

Friday, April 19, 2024

Dear Meadowbrook School Community,

I am writing to inform you that I notified the Board of Trustees this week that the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year will be my last at The Meadowbrook School. Sharing this news is very difficult for me. As many of you know, I came to Meadowbrook during an admissions visit when I served as the Director of Enrollment at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy. I was told that Meadowbrook graduates are the ideal kids that SCH Academy looks to enroll. When I asked why, I was informed that, "*Meadowbrook students are well-rounded. They already know what it means to attend an independent school, so they quickly jump into many activities and look to improve in all aspects of their lives. They are well-prepared academically, do great socially, and join a bunch of after school sports and clubs.*" Needless to say, my initial tour through Meadowbrook went well, and all that I was told was proven true. Therefore, when I was informed about the vacant Headmaster job during my first visit to campus, it made perfect sense for me to pursue the opportunity.

In fact, before I interviewed for the Head of School position, I asked my daughter's mother to visit Meadowbrook as a prospective parent to determine whether she felt it would be a good place for us to enroll Hannah. She immediately felt the warmth of the people and was impressed by the sequential design of the program. Once I knew Hannah's mom was on board, I decided to formally interview. Now, here I am, 10 years later and my daughter is preparing to graduate from Meadowbrook this spring.

Departing a place that I have felt is my home-away-from-home for the past decade is not easy. I have been able to accomplish a lot of strategic initiatives along the way, including: adopting a new mission statement, implementing a new curriculum, addressing facility needs, helping enroll wonderful children, and hiring a lot of excellent teachers. At the end of the day, it is the people who make Meadowbrook special. The current faculty is composed of amazing educators who are willing to share their knowledge and passion without expecting much in return. Their ongoing commitment to advancing our mission has been one of the many things I have appreciated during my tenure. Even when we had to pivot and create online programs during the pandemic, the level of support, resourcefulness, and enthusiasm from the staff shows the strength of our small school.

In addition to the faculty, I have been afforded the opportunity for my daughter to have an exceptional elementary school experience. Outside of the classroom, Hannah has developed many strong friendships, and parents have often been able

to include me in social gatherings even when they know I might have just had to discipline their child earlier in the day. My role in the school presents an awkward dynamic in juggling relationships, but one that has been made easier thanks to the parents who have participated in making our extended school community a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment.

I am certain the Board of Trustees will find someone else to fall in love with the school like I did. While the timing of a leadership change is never perfect, I feel that it is beneficial for Meadowbrook to have a new Head of School in place following the PAIS Accreditation next spring. We will be launching a new strategic plan after the PAIS evaluation, and the timing of having someone new to provide their insight, vision, and guidance is ideal. In reflecting on the past decade, I feel good about the current state of the school, and I know the next Head of School will have an opportunity to build on several positive initiatives.

In closing, I want to thank so many people who made my time at Meadowbrook more enjoyable. I remember when former Meadowbrook board members wrote my welcoming letter to the community in 2013, and shared how my experience was going to help position Meadowbrook for a successful future. Along the way, there have been many generous board members who have given their time and expertise in helping ensure the school continues to thrive. I am confident that under their guidance, the next Head of School will continue to advance our mission of bringing life to learning for elementary-aged children in a nurturing, fun, and collaborative environment. Thank you for all of your support and understanding. I look forward to managing the new opportunities this change offers together.

Thank you,
Michael J. Reardon

Dear Meadowbrook School Community:

When Michael Reardon stepped into the position of Meadowbrook's Head of School for the 2014-2015 school year, we couldn't begin to know the incredible impact he would have on our school. Under Michael's leadership, Meadowbrook has established itself as one of the premier independent elementary schools in the region. Michael's visionary initiatives have not only attracted top-tier faculty but have also led to the establishment of a school that supports and prioritizes students' mental health and academic access. Furthermore, his strategic decisions and collaborative approach have led to a new school mission statement, improved, and expanded campus facilities, and strong strategic plans, all of which have

allowed Meadowbrook to truly bring life to learning in a nurturing, fun and collaborative environment.

Michael has instilled a heartwarming culture of kindness through innovative initiatives while also maintaining our traditions like the buddy system, family-style meals, and Field Day. Michael did an especially incredible job of leading our community through the challenges of COVID, ensuring we remained in-person and, most importantly, keeping our children safe. We are so thankful for these contributions, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from Michael's strong leadership through the 2024-2025 school year.

We will soon share more information about the upcoming search for Meadowbrook's next Head of School, who will begin on July 1, 2025. In the meantime, we have engaged [Educational Directions](#), a national search firm, to guide us through the process. Our consultants, Jay Underwood and Nicole McDermott, both former heads of elementary schools themselves, will be visiting Meadowbrook in the coming weeks to learn about our community and to determine the desired profile of our next Head of School. You will have the opportunity to give your own input, and we will let you know when and how that will occur.

We look forward to finding our next Head of School who can build upon Michael's enduring legacy. Thank you as always for your commitment to The Meadowbrook School, and we look forward to updating you soon.

Thank you,
Marlene Sidhu
President of The Board of Trustees