



## Wakefield Country Day School

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December 13, 2023

Subject: Important Announcement Regarding Head of School Transition

Dear Wakefield Country Day School Community,

After three years of dedicated service, Mr. Larner has decided to retire from his position as Head of School at the end of the current 2023-2024 school year. During his tenure, Mr. Larner has made invaluable contributions to our school community, fostering an environment of academic excellence, integrity, and community engagement. We are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment to the growth and success of our school.

While Mr. Larner will be stepping down from the role of Head of School, we are pleased to announce that he has graciously accepted the Board's invitation to continue to serve as a member, bringing his wide-ranging insights to help guide our institution's future endeavors. Mr. Larner will be an invaluable asset in fundraising where his efforts since 2019 have been unparalleled in securing the necessary financial resources for our school's sustenance, growth and future.

To assist us in finding a worthy successor to lead our school into the future, we have engaged the services of Southern Teachers, a highly respected educational recruitment agency based in Charlottesville, Virginia. With a long-standing reputation for successfully matching exceptional educators with independent schools, they bring expertise to the hiring process. Their thorough and personalized approach ensures that each candidate is carefully vetted to meet the unique needs and culture of our school. Their commitment to excellence aligns with our school's values, making them an ideal partner in this important search process.

We are confident that with the support of Southern Teachers, we will identify a visionary leader who will build upon the strong foundation laid by the school's founders, Dr. William E. Lynn and Pamela Lynn, in 1972. The search process will be collaborative and inclusive, involving input from various stakeholders to ensure a seamless transition and the continued success of our school. We are grateful for our current academic leadership team and confident they will play an important and positive role in the transition process.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Larner for his outstanding leadership as Head of School and for his future commitment to the school through his membership on the Board of Directors.

We are also thrilled to announce an extraordinary gift from a distinguished alumnus, Tobias Dengel, a 1989 graduate of Wakefield Country Day School, and his wife, Lynn. The Dengels have pledged to donate \$500,000 before year end and have further pledged \$250,000 matching contributions for the next two years. This substantial philanthropic gift acknowledges the importance of the school's mission to develop each student's character and intellect to the student's fullest potential, encouraging scholarship, diligence, and self-discipline as well as respect for and service to others. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Dengels for their extraordinary generosity and their visionary support for the future of our school.

We look forward to the exciting new chapter ahead for our school.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and please stay tuned for updates on the search process.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors  
Wakefield Country Day School, Inc.  
By: Sharon Luke, Chair

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