



Getting to Know President Clark Wight

By Erin Verch '24

Mr. Wight is the President of The St. Paul's Schools and arrived on campus in August 2021. I had the privilege to speak with him recently and ask him some questions so that the St. Paul's community can get to know him better. We, the St. Paul's community, are excited for what he will do with our newly blended family of schools!

Q: You lived in Australia for 14 years. What is something about Maryland that you missed?

A: I missed my family, because I grew up in Baltimore, and my friends who I went to lower school and high school with. I also missed the four seasons. In Australia, it is summer for 10 months of the year.

Q: What is something you miss about Australia now that you are back in Maryland?

A: I miss going for a swim every morning. Even in the winter, I would go down to the beach with our dog, go for a swim, and do a meditation.

Q: If you had to pick one St. Paul's tradition, which is your favorite so far?

A: There are many! I might have a new favorite with the ring ceremony [in which the junior girls receive their rings and learn who their senior buddy is]. I also loved seeing the bell being rung when Boys' Latin got beat by our sports teams, as well as the middle schoolers' reactions. I love the feeling of Chapels/Prayers in the morning and people giving their senior speeches.

That tradition is pretty special, and the pride that people have in the school is great.

Q: If you were a St. Paul's student, which teams or clubs would you join?

A: I am really interested in the beekeeping club. I grew up playing football and lacrosse, so I still love them. I also love the solitude of the chapel and singing. The fact that there is a culture of singing here is very powerful.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

A: Sadly, my brain works best between 4 and 6 a.m. I get up really early, and I try to exercise before I come to work so that by 7 a.m., I can be outside waving and saying hi. I can't stand being late, so I try to be early for everything. I probably walk the campus at least three times a day. I go to people's offices and meet with them. I have met with a lot of alums. No day is typical, though I do try to get home before 7 p.m. so I can see my daughter and my family. And I try not to take work home with me.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job and being in this community?

A: Definitely meeting people because that is my favorite part of what I do. The other bit is the excitement around what we can become as a unified school. I also enjoy working with these amazing people—they call themselves "the BEE team"—which is all the heads of school [Bryan Powell, Ereni Malfa, and Ed Trusty].

Q: What are your goals this year?

A: My primary goal is making sure that we are unified as one campus. Another one is making sure that everyone knows where we are going, and that, to me, is vision and values. Then there are big bits around having a curriculum that is consistent across the whole campus so that we understand what great teaching and learning look like across St. Paul's.

Q: What do you think is going to happen in the next few years as the schools unify further?

A: You and your fellow students know the best answer to that, because when I talk to students about what unification means, they always talk about opportunities. Opportunities for collaboration, for all-school events, and to do classes they hadn't thought they could do.

It's also about connections and community. The fact that the newspaper is cross-campus now or that beekeeping is across campus—these mean more opportunities and more connections with more people.

We are almost this modern blended family. Like siblings in a family, each school can still have its strong identity, but we have to think as a family.