



An Important Announcement
from the Board of Trustees
of Saint Mary's Hall

January 7, 2020



9401 Starcrest Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78217
Ph: (210) 483-9100
Fx: (210) 483-9299
www.smhall.org

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Dear Saint Mary's Hall Community,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that the Saint Mary's Hall Board of Trustees announces Len Miller as our next head of school, beginning July 1, 2020. Mr. Miller's appointment follows the overwhelming endorsement from all constituencies of our school community, the unanimous recommendation of the head of school search committee, and the unanimous approval of the board of trustees.

Mr. Miller has served independent schools with distinction for over 25 years. His tenure in independent schools has been hallmarked by a deep commitment to three key areas of school life: the quality of the academic program, the student life experience, and the long-term sustainability and growth of the institution. He has been at the forefront of developing innovative academic programs and curriculum, while recruiting and retaining dynamic, distinguished teachers. Robust, intentional student wellness programs are the result of his purposeful listening and collaborative leadership. Finally, Mr. Miller's forward-thinking efforts in strategic planning, enrollment, advancement, and fiscal matters have underpinned the overall strength and quality of the schools he has served.

He is recognized by his colleagues as having critical expertise and a level-headed temperament; an intellectual heft resulting from a thirst for all subjects; an unwavering sense of integrity and high standards; a deep devotion to the practice of good teaching and learning; and a leadership style that values collaboration coupled with clear decision making and effective communication.

In accepting his appointment, Mr. Miller said, *"From my first interactions with the search committee I felt immediate inspiration from the people and the mission of the School. Meeting the broader SMH family – faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni - deepened my appreciation for the special place that is Saint Mary's Hall."*

"As a lifelong teacher, coach, adviser, former dorm parent, and current administrator, I believe that students learn and live best when they are surrounded by a caring community of teachers who knows and challenges them. Serving as Head of School at Saint Mary's Hall represents for me an unparalleled opportunity to lead a successful independent school uniquely committed to community and higher purpose. I offer my promise of deep commitment—to cultivating community, to balancing thoughtful innovation and proud tradition, and to sharing our collective mission to prepare students for success in college and fulfillment in life."

The appointment of Mr. Miller as our next head of school is the culmination of an intensive, extensive search process which drew applicants of the highest caliber from the most prestigious schools across the country. Chaired by Rick Reyna, the head of school search committee worked tirelessly to solicit input on the qualities desired in our next head of school, to identify and interview distinguished, dynamic candidates and to communicate regularly with the school community to keep all members apprised on the search committee's progress and to encourage participation and feedback.

The board extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Reyna and the members of the search committee for their devoted service to the school, and to all members of our community who engaged in the search process.

We were aided significantly by our expert Carney Sandoe & Associates consultants Rhonda Durham and Bob Windham, whose many contacts in the independent school community, combined with Rhonda's vast knowledge gleaned from a decade of leadership as executive director of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest and Bob's rich history with Saint Mary's Hall, attracted top-tier candidates.

It is both humbling and gratifying to have attracted interest from such a distinguished group of candidates, and it is a credit to our stature as a nationally-recognized independent school and the esteem with which our current Head of School Jonathan Eades, is held in that community that we were able to do so.

Our goal was to engage a head of school who respects our Saint Mary's Hall culture and history, believes in our mission and shares our dedication to providing an outstanding college preparatory education in a culture built on our core values that fosters wellness and balance.

It is our unqualified belief that we have found all of those qualities and more in Len Miller, and we eagerly anticipate the contributions he will make to the next chapter of Saint Mary's Hall's history.

