



21 January 2010

Dear Canterbury Community:

It is with great excitement that I write to you to announce that Mr. David Skeen has accepted the position as Canterbury's next Middle School Director.

Dave comes to Canterbury from the Calvert School, a K-8 school in Baltimore, Maryland, where he currently serves as the Middle School Dean of Students and Director of Summer Programs. During his tenure at Calvert, Dave has held a variety of different roles and responsibilities, including 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and boys soccer and lacrosse coach. Dave also serves as the president of the Trilogy Foundation, a non-profit organization that he helped found to establish an inner-city lacrosse league for middle school aged children in Baltimore.

In addition to his middle school experience, Dave has a strong academic background. After graduating from the Gilman School, an independent K-12 boys school in Baltimore, he attended Washington & Lee University, where he earned a B.A. in History. At W&L, Dave played varsity lacrosse, was recognized as a W&L Scholar Athlete, earned All-Conference academic awards, and was named the Captain of the lacrosse team. Dave also holds a Masters Degree in Educational Studies with a certificate in Independent School Leadership from Johns Hopkins University.

Dave's appointment comes after an extensive search that began in October of last year. Canterbury received over one hundred applications for the position, interviewed scores of candidates by telephone and SKYPE, and invited five candidates to campus for formal interviews. This group of five included established middle school educators and middle school directors from schools in Georgia, New York, Ohio, Missouri, and Maryland. Each candidate was strong and brought a unique collection of talents and interests to the process.

Based upon our interactions during two separate interviews, very strong recommendations, and the feedback we received from everyone involved in his visits, Dave emerged as our top candidate. The search committee and I are convinced that he holds the necessary blend of intellect, compassion, and dedication to middle school education needed to advance our middle school division in the coming years. We are thrilled to have him at Canterbury.

I want to thank the members of the search committee- Penny Summers, Carolyn Morazan, Kathy Durham, Wes Vogel, Janet Mintz, and Laurie Highman- for their

commitment and diligence during this process. They readily accepted the invitation to serve on the committee and volunteered countless hours for the benefit of our school. I also want to thank the parents and members of the Board of Trustees who assisted in the search. Finally, I want to thank Spencer Edmunds for helping to establish a strong middle school division that will, no doubt, pave the way for Dave's success.

Dave and his fiancée Mackenzie, whom he will marry this spring, will move to Greensboro this summer, and Dave will begin work in July. I know that the entire school community will benefit from Dave's leadership and care in the coming years. You all will have the opportunity to meet Dave when he returns to our school this spring, and I know that you will welcome him to Canterbury and to Greensboro with open arms.

Very truly yours,

Burns Jones  
Head of School