



THE URSULINE SCHOOL

June 18, 2020

Dear Members of The Ursuline School Community -

Having spent more than half my life in dedication to The Ursuline School and the Ursuline community, I am formally announcing my planned retirement at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. I will be assisting in the Presidential Success Planning process and am committed to providing a smooth transition for my successor.

Reflecting on my tenure at Ursuline, I realize how truly blessed I have been to serve such a proud and well-respected institution that I cherish and love deeply. When I came to Ursuline almost four decades ago, I could never have imagined the journey that lay ahead, wearing many hats along the way, including:

- Science Department Chair,
- Senior Coordinator,
- Assistant Principal,
- (First Lay) Principal, and then
- (First Lay) President.

In each position, I learned, loved and grew, personally and professionally. It's often noted that many leaders of today stand on the shoulders of giants that have come before them and that was no different for me. I will be forever grateful to the Ursuline Sisters who mentored and supported me over the years and taught me early to never be afraid and remember the words of St. Angela Merici to "risk new things."

I would also like to acknowledge the many colleagues, past and present, who served on the faculty and Board of Trustees over the years. Each and every one helped me in their own special way to lead with character, administer with patience and "tend the Ursuline vine" entrusted to me with distinction and our vision, mission and values always in mind.

I also want to acknowledge and thank all of the donors who supported Ursuline and trusted me to be a good steward of their investment in a School they treasured.

I am proud of all we have accomplished together, such as our Science Research, Global Education programming, Visiting Author series, *Building on the Tradition of Innovation* Campaign and many more initiatives still to come. Our work is never done and there is still much to do, but the path before us is brightened by the grace of God.

In addition, I was continually reminded of the remarkable dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff as I entered the building each morning. Their passion and care never wavered to advance Ursuline and, more importantly, nurture the minds and hearts of our students to create lifelong learners and future leaders of tomorrow.

Over the years, I have been both humbled and inspired by our student body and their families. Ursuline students have made me smarter, stronger, better and yes, even kept me a little younger. The lots of laughs over the years helped too. I especially enjoyed seeing familiar landmarks through the eyes of our students during our global and service trips as well as exchanges with our sister Ursuline schools in Australia and Peru.

I have had the honor of seeing thousands of young women, and often their daughters, navigate adolescence and grow into women of true strength and wisdom. Nothing fills me with greater pride than hearing of their personal and professional success when they return to visit a school they also love.

In closing, The Ursuline School has defined my own professional life and, in many ways, further shaped my personal life as an extended part of my family. While this may be a farewell, it is not a goodbye. While I will be moving on next year, Ursuline is, and will always be, a part of me.

I am excited about the 2020-21 school year when our faculty and students can hopefully once again be physically together as a school community. "Insieme" is a word that means "together" and is a term that appears frequently in the writings of St. Angela. While we have been separated over the past several months, we are a community of faith and we will get through this together. I again thank the collective Ursuline community for thirty-seven years of friendship and support and fond memories that will last the remainder of my lifetime.

And, I wish everyone a blessed, fun and safe summer.

In Love & Gratitude,
Eileen Davidson