January 16, 2018

Dear NCS Family and Friends:

I write to let you know of Kathleen O’Neill Jamieson’s decision that the 2018-2019 school year will be her last as Head of National Cathedral School. After devoting more than 35 years to independent education, including the past 15 at NCS, Kathy has determined that the time has come for new adventures.

Kathy has made enduring and sustaining contributions to the NCS community. Evidence of her work appears in every corner of the school. At each grade level, faculty of the highest caliber teach and inspire our girls, thanks to Kathy’s constant focus on recruiting and retaining the very best teachers. Her leadership of the $56 million Educating Women for the World campaign has meant that today students study, research, and collaborate in 21st-century classrooms and our spectacular Gray Library. The girls also gather and worship together in the new, beautiful Grace Chapel. Kathy has championed curriculum improvements, including increased science, technology, engineering, and math offerings. Working closely together, NCS and St. Albans achieved the first coordinated schedule between the schools—a goal that had remained elusive since I attended NCS more than 40 years ago.

During Kathy’s tenure, the school has doubled the amount of financial aid available and, over the past 12 consecutive years, closed each fiscal year ahead of budget. Her focus on preparing future leaders prompted formation of the Center for Ethical Leadership and Service. She also mentored a deep pool of talented educational leaders; seven of the 10 division heads who have served under her went on to lead schools of their own. She has cultivated NCS’s core values—excellence, service, courage, and conscience—across the school, from the youngest 4th graders to our alumnae. And, from the moment she crossed the school’s threshold, she has been a devoted fan of NCS girls and women, cheering them on each and every day, in the classroom and hallways, at sporting events and performances, and at alumnae gatherings.

In short, Kathy will leave us with a school that is stronger today than it has ever been, a school that could not be better positioned for this moment of transition.

The Governing Board has already started the work of identifying NCS’s 11th Head of School. Current Board members Elise Rabekoff and Glenn Youngkin and alumna/former Board member Linda Keene-Solomon ’82 have graciously agreed to co-chair the search committee. We are now finalizing the selection of a search firm. More information about the search process, including the full committee membership, will follow in the coming weeks. We anticipate that our new Head of School will be announced by the end of 2018.

Over the coming months, we will have many opportunities to celebrate Kathy’s enormous contributions to National Cathedral School and to honor her and her husband, Dan, for their constant support. I hope that each of you will join in these festivities. In the meantime, Kathy’s work continues, as she has been quick to remind me. She and her team have high expectations for what we will achieve over the next 18 months, foremost among these the creation of a visionary strategic plan outlining our ambitions through 2023.

I look forward to engaging with you as we complete this plan, select our next Head of School, and celebrate Kathy’s many accomplishments.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Hill ’74
Chair, National Cathedral School Governing Board