



Dear Wilson Hall Community,

Returning home to lead my alma mater has been one of the greatest honors and joys of my professional life, and personally, we have been so grateful for the support this community has demonstrated for me and my family over the last five years. Wilson Hall is—and I pray will always remain—a place where the only thing tougher than the academics is the resilient spirit of compassion and love we have for each other. It truly is a place where everyone—students, parents, teachers, and staff—are known, loved, challenged, and safe.

The success of any school depends on so many people, and Wilson Hall has been blessed throughout its history by people who are dedicated to its mission and selfless in its pursuit. I would like to be specific here.

Achieving record enrollment three years in a row is a tribute to Sean Hoskins's dedication. Having a transformative chapel program is a tribute to Lee Gandy's vision. Maintaining our academic integrity and opening new avenues of study for our students is a tribute to Susan Barfield's relentless pursuit of excellence. Improving our campus facilities—the Wise Drive wall, the Middle School roof, Tommy Jones Field, the parking lot, among other projects—is a tribute to the leadership of Jay Davis and the stewardship and hard work of Steve Hudson. Extending our campus by purchasing Wise Drive Baptist is a tribute to the strategic thinking of the Board of Trustees. Setting record levels of fundraising is a tribute to the creativity and attention to detail Martha Jo Johnson demonstrates daily. Adding multiple state championship shields in the main gym is a tribute to the quality of our athletic programs, led by Glen Rector, whose good character is known throughout the state and who distinguishes us as a school that does things "the right way." Developing and increasing teachers' capacity to improve student learning is a tribute to Stacey Reaves's belief that teaching is a sacred calling that demands the absolute best from us. Day in and day out, welcoming everyone through our front doors, with love and understanding—from the upset parent and the stressed-out student to the prospective family and the celebrating senior—is a tribute to the depths of Christ's love in Adelaide Spencer's heart. Navigating the college admissions process with hopeful seniors so successfully is a tribute to the expertise and understanding Sarah Smith employs for every graduating class. And of course, leading wisely through every undulation for the past thirty years is a tribute to Eddie Talley's steadfastness and poise.

These are just a few of the special people who elevate the Wilson Hall experience, and there are so many others. The heart of this place, however, is its teachers, whose patience, good judgment, and balance of high expectations with deep relationships has solidified Wilson Hall's reputation as a leading independent school in South Carolina. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to lead a school with such a dedicated faculty and staff.

As the school makes plans for a Head-of-School transition, one thing I want the community to be absolutely clear about is this: I am committed to leading this school through June. I will not waver in my duties, and I will continue, as I hope you have always experienced, to "know, love,

challenge, and protect" our students while I serve in my role, and especially, I will ensure our seniors enjoy the celebration they deserve after so many years of hard work. It is my sincere hope that this transition will be as little of a distraction as possible from the excellent work that continues on campus every day.

Again, thank you for your support during my time here, but more importantly, thank you for believing in the Wilson Hall mission.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Kaneft
Head of School