



November 30, 2018

Pingry Community,

I am honored and thrilled to be joining the Pingry community as the next head of school in a long history of outstanding, visionary leaders who have made the school what it is today—a nationally recognized leader in education, known for academic excellence, character development, and thoughtful innovation. I am eager to meet students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni as I begin to transition into my new role at Pingry over the next several months, beginning officially in July 2019.

I have long known of Pingry since my early days of being a teacher in New Jersey, and I have always admired and been impressed with Pingry's commitment to its Honor Code, and its clear and unequivocal focus on what is best for students through its motto, *Maxima reverentia pueris debetur*, "Greatest respect is due students." As an undergraduate at Haverford College, I experienced the strength of an honor code in a community, and it had a lasting and profound impact on me, informing my development as an educator over the course of 26 years in independent schools. I also got to know Pingry as a young soccer coach, when my teams suffered a few losses to Big Blue!

In every conversation I had with members of the Pingry community, I was struck by everyone's deep and abiding passion for the school and the community. What stood out most, however, was the persistent and dedicated focus on students and teachers, the lifeblood of the community. As a classroom teacher for 14 years earlier in my career, I was moved by the palpable commitment and high level of respect for students and teachers across all levels of the school community. Over and over, I heard stories of connection and impact, and a genuine pride in how Pingry forges enduring relationships.

I was also taken with the collective desire to continue to grow and sustain a thriving, cohesive, and diverse community. With the durable anchor of the Honor Code, and with a desire to learn from and with each other in community, I could see and hear the School's mission to foster "an ethical framework that places the highest value on honor and respect for others." It is inspiring to me to enter into a K-12 school that is so geared to understanding, embracing, and celebrating every member of the community. In my previous leadership roles, I have devoted significant effort at all levels of a school community, from the students to the faculty and staff to parents, alumni, and the Board, to nurture diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environments. Pingry has demonstrated strong leadership in this area and I feel fortunate to be able to continue this important work.

The School's new strategic plan calls out a clear, compelling focus to further define and refine the student experience, asking bold and important questions about what students need to be successful in a rapidly changing world. This can only happen with the guidance of a dynamic and talented faculty, and I am excited to work with this amazing group of educators to build on the foundation of intellectual engagement that is the hallmark of Pingry. Under Nat Conard's



leadership, Pingry has stood at the forefront of innovative educational practices, coupled with careful attention to growing the next generation of leaders who are academically prepared, culturally competent, creative, and collaborative. I look forward to the opportunity to build on this legacy in partnership with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and the Board.

My family and I have deep roots in Central New Jersey, and we are excited to be joining such a diverse, energizing, and caring school community in Pingry. My wife Priyanthi, my son Sanjay, and my daughter Maya all look forward to returning to the area. I eagerly await the opportunity to get to know all of you.

Sincerely,

Matt Levinson