

Dear Members of the Canterbury Community,

With deep gratitude and tremendous enthusiasm, I am honored to serve as the 9th Head of School of Canterbury. Having grown up in St. Petersburg, I have been a longtime admirer of the unique and soulful community of Canterbury, a school that has evolved and stayed relevant, while also remaining steadfastly directed by its mission and core values (or what I like to refer to as Canterbury's "North Star"). I am eager to embrace the school's precepts, principles, and strategic vision, along with building strong relationships with all members of the community and fostering the school's exceptional culture.

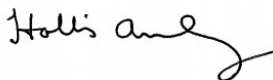
From my first moment on campus as I attended Lower School Chapel, I felt welcomed. Kindergartners led part of the service by reading passages with the help of their 4th Grade mentors, and each student was challenged to consider how they, as a unique puzzle piece, snugly fit into the diverse and inclusive school community. Throughout my visit, it was evident to me that students in each division do have this authentic sense of belonging, which undergirds their vibrant pride in the school.

I am eager to meet students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni as I begin to transition into my new role at Canterbury, beginning officially in July 2022. From my initial conversations with the Search Committee to others with various members of the school community, I was struck by the persistent and dedicated focus on students and teachers, the lifeblood of the community. As a classroom teacher for 26 years, I was moved by the commitment and high level of respect for academic excellence, the space and opportunity for curiosity and inquiry-based learning, and the connections and enduring relationships that Canterbury creates for students and teachers across all levels of the school community. I was also heartened by the collective desire to continue to grow and sustain a cohesive and diverse community, one that "educates and nurtures the whole child in mind, body, and spirit" and, ultimately, seeks to grow graduates who are "responsible steward[s] of our world." This educational framework, along with the palpable optimism and hope for Canterbury's bright future, is an inspiring and compelling environment in which to lead.

My sincere thanks to Jim Donatelli, Tony Linguanti, Steve McMullen, and to all the other members of the search committee for their service to the school and the trust they have placed in me. Additionally, I am incredibly honored to build on the accomplishments of Mac Hall and his tenure of 17 years. I look forward to the opportunity to build on this legacy in partnership with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and the Board. Canterbury provides an intentional program with personalized preparation for its students to step into a rapidly-changing world and excel. I am committed to continuing and enhancing this important work.

On a personal note, I am delighted to return to the Tampa Bay area where I still have family. Over the coming year, I will be working with the transition team to learn more about the school, and I look forward to getting to know all of you and becoming a Crusader!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hollis Amley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hollis Amley