



**Address** 8012 Oak St., New Orleans, LA 70118-2708  
**Phone** (504) 861-3743 **Fax** (504) 861-3973  
**Website** [www.standrewsepiscopalschool.org](http://www.standrewsepiscopalschool.org)  
**Email** [office@standrewsepiscopalschool.org](mailto:office@standrewsepiscopalschool.org)

March 19, 2019

Dear St. Andrew's Community,

I am writing to share wonderful news about the future of St. Andrew's Episcopal School. The Board of Trustees has received thoughtful, heartfelt, and constructive input from many people, much of it coming from the strategic planning process. What we have heard from the vast majority of the community is that there is a spirit of optimism regarding the current direction of our school. The Board and community are aligned with the desire for stability and strong leadership moving forward. We have reviewed Interim Head of School Kathryn Fitzpatrick's performance and accomplishments since her hiring on July 1, 2018. She has led St. Andrew's through several challenges regarding curriculum, family communication and budgetary short-falls. Her performance at the school has greatly surpassed the benchmarks set for a Head of School at any time, and it is impressive that she has done this at a time of uncertainty. As a result, I am pleased to announce that it is the unanimous decision of the Board, and with the approval of the Vestry, to appoint Kathryn as Head of School effective immediately.

We have much to be proud of at this point in the year, and I want to share just some of the highlights achieved under Kathryn's leadership. Kathryn has launched several curricular initiatives beginning with raising donations to implement a new program at St. Andrew's – Star 360. This is a comprehensive PK-12 formative assessment which delivers reliable screening, progress monitoring and student growth data. It gives parents feedback on their child's academic progression throughout the year, and it gives teachers information they need to make instructional decisions. The program guides greater student growth as teachers lead students toward mastery in reading, math and early literacy. As well Kathryn led a thorough examination of the math program at St. Andrew's and put several new features in place to improve performance. Now, beginning in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, daily math minutes are being practiced to strengthen basic foundation skills. She also expanded the Math In Focus program to earlier grades. Beginning in August 2019 it will be used in grades K – 5<sup>th</sup> (currently in place for only grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>) in order to allow our math program to become a cohesive unit. Kathryn also implemented free math tutoring twice a week for students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

Kathryn has demonstrated a commitment to open communication and getting to know our parents and faculty. She has made personal phone calls to a majority of our families to hear their thoughts and needs. She has hosted grade specific parent coffees and looks forward to meeting with each grade's parents before the end of the year. Kathryn has demonstrated her commitment to addressing parent and faculty concerns to continue to improve our school.

Another talent that Kathryn has brought to St. Andrew's is fundraising. In the last eight months Kathryn has excelled in this area of her responsibilities. Our annual giving pledges currently total

over \$108,000. This is the highest amount pledged to the annual giving campaign in the last ten years, and the year is not over yet! In addition to annual giving we received major gifts of \$25,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Carver, and \$150,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Bill LaCorte. Sponsorships and special events are ongoing, and the results are very positive. We received a grant of \$15,000 from the Selley Foundation, and other grant requests are in process. Kathryn communicates weekly with major donors and foundation contacts to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones. The school is grateful for the generous support of our donors.

Moving forward Kathryn will continue her hands-on, open-door leadership style. She will continue to provide resources, support and encouragement to the faculty so they can deliver a curriculum that prepares your children for future academic studies while also allowing them to spread their wings and explore their intellectual curiosities. Kathryn is committed to build and improve communication at St. Andrew's, and embrace our traditions that make St. Andrew's the special place that we love.

Kathryn has been fully involved in the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, and the new plan will be shared with the community in the next few months. This document along with the April 2017 ISAS Visiting Team Report will provide direction for St. Andrew's over the next many years. One important project that Kathryn and her team have been working on is an examination of the grade levels at St. Andrew's. School leadership and the Board reaffirm a commitment to our Early Learning through 8<sup>th</sup> grade program. Being a small school with one class per grade, we are able to know our students well and meet their individual needs. At this time our youngest students are 18 months old. We are excited to announce that next school year St. Andrew's will begin accepting 12 month old students as there is great demand for one year old programs in New Orleans. We look forward to offering a St. Andrew's education to these younger students.

The Board recognizes that Kathryn is a leader who is supported by a great team of administrators, faculty and staff, parents and volunteers, and donors. Thanks to each of you for your support of St. Andrew's. I want to thank again the very generous and supportive foundation for their anonymous pledge of \$500,000 in May 2018 toward the expenses for Grace Hall. The school received the first of three checks of this pledge in December. It is incredibly impactful to our school at this time.

Please join the Board in thanking Kathryn for her good work and for accepting the Head of School position.

On behalf of the Board,



Betsy Sterkx  
Board Chair