thrive as it did before me and will long after I have completed my tenure.

In Robore Virtus,

Christopher Barnes
Head of School