

December 10, 2018

Dear St. George's Episcopal School Community,

I am at once elated and humbled, honored and thankful to join you this July.

Or I dare say return. What thrilled me setting foot into Porteous Hall was the uncanny feeling of familiarity, of how much I'd never quite left St. George's - perhaps more precisely, of how much the spirit and ethos of St. George's had never left *me*.

Twenty-five years ago, Rob Eichberger and St. George's took a chance on hiring an untested, unproven college graduate to teach English and physical education. So much has transpired since, but those early years were both formative and transformative. The mentors I had - from administration to faculty and staff to even the students with whom I learned - instilled in me an ideal of education that I've never forgotten or shaken. It has taken a lifetime educating students since to fill in the pedagogical concepts and theory behind it, to understand what I was then *learning by doing* as a young teacher at St. George's.

Secretly, I worried upon return that my memories had overinflated the reality, that this vision of St. George's would inevitably fall from a great nostalgic distance. I need not have. It's clear in the here and now, twenty-five years since, that this community's educational vision has only grown more expansive, the scope widened to include not just the additional buildings and enhanced physical spaces but also, improbably, a sharper focus on St. George's distinct mission to serve each individual child academically, creatively, emotionally and spiritually.

How fortunate to begin, then, when St. George's Episcopal School celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, even while we secure the future course for this exceptional institution. I can't wait to be a part of that "we" next year, to sponsor and support with each of you what it will mean to say, with intention and purpose, that "***We excel in educating children.***"

I am profoundly grateful to the Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and student body who made a job interview feel like a conversation, a visit feel like homecoming. On behalf of my wife Jana and our two daughters Clara and Ava, thank you for this St. George's welcome. I look forward to returning and being with all of you soon!

Sincerely yours,

Joe Kreutziger