



# STEVENSON

December 21, 2022

## **A Winter Letter from the President**

I first set foot on the Stevenson campuses a little over six years ago, and felt such a strong sense of welcome and immediate connection that I grabbed the opportunity for my family and me to join the Stevenson community without hesitation. A few weeks ago, when invited to become the 5th President of the School, I thought back to that first moment and all that has happened over the past five years. This moment arrives with the School thriving, healthy by any measure, with an exciting future ahead of us. I am excited to lead the School alongside a remarkable faculty and staff, and am incredibly grateful to the board of trustees for their show of faith in my leadership and for the many kind notes and emails I have received over the past few weeks.

I have spent my entire life involved in education—I haven't left school since I was four years old! My earliest school teaching experiences were in the UK and Ireland, working with students in grades 6–12. Since arriving in the United States in 2007, I have taught, coached and served in a range of administrative roles at PK-12 schools, spending the past 10 years as a division head emphasizing the value of a “one school” approach for PK-12 schools. Schools like Stevenson have the rare opportunity to align curriculum and facilitate effective transitions between divisions, and provide an opportunity for teachers with a wide variety of experiences to learn from one another. I am a firm believer in the many advantages that come from engagement with families for up to 14 years, and the benefits of building community and curriculum with expert faculty at each developmental stage. Our structure allows us to add extraordinary young people to our School at a range of entry points, building a diverse and talented student body from across the region, the country, and around the world. Throughout my career I have always been drawn to schools that recognize that students learn best when they feel known and seen for who they are, and that every child will have a unique journey through childhood and adolescence that must be respected and honored if they are to thrive. I have no doubt that Stevenson is such a school.

This fall, I have seen middle and upper division musicians play alongside one another, observed students from across the world share their culture with our youngest students in the Carmel Campus amphitheater, watched students from grade 9 teach French to grade 2, and been heartened by the sight of upper division athletes coaching and supporting our middle division teams from the sidelines. I have witnessed the impact of being surrounded by older students on my own children, who joined the lower division five years ago in PK and grade 3, watching them benefit from their daily interactions with such great role models. Our upper division students always leap at any opportunity to work with our youngest kids both in and outside of the classroom. Our entire student body is enriched by these cross-divisional interactions, and I look forward to seeing many more such collaborations in the coming months and years. I have seen every grade level in the lower and middle divisions from a parent's perspective and have seen firsthand the skill and commitment of our faculty. In my new role, I am looking forward to the opportunity to engage with teachers, parents, and students across all three divisions, spending time in classrooms observing the remarkable teaching and learning that happens on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Griffiths  
President