



January, 2019

Dear Benchmark Community,

With gratitude for his enduring contributions to our community, the board of trustees announces that Robb Gaskins will step down as head of school, effective June 30, 2019, to fully focus on his health. Beginning in the coming weeks, the board of trustees will commence a comprehensive and transparent search for Benchmark's next head of school – someone who will advance the school's mission while honoring its storied legacy. During the search process, the board will appoint an interim head of school who will lead Benchmark during the 2019-20 school year.

During Robb's tenure, Benchmark has made significant advances in instructional practices, created a state-of-the-art innovation lab, expanded scholarship and tuition assistance funding, and developed the school's current strategic plan, "Setting New Benchmarks." Robb has consistently set a tone of caring, kindness, and positivity while providing a strong example of how to face adversity with determination, perseverance, and grace. As we prepare to celebrate Benchmark's 50th anniversary in 2020, I reflect on all of the students Benchmark has taught and the number of lives that our school – in partnership with a devoted community of parents, faculty, staff, and administrators – has impacted.

While the school's strategic plan will guide our institution's path into the future, we will remain rooted in our fundamental goal established by Irene Gaskins in 1970: to provide a dynamic, research-based instructional program that develops lifelong learners, thinkers, and problem-solvers who are ready not just to face the next step, but every step their future holds.

As a proud alumnus, I thank Robb for the dedication, thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm with which he has led Benchmark over the past 12 years. I hope you will join the board of trustees in expressing gratitude for Robb's leadership, and in wishing him and his family the very best.

Warm regards,

Benjamin B. Rogers '95
Chairman of the Board of Trustees