

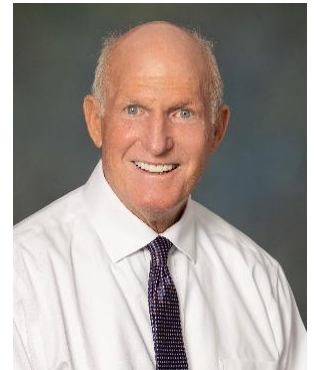


March 24, 2026

“Every new beginning comes from another beginning’s end.” Seneca

Dear FA Community,

I am writing now to share my intent to retire in June of 2027. That will conclude my eighth year serving as Head of School at Frederica Academy and end one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable chapters of my professional life. When I first met and talked at length to Greer Brown, Board Chair, during the interview process in the late fall of 2018, we both agreed that my working for 7-8 years seemed like about right if I was to be as helpful as I hoped to be. There is no easy time or easy way to separate from a school community that has accepted me so graciously, worked so collaboratively side-by-side to strengthen itself, and that I have enjoyed so profoundly; but this moment seems propitious now to pass along the mantle of leadership at FA.



My time at Frederica has far exceeded what I envisioned during that first conversation with Greer, both for myself and for the school; and I have so many people to thank for that. As a school head, this has been an incredibly easy and pleasant place in which to succeed as so many people and groups of people have been, and still remain, deeply committed to making the school stronger.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees - past and present - who have most ably served the school during my tenure, and a special “shout out” to Greer who has chaired the Board of Trustees the entirety of my time here and who has offered helpful counsel, support, and friendship throughout. Board leadership has proven of paramount importance at various times in our school’s history both with action and with restraint, always guided by best practices and sound intentions. I believe that the school is largely where we are today as an institution because of healthy Board leadership.

Thank you to the members of the extraordinary Leadership Team who have all played such a critical role in both helping to create and execute multiple iterations of the Strategic Plan to secure a stable present and a strong future for the school. Their competency and their friendship, both individually and as a group, on a daily basis and at ground level, cannot be overestimated. Significant institutional progress in admissions, fundraising, finances, development of facilities, general operations, and the quality of programming and the daily ambience maintained in all three divisions is largely the result of their work. In particular, the guidance and support of the three division directors towards the teachers under their care has made a critical difference in creating a culture whereby in each respective division the whole of the culture exceeds the sum of the parts.

Thank you to the faculty and staff who have labored long hours and invested much thought and care in selflessly serving our students/families so well. Your dedication both to your craft and to your students distinguish you as exceptional; and you are, day in and day out, the steady heartbeat of the school. From my perspective, it can be challenging to lead a group even when we are all on the same page; it is nearly impossible to lead if we are not. Thanks to our teachers and staff for working to always find and then get on the same page. The best interest of our students unfailingly serves as our north star and consistently wins the day.

Thank you to the parents and friends at FA, past and present, for welcoming me into your community and working alongside my colleagues and me these past years. I can so clearly remember standing in the living room of a trustee's home eight years ago during one of my community-interview gatherings and sharing that my primary goal in continuing my career at FA was to work with people who I was proud of in matters that seemed important to me. Your company, your friendship, and the development of your children over the years has made that twofold aspiration a reality for me.

Finally, thank you to all the FA students, young and old, who have graciously shared your campus and your busy lives with me over the last seven years. Regardless of age, watching you take the essential steps to becoming the person that you ultimately want to become has been inspirational to me and has kept my focus on helping in any small way that I could. Thank you for understanding what it takes to be a member of a healthy community and for doing your part to make that kind of community a reality.

I will continue to head the school through 2026-2027 school year and very much look forward to that opportunity. The positive momentum of the school continues to swell, and I am both eager and excited to witness this next chapter of the school's history and assist in the leadership transition in whatever manner that I can. Again, too many hardworking, smart people are committed to seeing the school continue upwards on the arc of success, and it undoubtedly will.

Suzan and I will settle back into island life for our retirement years so you will most likely see us pedaling away on our bikes on the north end of the island, picking up take-out at Porch, or spectating at a school arts or athletic event. Go Knights!

A heartfelt thank you to all for the many kind ways that you have treated my family and me over the years.

With gratitude,



Scott L. Hutchinson
Head of School