

August 2, 2017

Dear Miller Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and you are enjoying your final days of summer break. My family and I arrived on campus in early July and we have been warmly welcomed by everyone in the Miller community. As you can imagine, it has been a busy summer unpacking and getting situated, but we have found time to explore this magnificent campus and the beautiful Charlottesville area. We are all very excited (and admittedly a bit nervous) to be here and begin this new chapter in our lives.

I have spent my first weeks at Miller collaborating closely with the administrative team preparing for the upcoming school year. I am grateful for the kindness they have shown me and for their hard work and dedication to Miller. I have also spent a great deal of time meeting with as many parents, teachers, and alums as possible. I continue to be struck by everyone's love and commitment to MSA. This truly is a special place. As I meet with more members of the Miller community, the more I know I made the best decision of my career to move to Charlottesville and lead this amazing school.

I am often asked about my vision for the Miller School of Albemarle, and I must admit that this question makes me a bit uncomfortable. It would be presumptuous of me to come into this wonderful 140 year old institution with a grand vision of its future. However, as I get to know the community and learn more about Miller's strengths and challenges, I will develop a strong vision for MSA. It will be a shared vision; one that comes from and supports our talented faculty, staff and administrators. Our shared vision will be student-centric; honoring our mission to develop the whole child. *Mind, hands and heart* will continue to be at the center of a Miller education. And finally, it will be about building upon our many strengths and continuing to be the best school for our kids.

I am truly humbled and honored for the opportunity to lead this wonderful school. I look forward to days and weeks ahead as I meet more members of the community and welcome the students and faculty back onto the Hill for another great school year. Please know that my door is always open. I encourage you to stop in anytime as I want to learn more about what you love about Miller and how you think we can improve.

Sincerely,
J. Michael Drude
Head of School