



Friday, May 28, 2021

To our GSL Community,

Our Head of School, Thor Kvande, has notified the Board of Trustees that he will resign after the end of the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year. His letter to the Board is linked below for you to read. His youngest child graduates from high school next year, and Thor has decided that it will be time for him to start a new chapter in his professional and personal life.

Thor came to GSL and Memphis in 2004 from St. John's Episcopal School in Maryland. He started at GSL as Head of Middle School before being selected as the Head of School in 2011. Thor improved our school in many ways and will certainly leave GSL a better place than he found it. Under his leadership, academics flourished with the introduction of several new successful programs that have prepared our graduates to excel in high school and beyond. GSL also adopted a character education program called the Formative Five, which teaches our kids to be good, not just smart. Among many other accomplishments during Thor's tenure, GSL introduced the Little Lukers program, significantly increased the diversity of our student body, and instituted financial controls crucial to our long-term success.

Thor's able leadership was highlighted in the past year as he steered us through the pandemic, keeping the doors open and our children and teachers safe. At the same time, he encouraged and supported his division heads to make significant academic improvements and continued to work towards achieving the goals of the Board-approved Strategic Plan. Thor had the fortitude to navigate these uncharted waters and weather the doubts and fears of our community while pushing us forward to be the best GSL can be.

We are grateful for Thor's efforts over his long and fruitful tenure, and while we will miss him at GSL, we are excited for what lies ahead for both Thor and our GSL community. He will continue to guide us as Head of School through the next academic year, which promises to be a great year as we come out of the pandemic. The Board of Trustees will continue to support Thor next year and stay focused on furthering the goals of our Strategic Plan. We will also promptly turn our attention to finding our next great leader. Our search process will begin this summer, and we will be reaching out to the GSL community in various ways to solicit input and feedback regarding the search.

This next year will be bittersweet as we say goodbye to our stalwart Head, but we look forward to showing Thor our appreciation and enjoying his last year on campus. On behalf of the Board of Trustees we thank Thor for serving us so devotedly and conscientiously, and we wish him success as he continues his professional career.

Liz Keough
Board President 2019-2021

Paul Morris
Board President 2021-2023

Letter from Head of School Thor Kvande to the Board of Trustees