



June 10, 2010

Dear Episcopal Collegiate School Community,

I hope these first days of summer have been restful ones for your family. Although I remain amazed at how fast school years go by, I continue to marvel at the many blessings and memories each passing year brings. By every meaningful measure, 2009-2010 was one of the most successful in our school's history. We launched a new Lower School, welcoming 216 new Wildcats and 35 of the finest educators in our state. We continued to build on the legacy of excellence that has been a part of our school since its opening 12 years ago with our young people demonstrating their many talents across a wide range of pursuits. As it should be, the Class of 2010 led the way.

Our 51 seniors leave in their wake a remarkable record of accomplishment, including:

- An average ACT of 27 with 30% scoring over 30
- Merit scholarships totaling nearly \$5 million
- 7 National Merit Semi-Finalists, including 6 National Merit Finalists
- Multiple regional and state championships in Athletics
- Multiple regional and state recognitions in the Fine Arts
- Community service hours totaling over 7200 hours

As the Class of 2010 disperses to 31 colleges and universities in 11 different states, we rejoice in their promising futures, and we give thanks for how they have blessed and enriched our entire school community. In his book Man's Search for Meaning, Victor Frankl tells us that "everything can be taken from man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms, which is to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." As I shared with our seniors at Commencement, my prayer for them is very simple: I pray that they will always have the courage to choose their own way. We wish them Godspeed.

In my two years at Episcopal, I have learned that our community can quickly forget what a remarkable journey that this school has had. I have visited independent schools all over the country, and I am familiar with the stories of many of them. As I have said on many occasions, I am quite confident that no school anywhere has done more than this school has done in its first 10 or so years. We have been blessed with many people who have contributed to this Herculean effort and who have helped make this incredible run possible.

Jeanne Joyner is one of those people. On July 1, Jeanne will step down as President of the Episcopal Collegiate School's Board of Trustees. In her nine years on the Board, including six as its President, Jeanne has led the Board during a time of much change and growth. In particular, it was her voice and vision that helped the Board make the difficult decision to start our Lower School, and she has guided us with a steady hand during this historic time. Her passion and love for this school are humbling and inspiring. As I told our students in one of our last Chapels, this lady bleeds the Green and the White, and she always will. We thank her for all that she has done for our young people.

The end of a school year also marks the time when life changes require us to say farewell to some of our colleagues. This year we say goodbye to Brittany Axford, Dean Campbell, Annie Delehanty, Colleen Engskov, Kayla Farnan, Tori Garrett, Allison Hatfield, Robin McClay, Scott Sides and Chris Yarberry. We thank them for their time among us, and for all that they have done for our young people. They will be missed. In the coming weeks, I will be sharing with you information on the new faculty who will be joining us. Please be on the lookout.

I do hope that your family's remaining summer days are peaceful, restful and filled with memories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hickman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen D. Hickman
Head of School