

September 27, 2022

Dear W+H Community,

On behalf of the W+H Board of Trustees and the Head of School Search Committee, we are so delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Corinna Crafton** as our next Head of The Wardlaw+Hartridge School. Following a competitive international and national search process and upon the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee, the Board of Trustees has voted in favor of Dr. Crafton's selection. Dr. Crafton has accepted our offer, and she will start her tenure as the next Head of School on July 1, 2023. Dr. Crafton will succeed Mr. Andrew Webster, our illustrious current Head of School, who will be concluding his 18-year tenure at W+H on June 30, 2023.

Dr. Crafton is beloved by the W+H community and has a long history with our school for 17 years. At W+H she has served in increasing leadership capacities over the past several years, including her current role as Associate Head of School at W+H. In this role, she is responsible for driving innovation in all areas of teaching and continues to lead several strategic initiatives including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB), faculty growth and development, sustainability and various curriculum audits and mapping. Prior to holding this position, Dr. Crafton served in dual roles of Dean of Teaching and Learning for the Middle and Upper Schools and as Middle School Head, collaborating with other administrators to ensure vertical alignment of the curriculum. Dr. Crafton has also served as Middle School Coordinator, Humanities Department Chair, and as an English teacher in the Middle and Upper Schools. Throughout, Dr. Crafton has continued to foster strong bonds and partnerships with students and their parents, faculty and staff, trustees, and alumni, and has earned the trust of each of these constituents of the W+H community. Dr. Crafton is an innovative thinker and strategic leader open to building consensus, yet ready to and capable of making bold decisions to lead W+H in its next chapter.

Dr. Crafton's other professional roles include being a teacher of English at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, an Instructor at Union and Middlesex County Colleges, a Human Resource Coordinator, and a paralegal at the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and clerk of the Grand Jury. Dr. Crafton is a graduate of Rutgers University (Douglass College) with a B.A. in English, and earned her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Pennsylvania State University and her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of New England.

Early this year, after Mr. Andrew Webster announced his decision to leave W+H on June 30, 2023, the Search Committee of the Board of Trustees engaged Educators Collaborative, a highly respected search firm specializing in independent school searches, to assist in our Head of School search. From a broad and strong field of candidates, the Search Committee narrowed the candidate pool to 12 semi-finalists.



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After each of these semi-finalist candidates were interviewed over the summer, four candidates (including Dr. Corinna Crafton) were named finalists. The selection of the final candidates was conducted carefully in alignment with W+H's mission and with an eye toward the future.

In keeping with the community-inclusive process the Search Committee set out to achieve, each finalist met with parents, students, faculty, staff, alumni, administrators, and board members. Those who participated were encouraged to provide feedback on all the final candidates and the Search Committee reviewed the input from all constituents. From this extensive and equitable search process, including thorough reference checking and feedback from the community, Dr. Crafton emerged as the strongest candidate for our next Head of School. In their feedback, members of our community described Dr. Crafton as a "natural leader," "compassionate and humble," "a thoughtful listener," "straightforward and genuine," "open and collaborative," "enthusiastic and fearless" and "experienced and trusted." We believe all of this adds up to Dr. Crafton being a great next leader for our school.

Selecting a new Head of School is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. The Search Committee is made up of current members of the Board of Trustees and represents multiple constituents including current parents, past parents, alumni, and past school administrators. I would like to thank the members of the Search Committee – Daniel Schildge (co-chair, past parent), Kate Szczubelek (current parent), Seth Austin (past administrator), Robert Berry (past parent), Sachina Lyons-Brown ('89 and past parent), Alarice Lonergan ('99), and Missy VanBuren-Brown ('72) - as well as the full Board for their commitment in selecting the best leader for our school.

I also want to thank all of you in the community who participated in the search process, from describing what makes this community special, to sharing your insight into the qualities we need in our next leader, to fully engaging with the candidates we brought to campus. Your active involvement reflects the strong and familial community in our school and the Board is excited to appoint Dr. Corinna Crafton as our next Head of School, knowing she has your full support. We are thrilled to have chosen an exceptional leader who loves W+H and is deeply aligned with the school's mission to prepare students to lead and succeed in a world of global interconnection.

Sincerely,

Ayesha Sitlani, Ph.D.
President, Board of Trustees
Co-chair of the Head of School Selection Committee, and current parent
The Wardlaw+Hartridge School