



Dear Benchmark Community,

It is with great enthusiasm that the board of trustees announces Ralph Wales as Benchmark's interim head of school for the 2019-20 academic year, beginning July 1, 2019. Following a search process that produced several highly qualified candidates, the board of trustees unanimously appointed Ralph.

Ralph's understanding of and commitment to Benchmark's mission, as well as his proven performance in leadership transitions and academic program development, strategic planning and independent school finances, and his enduring passion for teaching and mentoring young students, made him a compelling choice. He has worked as an educator, administrator, and head of school since 1980. Ralph is currently interim head of school at St. George's Episcopal School in New Orleans and served for 24 years as head of school at the Gordon School in East Providence, Rhode Island. During this time, he established a \$10 million endowment, completed two successful capital campaigns to transform the campus and the student experience, and implemented programs to strengthen school culture and diversity.

Ralph earned a B.A. in American history from Harvard College and an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He is a trustee for the Rhode Island Philharmonic and recently completed a three-year term as president of the Association of Independent Schools in New England.

The board of trustees is now working to identify a long-term head of school who will guide Benchmark in fulfilling our founding values with an eye toward the future. This work is supported by Carney Sandoe & Associates, a prominent, international search firm with experience in more than 1,800 schools. Our dedicated consultant will visit Benchmark's campus later this spring for listening sessions with parents, students, faculty, and staff to understand the qualities and attributes that our community values most in a school leader. [Please visit Benchmark's website](#) for updates on the search process and to submit feedback forms as we embark on this important endeavor.

We remain deeply grateful to Robb Gaskins for his 12 years of service to our school. Robb will place his full energy on his health, well-being, and family, stepping away from Benchmark at the end of the academic year. On June 6th, Benchmark will hold an event to celebrate the success he has achieved and the legacy he will leave. We hope you will join the community to wish him well.

Propelled by the support and pride of our community, and guided by the principles of our strategic plan, Ralph will serve our school with distinction. We look forward to a memorable and successful year under his leadership.

Warm regards,
Benjamin B. Rogers '95
Chairman of the Board of Trustees