

January 29, 2010

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Families:

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 2010-2011 school year.

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As I quickly approach my one-year mark, I continue to be awed daily by the level of commitment and depth of knowledge that is present on this campus. I am honored and humbled by the dedication of our faculty and staff to providing the very best education and learning environment for every child in our care. I am also grateful to you who entrust your children to us. Each is a gift and it is our privilege to serve them and your family.

This year, our Faculty, Staff, Board of Trustees and I closely examined Heathwood Hall's mission statement. This allowed us to reflect on who we are as a school and what we want for our students. After much work, we have created the following:

A college preparatory school with a strong Episcopal heritage of stewardship, inclusivity, and respect for the dignity of every human being, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School walks with students, challenging them to balance the highest standards of scholarship, citizenship, and servant leadership. Through the richness of community we learn, grow, and worship as we cultivate and celebrate the power of the individual mind, the soundness of body, and the value of a joyful and spiritual life.

Heathwood Hall offers the area's premier college preparatory program, and I believe this updated mission exemplifies what happens on our campus – in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, through our service and in Chapel. I know that our future will only be more compelling as we continue to pursue the best practices we find in national and independent school circles, while pushing ourselves to maintain a leadership role in technology and the environment, amongst others.

The decision to give your child an independent school education inherently brings a financial commitment. In the current economic climate, we understand that many of you are making great sacrifices to keep your children here. You recognize that a Heathwood Hall education is a gift to your child that *never loses its value and can never be taken away*. You realize "The Difference" between the experience at Heathwood Hall and other options. Again, for this I am grateful. In setting the tuition for next year, 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 accessing new and better opportunities for our students that will prepare them for success in a rapidly changing 21st century. In fact, this year's one percent tuition increase is *the lowest in the modern history of our school*, 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, and we are thankful for the prudent financial management by our former leadership, our CFO Liz Summers, our Board of Trustees, and countless others over the last decade that has allowed us to be in this position of strength.

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. 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. Please note that re-enrollment materials are due back to the admission office by **Monday, March 1st**. It is very important that we receive your materials by that date so that we may offer teacher contracts and spaces to new students in a timely fashion. If you will be unable to return your materials by March 1st, please contact the admission office so that they will be aware of your situation.