



Dearest San Domenico Community Members,

Reflecting on the many letters I have written to you since accepting the role of Head of School at San Domenico more than ten years ago, this one is perhaps the most difficult to compose. After nearly 25 years in various positions at our school, and after much thoughtful consideration, I have come to the decision that it is time for me to retire from San Domenico at the end of this school year. This was not an easy decision to make as I love this school and our community very much. Nonetheless, I know that the time is right for me to move on to my next chapter, and am confident that I leave our school with an exceptional leadership team and a strong foundation for its future.



It has been a great privilege to serve alongside such talented and dedicated colleagues and SD community members as we worked together to ensure San Domenico's success as a thriving independent school, through a series of strategic decisions and transitions; balancing market trends, demographics, and our mission and vision to continue a tradition of Dominican education begun in 1850.

From leading our school during the extension of coeducation through our Upper School, to guiding my leadership team to academic innovation and excellence, expanding and strengthening our athletic program, and nurturing our arts offerings, I have been proud to support our teachers, coaches, and specialists in building award-winning programs. And of course, I continue to be inspired by our incredible students and the dedication of their parents and guardians from across the Bay Area and around the world.

Even during a world-changing pandemic, together we kept our school not just open, but thriving, improving, and growing, while continuing to answer the call of our mission to respond to the needs of the times as guided by our values. Witnessing our formerly all-girls school blossom into a bustling and in-demand program comprising a truly diverse community of exceptional young people has been thrilling. As your Head of School, a parent of three SD graduates, and an alumna myself, watching students enter SD as young children and graduate as community leaders using their powers for good has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Being part of SD's 173-year legacy has been a tremendous honor. This school, and this community, will forever be part of who I am; as I often share with prospective families, San Domenico has become part of my DNA. Dominican Sisters, my fellow alumni, Board of Trustees, families, colleagues, and extended San Domenico community, you have all played an important role in my life and I will carry you with me always.

My three children, who started at SD in pre-k and kindergarten, are now young adults trailblazing their own paths, and I recognize how quickly time goes by. As a leader, I know that change can be hard, overwhelming, and sometimes even frightening. Change can also be exciting and rewarding, and at San Domenico we talk often about how important it is to keep growing. A key tenet of our pedagogy is equipping our students with a growth mindset, rather than a fixed one, and it is now time for me to practice what we teach.

As I contemplate my future away from 1500 Butterfield Road, I am reminded of a quote one of our Middle School students shared with me many years ago: "Don't cry because it is over; smile because it happened."

With love and all of my best wishes,

Cecily Stock, M.A., J.D. '77
Head of School

SAN DOMENICO SCHOOL
Exceptional Education and a Sense of Purpose