



Dear Madeira Community,

As I reflect on Madeira's journey these past two years, with the daunting challenges that have lain in our path, I am proud of where the School stands today. And so it is with a heavy heart that I write to tell you that as my three-year contract concludes, this 2022-23 school year will be my last as Madeira's Head of School. My time with Madeira has been demanding but highly rewarding, and has clarified for me the steps that seem optimal for both my own professional trajectory and that of Madeira. I carry forward an unwavering belief in Madeira's mission, and in its people.

I am appreciative to have worked with a Board of Trustees who have been strong in their support of my contributions to Madeira's growth. Further, I am and will always be grateful for the strategic and creative partnerships of a talented and devoted administrative team, faculty, and staff. Our collective work, guided by Madeira's mission, has been the ultimate driver of our most successful initiatives. Our efforts have positioned Madeira as a high-demand school, all the while preparing students for an ever-evolving future.

Madeira is strong and has a bright future, and we are fundamentally innovative and forward-looking. In that spirit, my final year at Madeira will be full of meaningful work: we will prepare for our ten-year VAIS accreditation, continue construction on the new STEAM Academic Center and, perhaps most importantly, launch a new strategic plan. Guided by a renewed strategic vision, Madeira is well poised for new leadership to take this dynamic community into the next chapter of its history.

Yours sincerely,

Gretchen Warner
Head of School



Dear Madeira Community:

Head of School Gretchen Warner has shared with the Board of Trustees that she intends to conclude her tenure at Madeira at the end of her contract and after a successful three-year stint, on June 30, 2023. Although we are saddened by her decision, the Board will begin the search for Madeira's next Head of School immediately and we feel the School is well positioned to do so. Gretchen is eager and determined to partner with the Board and the administrative team to implement the Strategic Plan we adopted in May (which will be shared with the community this fall), and to continue her energetic work to propel Madeira on a solid forward-looking path.

Gretchen's leadership through the trials of the pandemic has been strategic, careful, and tireless; few heads – veteran or new – have been able to manage this challenging era with such resolve. Despite difficult circumstances, the impact of her educational vision has been powerful and positive. Apart from the innovative Strategic Plan, Gretchen's watch has seen record-high enrollment figures, and a new STEAM building already underway and on-budget that will house a purposeful and leading-edge curriculum. She has made exceptional hires and continues to make significant upgrades in academic programming and pedagogy. She has also made professional development a priority at Madeira. Her focus on DEIJ initiatives and her efforts to make our School a cohesive and inclusive environment have been unwavering.

Most of all, Gretchen has brought to us her enthusiasm and her passion for girls' education. She has contributed mightily to a foundation that will support and beckon any incoming Head of School. We are profoundly grateful for her time at Madeira and her impact on our school.

We will update you as the Head Search commences and our path forward becomes more concrete. In the meantime, the Board and I look forward to an exciting and productive year with Gretchen at the helm and to moving Madeira forward together.

With personal regards,

Gaither Smoot Deaton '88
Chair, Madeira Board of Trustees