



Cannon School celebrates milestone

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CONCORD — As Cannon School opened its doors to students on Aug. 14, the campus was filled with not only the energy of a new school year but also the pride of a historic achievement: Cannon has now graduated more than 2,000 alumni since its founding as Cabarrus

Academy in 1969.

This milestone marks a moment of reflection and celebration for the independent college preparatory school, which has long prioritized relational teaching, academic excellence and character development.

“Crossing the 2,000-alumni mark is a

powerful reminder of Cannon’s lasting impact,” said Head of School Mike Drew, now in his second year leading the school. “It’s not just about the number. It’s about the thousands of stories, contributions, and lives shaped by their time here.”

In addition to celebrating this alumni achievement, Cannon again welcomed

over 1,000 students to campus this fall and opened with one of the strongest enrollments in school history. While growth is a positive indicator of the school’s reputation, leadership remains committed to preserving Cannon’s inclusive,

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CANNON SCHOOL ALUMNI

Stephanie Sloop and Clare Faggart, members of Cabarrus Academy’s very first graduating class of 1972, joined Head of School Mike Drew and Director of Community Engagement Sarah Sooklal earlier this month for lunch. From memories of Latin class held in the Head of School’s office to the beloved Strawberry Festival, Stephanie and Clare shared stories of where it all began and reminisced about the lifelong friendships that were formed.

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close-knit environment.

“We are honored by the trust so many families place in us,” said Drew. “As we grow, our charge remains the same: to know and support each student, and to challenge them to grow with purpose.”

Among this year’s new families is Sarah Wiebusch Rideout ’11, a Cannon alum who recently returned to the community as a parent of a junior kindergarten student, Anson. “We truly believe Cannon is the perfect fit for our family,” Rideout shared. “Even now, as a graduate student at Cornell, I feel the impact of my Cannon education, especially the study habits and confidence that were ingrained in me here. I’m so grateful for the foundation Cannon provided.”

Cannon is also investing in the future of its student experience through its ongoing A Flourishing Future capital campaign.

This initiative includes a 12,500-square-foot expansion and renovation of the Upper School that broke ground in June. The new space will introduce flexible classrooms and state-of-the-art science labs and open student areas to encourage dynamic, collaborative learning.

Another key component of the campaign is the expansion of academic support through dedicated Academic Resource Centers (ARCs) in Lower and Middle School, complementing the existing ARC in the Upper School. These spaces are designed to provide personalized, age-appropriate support that nurtures confidence, independence and growth for all learners.

“Our investment in learning spaces and academic resources reflects our belief in what’s possible for every student,” said Drew. “We’re building on our legacy to ensure that Cannon continues to prepare students for college and for life.”