



March 18, 2019

Dear Healdsburg Community,

I am thrilled to become the next Head of The Healdsburg School. I began to learn about the school through its website and opportunity statement for the head of school position, and I was immediately intrigued by not only its mission, but more importantly, by the evidence of the entire community's commitment to bringing the mission to fruition. Sandi's vision for the school and her incredible work to recruit talented teachers and create a place where children are known and cared for made THS the school that it is today. I am deeply grateful for her expertise in leading the school in its beginnings and her willingness to serve as interim head this year.

In my interview with the Search Committee, I learned more about THS. The dedication of board members, parents, and founding faculty was apparent immediately. What stood out the most was the intentional focus on the high-quality, student-centered program. Arriving on campus, I was excited to see how this was manifested in the school community. On my tour, my learning continued. Many students confidently introduced themselves, articulately described both what they were learning and why they were learning it; and intently listened to any questions posed. This level of deep thinking about learning is less common among students than you may think and is a point of pride for The Healdsburg School. Throughout my visit, conversations with faculty, Sandi, the administrative team, parents, and board members revealed an authentic community whose values, educational pedagogy, and actions completely align with mine.

As my husband, Brian, and I reflected on our experience with THS, we discussed the many ways in which this school is a wonderful fit with both my experience and my vision for what educating children should be. At a time when many independent schools had to contract due to the economic downturn, The Healdsburg School boldly built an incredibly strong programmatic foundation and steadily grew its enrollment because of its clarity of vision and its fierce commitment to creating a learning environment based on research and the wisdom of experience.

I have much to learn about the school and will begin by listening and asking questions. I bring many years of experience in both independent and public schools and an unyielding commitment to and passion for student-centered education. I will work with

all stakeholders to integrate this knowledge as we collaborate to write the next chapter of The Healdsburg School.

I will be in Healdsburg in early May to attend Bravissimo and to work with faculty and administration as well as board and parents to make the head transition as seamless as possible. I am humbled to join such a wonderful community of students, educators, parents, and professionals, and look forward to the work ahead.

Warm Regards,

Andy Davies