



July 21, 2009

Dear Heathwood Hall Community Members,

While I'd like you to imagine that I am some sort of Renaissance man with far flung interests in very sophisticated topics, the reality is that beyond my own family, a good book, and an occasional round of golf, what I enjoy most is being a fan. I'd also like to tell you that I root for perennial winners and that my involvement alone is a large factor in their success. Sadly, nothing could be farther from the truth.

Despite the obvious "thought bubble of despair" perched atop my head after a loss that belies my calm demeanor, I enjoy a connection to athletics that has rarely if ever been about wins and losses. As a person who enjoyed the privilege of playing a sport through college, I can promise that the lessons learned and the opportunities gained from simply having participated and endured are as valuable to me in my adulthood as any other facet of my upbringing, excluding the lessons of my parents. In fact, the vast majority of my friendships that have lasted since my school days are ones that were forged on playing fields. My sense of fairness – a critical part of working in education – was born of countless pickup games in the neighborhood and in practices. While my work ethic in the classroom often left a great deal to be desired, swimming and soccer taught me as an immature young man to work hard, enabling me to later translate those skills into other areas of my life. Last, not to be humble, but I can also assure you that I would never have been able to attend the university that so changed my life had I not been able stand out in their admissions pool as a young man that might be able to play collegiate football.

I'm sure that each of us who reflects back on our experiences in life can provide similar testimonials. As members of the Heathwood Hall Episcopal School community, we should expect that opportunities for growth and maturation in our children are plentiful. Within athletics, we are a relatively small school that fields a full slate of teams against quality opponents, thus necessitating high participation. While we value success, we do not do it at the expense of sportsmanship or dignity. Our coaches know the importance of teaching and modeling as the route to greater success with their teams. Finally, and we hope this is true for every child involved in interscholastic sports these days, our program allows every child to test him or herself physically and mentally, in areas where they are strong and where they know there is room for improvement, in an environment that is both honest and encouraging.

Stewardship – gladly bearing responsibility for all that has been entrusted to our care – is alive and well at The Hall, and in no place is that better exemplified than by the parents, coaches, and students in support of our athletic program. We thank those in our broader community who support our school, many of whom are listed in this program. We give special thanks to our booster club – The Highlander Club. At the core of our athletic stewardship, the Highlander Club has responded year after year with work, wealth, and wisdom to best ensure that the gifts athletics can provide are readily accessible to all of our students. Finally, we thank Highlander Club Chair Davis Buchanan

'86 for his attention to detail, his love of Heathwood, and his willingness to push the extra mile for all of our student athletes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Jones III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Charles H. Jones III
Head of School