



## WESTRIDGE SCHOOL

### **Andrea Kassar**

Incoming Head of School

July 1, 2022

Andrea Kassar will join Westridge in July 2022 with more than 20 years' experience as an administrator and teacher at girls' schools in Manhattan. Currently, she serves as the head of Upper School at The Nightingale-Bamford School, where she leads a cross-divisional faculty serving 235 students. During her tenure, she has led the division through significant enrollment growth and the transition to an Advanced Courses program, and worked closely with the school's director of counseling, director of health and wellness, and director of diversity to implement new and expanded student programs in these areas.

Prior to The Nightingale-Bamford School, Kassar was with The Chapin School (all-girls, grades K-12). There, she taught English and served in numerous administrative capacities across all three divisions of the school and on the Chapin Administrative Team. Her tenure included directing Middle and Upper School Admissions, playing a central role in the development of Chapin's strategic plan, and being a member of the school's Diversity Council.

Kassar serves as an advisor to the semester school at Chewonki in Maine, a semester-away program for high school juniors that combines academic studies, meaningful work, and outdoor experiences. Early in her career, she taught literature at Prep for Prep, a program that prepares students of color for success at independent schools throughout the Northeast and supports their academic and personal growth through college.

Kassar earned her undergraduate degree in English and psychology at the University of Chicago, where she was elected Phi Beta Kappa. She holds an MA in English and comparative literature from Columbia University and an MA in psychology from the New School for Social Research. She has done academic research at a psychology lab at The New School and in The Infant Studies Program at the University of Chicago, and as an English teacher received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for a summer research project studying Shakespeare. She is a graduate of Brearley, a K-12 girls' school in Manhattan.

Born in New York, Kassar spent part of her childhood in the Middle East (Bahrain and United Arab Emirates). She and her husband, Tim McKenna, have three children, Lucy (13), Billy (8), and Cecily (5).