



April 2023

Dear Grand Rapids Christian Schools Families, Alumni, and Friends:

It has been a privilege and a blessing to call Grand Rapids Christian Schools home for nearly 60 years. I entered Seymour Christian School as a second-generation Grand Rapids Christian student in 1963 at age five and graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School in 1976. In the years that followed, I watched my own children, Leah and Austin, grow and flourish, guided in their faith and taught by some of the finest faculty I have had the pleasure of knowing and with whom I have worked.

After much prayerful consideration, it is with faith in God and the knowledge that Grand Rapids Christian Schools is secure with an extraordinary administration and staff deeply committed to Christian education that I have informed the Board of Trustees of my intention to retire following the close of the 2023-2024 school year.

This has not been an easy decision. My final year as superintendent will mark my 44th year working in PS-12 education, the last 20 committed to serving as Superintendent of Grand Rapids Christian Schools. I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished together on behalf of our students during my tenure and clearly witness God's hand at work, guiding us to ensure a strong foundation and become the world-class, Christ-centered school we are today.

I treasure the many relationships and the time spent in partnership and fellowship with colleagues, board members, parents, community members and, above all, students and alumnae. These relationships have been forged over many years, and I will continue to honor and cherish them and the many memories we share for years to come.

Thank you for entrusting me with the leadership of Grand Rapids Christian Schools. I am deeply grateful for the love, support and encouragement you have provided not only for me, but for my wife Jacquie and our dearly loved children, over the years and humbly ask for your continued support in this next chapter of my life.

I also ask that you please join me in praying for God's wisdom and guidance as the Board of Trustees begins its search for Grand Rapids Christian Schools' next generation of leadership. While change is never easy, I am confident that our Heavenly Father will lead the right person to accept this role.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

In heartfelt appreciation and your partner in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom DeJonge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent  
Grand Rapids Christian Schools