Please join the board and me in welcoming Mr. Miller, his wife Penny, and his children Tyne and Bo to our Saint Mary's Hall family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Vaughan III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

Curtis T. Vaughan III
Board of Trustees Chair

Introducing Len Miller



Len Miller is an educator, scholar, and leader who has served with distinction throughout his almost 25 years in independent schools. The son of two educators, Mr. Miller's roots in education run deep beginning with his work at the Berkshires summer camp run by his family where he discovered his passion for teaching and mentoring young people. He attended public high school, then completed a post-graduate year at Choate Rosemary Hall. A scholar-athlete, he graduated from Williams College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies with a concentration in Art History. As a varsity basketball player, Mr. Miller received the Purple and Gold Award, which recognizes the player who "best exemplifies team spirit, leadership, and character." He later earned his Master of Arts in American Studies from Columbia University.

Mr. Miller will come to Saint Mary's Hall from The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a coeducational independent boarding and day school founded in 1851 and serving approximately 530 students in grades 9-12 and post-graduates, where he has served as associate headmaster since 2014. As associate headmaster, Mr. Miller is responsible for leading a team of nine senior staff direct reports, overseeing the daily operation of the school's academic, co-curricular and residential programs, creating and implementing innovative new programs, and providing leadership in the school's capital campaign, which recently passed \$100 million.

During his tenure at The Hill School, Mr. Miller has partnered with the headmaster and his colleagues to realize such notable successes as the strongest enrollment in the school's history while reducing student attrition; faculty turnover reduced to the lowest level in recent history; the hiring of nationally-recognized teachers, senior administrators, and high-achieving early-career teachers; the implementation of The Hill School's new Quadrivium curriculum, an innovative STEM program that integrates science, technology,

engineering, and math; and finishing the last several fiscal years with budget surplus while meaningfully increasing revenue.

Mr. Miller has been instrumental in leading strategic planning and school reaccreditation efforts, creating and implementing a tiered faculty compensation and evaluation system, establishing and stewarding external partnerships, and fostering faculty collegiality and professionalism. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Mr. Miller also teaches one section of U.S. History, serves as assistant coach of girls' varsity basketball, and advises seven students.

Prior to joining The Hill School, Mr. Miller enjoyed a fourteen-year tenure at The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, a coeducational 9-12 boarding school of 820 students, where he served as director of strategic projects and held the Henry and Janie Woods Teaching Chair in History. In addition to teaching upper level history courses, Mr. Miller was also a housemaster, interscholastic coach, and faculty representative for the Office of Alumni and Development. As a Lawrenceville School faculty member, Mr. Miller received a grant awarded by the Headmaster to that "member of the faculty who best exemplifies the tradition of academic nurturing."

During his term at The Lawrenceville School, Mr. Miller also served as the director of pedagogy and as a lecturer and workshop leader for Princeton University's James Madison Institute/TAH Summer Seminar. Mr. Miller began his teaching career in 1995 as an Upper School English teacher and varsity coach at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, a co-educational Pre-K through 12 day-school of 830 students, where he served for four years.

Mr. Miller is an active contributor to and participant in the independent schools' professional community. Notable contributions include his design, direction, and hosting a two-day Independent School Leaders Seminar on educational philosophy and learning practice; service on the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) reaccreditation teams for two independent schools; presentations to PAIS and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) on such topics as building enrollment, generating philanthropic support, strengthening institutional reputation, and integrating technology into discussion-based classrooms.

He has also been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including the Artemis Joukowsky Fellowship (Lawrenceville faculty grant for graduate study) and the Klingenstein Summer Fellowship to participate in the Teacher's Institute at Teacher's College at Columbia University. This past fall, Mr. Miller was inducted into the *New England Basketball Hall of Fame*.

Mr. Miller is married to Penny Miller, whom he met in art history class during their undergraduate years at Williams College, where she was a four-time All-American athlete. After earning her Master of Arts in Art History from Williams College, Mrs. Miller worked in both museums and independent schools teaching, coaching and serving in various curatorial and communications positions. The Millers have two children – Tyne, who will graduate from The Hill School this spring and play Division I tennis at Bucknell University, and Bo, age 9, who will join the lower school at Saint Mary's Hall in the fall.

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