

Dear TJ Parents, Faculty and Staff, Students, and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, welcome back to TJ!! With the inspiring Flag Raising Ceremony this past Monday we commenced TJ's 32nd year. Last May, we celebrated TJ's 30th year – 30 years of standing accountable for educating students to make the most of their abilities. We marked that significant milestone all through the 2022-2023 school year with concerts, picnics, a special speaker, and other featured events including the graduation of the Class of 2023. In the background, the Board of Trustees has continued preparing TJ for the future – taking the first steps on a new strategic plan (soon to be published), beginning a new accreditation cycle with the Independent School Association of the Central States (now well underway), and laying the groundwork for continued growth and improvement of the School.

In consultation with our Head of School, Laura McDonald, we began preparing TJ for continued growth and planning for responsible succession. Laura has faithfully served as Head of School for a total of 13 years with the greatest commitment, integrity, passion, and grit. She is a leader and educator of the highest caliber, and we are deeply indebted to her for her selfless service. As Laura has expressed her desire to move to a new chapter in her career, she and the Board are working to find TJ's next leader who will build upon all that has been accomplished. Laura remains committed to TJ now and into the future, and she will play an important role in finding the next Head of School and ensuring a successful transition.

The Board of Trustees has formed a Search Committee and formally launched the search for a new Head of School to facilitate this planned leadership transition. This is exciting news and the starting point for an intensive process that involves the entire TJ community: the Board, faculty and administration, parents, students, and alumni. To support us through this process we have partnered with [The Education Group](#) (TEG), a nationally recognized and very experienced search company specializing in finding leaders for private schools. We are excited to work with two of their most practiced consultants, [Marci McLean](#) and [Andrew Wooden](#), who have successfully executed dozens of school leadership searches.

Marci and Andrew will be visiting TJ next week, August 27th and 28th, to meet trustees, administration and faculty, parents and students – to learn about us and to get to know the TJ community. What makes us special? What do we care most about? What are our opportunities? What are our challenges? This first visit will help us refine the leadership profile we will use to find our new Head of School and ensure our candidate pool contains Mission-aligned, highly qualified candidates ready and able to engage our community and lead TJ to new levels of success. Your input is vital to the search process, and we will be communicating regularly on when and how you can participate (including sessions coming up next week).

The Board's goal, with TEG's support and following their process, is to screen a well-developed candidate pool by October, to narrow that pool to a group of semi-finalists, and then finalists who will visit TJ in December. A final decision would follow by January 2025, and the new Head would start in the summer of 2025. All searches are unique, and the Board is committed, with your help, to finding the right leader for TJ.

To keep you updated on the search process, and to announce significant events or decisions, we are establishing a "Head of School Search" tab on the TJ website. Updates will be published there as

they become available. Please free to reach out to me, or our consultants, Marci and Andrew, at any time with questions or suggestions.

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Marci McLean: marci@educationgroup.com

Andrew Wooden: andrew@educationgroup.com

We have so much to celebrate about TJ and its students, and we should be so proud of what we have accomplished in the last three decades. We look forward to your support and participation in this process, an endeavor critical to our growth and continuing tradition of excellence.

Go Cavaliers!!!

Sincerely,

John Paul Sweeny
Chairman of the Board
Search Committee Chair