Oct. 1, 2019

Dear NCS Family and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to announce that the NCS Governing Board has unanimously and enthusiastically selected Dr. Elinor Scully as National Cathedral School’s next Head of School.

Elinor currently serves as Head of The Langley School, a preschool-through-8th-grade school in McLean, Va. During her six years there, in addition to designing a visionary strategic plan, building a strong administrative team, and attracting and retaining exceptional faculty, Elinor launched an innovative multidisciplinary curriculum focused on enhancing emotional intelligence, cultural responsiveness, and student health and wellness. Over the past several years, Elinor has emerged as a nationally recognized thought leader in independent education in general and in social and emotional learning in particular. During the search process, Elinor impressed us with her strategic vision for promoting a supportive school culture at NCS, developing each girl’s academic, emotional, and spiritual strengths, and supporting continued excellence in teaching and learning.

Moreover, I am delighted to welcome Elinor back to the NCS community. Many of us know Elinor well from her eight years of distinguished service at NCS, first as Head of the Upper School and ultimately as our Associate Head of School. Elinor is an inspiring and innovative leader who values every student and deeply understands—and loves—our school and our mission. As we anticipate with excitement Elinor’s move across the Potomac, I hope that every member of the NCS community will have the opportunity to get to know Elinor in the months ahead.

Elinor began her teaching career at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School, where she was Associate Director of the Upper School before coming to NCS in 2005. She currently serves as president of the Elementary School Heads Association and vice president of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools’ Board of Directors. She has consulted with more than 40 independent schools and has written for numerous publications on the topics of gender, sexuality education, and social and emotional learning. Elinor holds a PhD and MS in education from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from the University of Virginia.

Because of her desire to afford The Langley School sufficient time to find a new head of school and her commitment to important initiatives currently underway at the school, Elinor will begin her service at NCS on July 1, 2021. We are thrilled that Sue Bosland, currently our interim Head
of School, has agreed to extend her tenure at NCS through June 30, 2021. As you may recall, Sue served as Head of School at Kent Place School, a K-12 girls' school in Summit, N.J., for 18 years before coming to National Cathedral School this past July. In the short time since Sue has joined us, she has earned the respect and admiration, as well as the affection, of our community for her ready connection to our students and parents, her capable leadership of our faculty and staff, and her wise and practical counsel. In recognition of Sue's exceptional talents and her devotion to NCS and our mission, the Governing Board has affirmed that Sue is much more than an "interim" head and has named her our 11th Head of School. Sue will be installed as Head of School and Canon of the National Cathedral on Nov. 13, details of which will follow soon by email. Please plan to join us for this wonderful community gathering.

The Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, the governing entity on the Cathedral Close, acting on the recommendation of the Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde, bishop of Washington, has approved both Elinor’s and Sue’s appointments.

The selection of a head of school who will steer NCS wisely into the future is one of the Governing Board’s greatest responsibilities, and I would like to express gratitude to everyone who played a part in this process. In particular, I extend sincere appreciation to the co-chairs of the Search Committee—former Governing Board chair Elise Rabekoff and current Governing Board member Linda Keene Solomon ’82—and committee members Daniela Bailey, Faye Ferguson, Rachael Flores, Alice Hill ’74, Aasheema Hudda, Roy Kapani, Kevin Morin, Jeannie Musslewhite, Laura Puryear, Mieka Wick ’93, and Tae-Sik Yoon. These individuals served our school community with extraordinary insight, intelligence, and devotion, for which we are deeply grateful.

The coming two years under Sue’s tenure will offer exciting opportunities to move forward in accomplishing the goals of our Strategic Plan and strengthening NCS for the future. I hope each of you will join us in this important work. I look forward to seeing you on Nov. 13 at Sue Bosland’s installation ceremony, and I trust that you will join me over the coming months in warmly welcoming Elinor Scully back into our NCS family.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen M. Jakovic
Chair, National Cathedral School Governing Board