

January 12, 2017

Dear WIS Community:

I want to share with you that I have notified the Board of Trustees that I will be retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year. That date will mark my 11th year as WIS's Head and my 45th consecutive year as an educator. I am deeply fortunate that my professional career will culminate at such a remarkable school.

My story here is unusual. I have known each of my WIS predecessors, starting with Dorothy Goodman, as well as all but one of the Board chairs. They have shared their personal WIS histories spanning half a century, and I have come to appreciate what makes this School such a singular place. I have met WIS parents who took the risk of enrolling their children during the School's earliest years when global competency was a nascent idea in education, and I have met their children, now grown, who were thoroughly molded by their WIS experience. Their teachers were dedicated to the high ideal of a world-class curriculum, and were committed to forming deep, enduring relationships with their students.

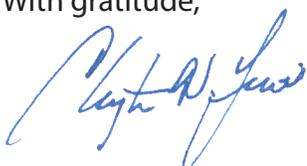
When I joined the School in 2007, the Board of Trustees encouraged me to meet with teachers and staff, parents, students, and alumni, and to gauge for myself how the School should best continue its trajectory. Those many conversations yielded a consensus: we should hold firmly to the values and qualities that had made WIS exceptional while also embracing a culture of continuous improvement. We were able to think strategically and to act purposefully.

Together, we have achieved broad and lasting changes across a wide range of objectives involving professional development, academic achievement, curriculum and assessment, student support services, technology, finances, philanthropy, and facilities. At the same time, we can see in our students those characteristics the School has sought to inculcate from its beginning. WIS remains a microcosm of the world we want to create.

I am grateful to have partnered with many dedicated trustees, in particular my three Board chairs—Elan Blutinger, Kathleen Alexander, and David Muenzer—who have encouraged and supported me in countless ways. They are the unsung heroes who safeguard the School's purpose and viability, so that each new generation of students will derive the benefits of a WIS education. To this end, I am confident the trustees will be wise in their selection of the School's next Head.

Happily, I have 18 months ahead of me to ensure our trajectory remains constant. We have many projects underway that will require my continued commitment and yours. It will be my honor to spend that time with you.

With gratitude,



Clayton W. Lewis
Head of School