



June 4, 2009

Dear Episcopal Collegiate School Community,

As I watched on last Friday morning our very excited young people leave for summer break, I was reminded again how quickly time passes. As I shared with our seniors at Commencement, it seems like only yesterday when the start of the school year was upon us. Last August, as the School passed its ten-year milestone and began its Decennial Celebration year, I remember well the special eagerness and hopefulness that seemed to infuse our hallways. I think most would agree that this year did not disappoint.

We say goodbye to the Class of 2009. They leave a distinguished legacy of achievement. The 47 members of this class included 3 National Merit Finalists. They were accepted to 92 different colleges and universities in 26 states and 31 members of the class were awarded over \$3.6 million in merit scholarship monies, including such prestigious scholarships as the Jefferson Scholarship at the University of Virginia, the Hunt Leadership Scholarship at Southern Methodist University and the Presidential Scholarship at Tulane University. Their extracurricular accomplishments, stretching across a variety of activities, were just as impressive. For all of their achievements, they will be most remembered, however, for sharing freely with us their dreams, their gifts and their love. Our blessings go with them.

This school year also provided many opportunities to celebrate and to remember the commitment and passion that marks the School's first decade. Our brief history is a powerful example of what can happen when a community is called to unite behind a compelling mission. What our School has achieved in such a short amount of time is remarkable. As we move ahead, we will remain resolute in upholding our School's guiding principles, using our legacy of achievement as the foundation to build toward an even greater future. Episcopal Collegiate School exists because our founding families were not satisfied with the status quo and we should not be as well. We must never stop examining what we do and how we do it. It is that uncompromising commitment to excellence that truly distinguishes these past years, and it is that strength of will that must move us forward.

Great independent schools share several things in common. Most importantly, they are filled with great people. Episcopal Collegiate School is blessed with outstanding teachers, talented young people and passionate supporters. It is our people who represent our greatest strength. The passion and sense of collective ownership that characterized our founders are difficult to replicate. But we must try. A great independent school is a community endeavor, requiring the full participation of all of its community members. With such a shared commitment, no challenge is too great. As we launch our new Lower School, we begin a new chapter in the story of Episcopal Collegiate School. I challenge us to take this opportunity to recapture that founding spirit which remains at the heart of who we are.

We say goodbye to several members of our faculty. We will miss greatly Vivian Blair, Katie Bridges, Susie Connin, John Hardman, Michelle LaVicka and Marian Menees. Without exception, these talented educators have represented the very best of our school and have had an enormous impact on the lives of the young people and colleagues whom they have touched. Please join me in thanking all of them for their contributions and wishing them the very best in the years to come.

On a more personal note, please know that I feel blessed to call this wonderful School my home. You have welcomed me warmly into the Episcopal community, and I am very appreciative. I look forward to working with you in the years to come.

My best wishes to your family for a peaceful and restful summer filled with wonderful memories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hickman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen D. Hickman

Head of School