



# EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Dear Episcopal Collegiate School families,

I hope that you were able to enjoy a restful and rejuvenating spring break, a wonderful Easter holiday, and that you are in good spirits heading into the final stretch of the 2020-2021 school year.

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Upper School Head search. Given the timing and unique environmental challenges posed this year, we knew at the outset of the search process, in February, that we could pivot towards appointing an Interim Head of Upper School for the 2021-2022 school year if we did not find the best-fit candidate whom we all felt excited about. Appointing an Interim Head has several advantages. It allows for a more traditional search process and timeline this fall, one that will yield a more robust candidate pool. It provides consistency in program and direction from a talented administrator who knows our students, faculty, program, and values. Furthermore, it affords me the opportunity to engage in a bit of a listening tour to further inform the search as I join Episcopal Collegiate School and establish relationships with upper school students, faculty, staff, and parents.

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Matt Radtke will serve as Interim Head of Upper School for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Radtke joined the Episcopal Collegiate School community in 2015 and has served as both Director of Institutional Advancement and Associate Head for Strategic Initiatives. In these roles, he has contributed extensively to the life of the school, serving as a member of the senior administrative team and the Academic Advisory Committee in addition to his successful work in the areas of advancement, fundraising, and admissions. Mr. Radtke cares deeply for the students and their families. He will work collaboratively with our faculty to ensure a holistic education for our students, steeped in the Episcopal Collegiate School culture of program excellence. In support of Mr. Radtke, I will move the Head of School office to the Upper School building for the 2021-22 school year, ensuring that Mr. Radtke and I work closely together and that I have the opportunity to observe life in the Upper School on a daily basis.

Mr. Radtke understands the unique value and opportunities afforded students through an independent school education. For nineteen years prior to joining the Episcopal Collegiate School community, he served as a teacher, coach, and administrator at The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee; Woodward Academy in Atlanta, Georgia; Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Hammond School in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Radtke earned his M.A. in Education Leadership from The George Washington University in 2011, and he completed his Teacher Certification and B.A. in International Studies with a Minor in History and Government from Southern Methodist University in 1995.

Mr. Radtke, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Hickman, and I will begin work immediately to ensure an outstanding school year for students and faculty alike. We remain grateful to Mr. Urquhart for his on-going leadership with our Upper School program and know that he will work to ensure a successful transition.

In the coming months, I will work closely with other school leaders to develop a plan for resuming a search to identify the next Head of Upper School beyond the 2021-2022 school year. While the timing and conditions of the search this spring created some challenges, it also confirmed that Episcopal Collegiate School is unmatched in the region with a highly-regarded faculty and a talented student body.

A special thank you is extended to Tom Charlton, Rob Leacock, Chuck McCormick, Catherine Radtke, Catherine Schuhmacher, and Jo Stoltz. They have invested countless hours in helping with this search. I am especially grateful to Steve Hickman for the insight and guidance that he provided throughout this process. Also, thanks to all of you for your patience and commitment and for providing important feedback. We look forward to an exceptional 2021-2022 school year.

Very Respectfully,

Jamie Griffin  
Incoming Head of School