



September 7th, 2022

On behalf of the Woodlawn School Board of Trustees, I am writing to announce that Paul Zanowski will be retiring as Woodlawn's Head of School next summer and the Board has unanimously voted to appoint Holly Honeycutt as the new Head of School effective July 1, 2023.

As Paul enters his fourth year as Head of School, his steady leadership has resulted in numerous accomplishments. From securing the school's future by strengthening the financial foundations and successfully completing reaccreditation to raising the school's profile in the community with projects like STEAMfest, and creating a program to offer project based learning (PBL) training to teachers from CMS Title I schools. And of course, Paul led Woodlawn's response to the challenges of COVID. Our children were academically successful and we were the only school in the region to achieve zero transmission of COVID on campus during the worst phase of the pandemic, before vaccines were available and in widespread use.

The pandemic brought into focus what (and often who) is important to each of us. After much personal reflection, Paul shared with the Board his desire to retire in order to spend more time with his family. The Board fully supports his decision and we ask you to join us in thanking him for his service to the school and making sure this year serves as a wonderful capstone to his career in educational leadership.

Paul's retirement gave the Board of Trustees an opportunity to reflect on who is best suited to lead Woodlawn in our next phase of growth. Given Holly's accomplishments, experience, and strong relationships with students, staff, and the community, she was the Board's clear and logical choice for this role.

Holly is currently serving as Woodlawn's Associate Head of School and manages the daily operations of faculty and staff. She joined Woodlawn in 2015 as our School Psychologist and Counselor, quickly demonstrated exceptional management and organizational capabilities and advanced in the leadership team, serving as both Head of Lower School and Head of Middle School.

Holly lives in Davidson, NC with her husband Eric who is a captain in the Charlotte Fire Department. Holly has three children all currently enrolled at Woodlawn. The oldest, Gavin, is in the 6th grade, Aiden is in the 4th grade, and Holden just joined the Pre-K Explorers.

Holly earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Political Science and then completed a Master of Arts in Counseling with a Certification of Specialization in School Counseling (SSP). She also earned a Specialist Degree in School Psychology from Winthrop University and is pursuing her Doctorate of Education degree in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with expected completion in 2026. Holly is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), a North Carolina licensed

school psychologist and certified school counselor. Before joining Woodlawn, Holly worked for a decade in Iredell-Statesville and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

Holly is a graduate of the inaugural class of the NCAIS Emerging Leaders Institute (2019-2020) and represented Woodlawn at last year's NCAIS Heads and Trustee Conference (January 2022). Holly is currently enrolled in the SAIS New and Aspiring Heads Institute.

During her tenure at Woodlawn School, Holly has been an advocate and collaborative leader for the advancement of project-based learning both at Woodlawn and in the larger community. This year she implemented a new program of divisional leadership teams which has significantly strengthened the organizational structure and effectiveness of each division. This program acknowledges and enables our talented staff and increases our ability to develop and promote leaders internally.

Holly has provided leadership to the upper school team as they have implemented a number of new initiatives this year including Foundations & Futures, block scheduling, and enhanced service learning engagement. These changes help ensure that our Upper School is effectively preparing our students for success in college and beyond.

Last year, under Holly's leadership, as the Associate Head of School, Woodlawn successfully launched the Pre-K Explorers early childhood program. This program has expanded and enriched the Woodlawn community.

Over the coming months, there will be a number of opportunities for the Woodlawn community to get to know Holly better and to celebrate Paul's accomplishments, so please be on the lookout for invitations to those events. In the meantime, rest assured that Paul and Holly, along with the full support of the Board of Trustees, will be working closely together to ensure a seamless transition.

Woodlawn is a community. Paul's accomplishments and Holly's future success are built on the trust and generosity of our families, the dedication and hard work of the staff and faculty and our shared commitment to our mission to produce independent, lifelong learners who are responsible, contributing members of a diverse global society. Together we can ensure that the next 20 years at Woodlawn School build and expand on the foundation established in the first 20 years. We invite you to Come Grow With Us!

Sincerely,



Lee Blakely

Chair, Woodlawn School Board of Trustees

Go Trailblazers!