

January 29, 2009

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Families:

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On behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Board of Trustees, it is my honor and pleasure to invite your family to return to Heathwood Hall for the 2009-2010 school year.

Having finally moved down to Columbia over the last few weeks, my wife Shea and I have been reminded why – as parents first – we chose the Heathwood Hall community in which to raise our three young children. Our trust in the teachers and program for our two oldest has made the mid-year transition an easy one. The tenor and quality of questions and comments from parents, board members, faculty, and administrators alike have been provocative, thoughtful, and engaging. It has been reassuring to be reminded that one is part of a school that likes to *think* about thinking. While visiting with each school division on January 5th, I was struck by how perfectly our Nursery School teacher Susan Till encapsulated the goal of any Heathwood Hall educator and the hope for any Heathwood Hall parent: in addition to the ABCs, we expect to inspire in our children “independence, self-control, and a language of caring.”

It is these reasons, among many others, that Heathwood Hall Episcopal School is a gift to your child that *never loses its value and can never be taken away*. Being a part of Heathwood Hall connects your family to a school community that is committed to leadership, service, spiritual growth and learning opportunities, all within the area’s premier college preparatory program.

As you might imagine, virtually every independent school around the country is sending out a letter similar to this one, each with a different degree of trepidation in these financial times. Our Board of Trustees and administration have spent countless hours considering every alternative, all based on the principle that you receive the greatest possible value for your tuition dollars. True to our core values and vision, we will continue to move our school forward by investing in our teacher compensation and exciting new opportunities for our students that will better prepare them for success in a rapidly changing 21st Century. In fact, this year’s tuition increase is *the lowest in more than a decade*, reflecting our desire to retain and support our families as much as possible as we all face the challenges of our economic climate. In addition, it is our goal to hold steady or only minimally increase the rates and fees for other programs and services such as Afternoon Express and our Achievement Center. Finally, we remind you that our school has need-based tuition assistance for families who qualify. We understand that difficult times call for thoughtful solutions.

As a parent, I am comforted knowing my children will have a stable, safe, nurturing and inspiring place to learn and grow next year – and for the long haul. As a newcomer, I believe Columbia is blessed to have Heathwood Hall, but the greater blessing is having you and your family as a part of our community. On behalf of all of us here at Heathwood Hall, we look forward to having you with us again next year.

Respectfully,



Charles H. Jones III
Head of School

P.S. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to the re-enrollment deadline of March 1.