



May 4, 2023

Ms. Hannah Granade, Chair
Whitby School Board of Trustees
Greenwich CT

Dear Hannah,

I write today to confirm my decision that 2023-2024 will be my last year as Head of School. It is a bittersweet moment for me and my wife, Carole, as we eagerly anticipate what is next for us personally and professionally. At the same time, we will deeply miss the joyfulness we have experienced working with Whitby faculty, staff, students, families, and alumni.

When I was hired to serve as Interim Head in July of 2019, we certainly faced challenges. I quickly learned, however, that there was a deep commitment to quality teaching among the faculty, staff, trustees, and the parent community. Together we made significant changes that have strengthened our curriculum (i.e., all we do with intention) and enriched the learning environment for all students.

There is every reason to be confident about the future of Whitby School. Today, we enroll 330 students compared to 266 students in 2019. Faculty turnover is the lowest it has been in years, and student retention this spring has surpassed all previous rates. We are fully accredited by the American Montessori Society and the International Baccalaureate program. Working with families and local health officials, we successfully navigated the Covid-19 crisis and had 166 consecutive days of in-person teaching and learning while other schools were virtual.

I am proud of the collaboration among many that made these accomplishments possible. But in all candor, my greatest satisfaction comes from working with Whitby students, faculty, and staff in classrooms, on playgrounds, in the theater, or playing fields – wherever our Montessori and IB curricula take us. I often speak of the joyful noise of faculty and students engaged in teaching and learning. No educator could ask for more; I know I will miss that!

Energy and excitement permeate the school community, whether supporting our campaign for the *Innovation Center* or *The Barn*. The School Musical, Café Night, Parent-Teacher conferences, and the recent Middle School Art Show are well attended

and affirm the high-quality work of our faculty and students. The senior leadership team is deeply qualified, highly experienced, and committed to our Mission Statement and Vision. Indeed, the future is bright at Whitby.

Please be assured that I will remain steadfastly engaged during the next 12 months. We have exciting plans for 2023-2024 to assure all students have the best teaching and learning experience possible, a goal founding Head of School Nancy Rambusch set for us back in 1958. We will remain true to her original vision.

It has been my honor and privilege to be the Head of School. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

All the best,

Jack Creeden
Head of School