



ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

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IVORY D. HILLS ANNOUNCED AS NEXT HEAD OF ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

St. Mark's School announced on July 31 that Dr. Ivory D. Hills will be the next head of school, beginning on July 1, 2024. The School's Board of Trustees unanimously supported the Head of School Search Committee's recommendation to appoint Dr. Hills.

"Ivory is a brilliant thinker and a gifted leader," said Michael B. Moore '80, president of the St. Mark's Board of Trustees and co-chair of the Head of School Search Committee. "He has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing independent schools today, and he is passionate about the St. Mark's School mission. We are confident that he will be an outstanding head of school."

Since 2011, Dr. Hills has been at Deerfield Academy, where he has served the school in a variety of roles, most recently dean of faculty and assistant head of school for strategy and planning. He holds a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from MIT, and began his career at Deerfield as a science teacher before taking on positions as director of sustainability, director of the KIPP STEP Summer Program, academic dean, and assistant head of school for academic affairs and strategy. Before his tenure at Deerfield, Mr. Hills was a senior research chemist at Merck Research Laboratories. When Dr. Hills joins the St. Mark's community in Southborough, he will be accompanied by his wife, Christina, and their daughter, Sophie.

"It is an honor to serve all of you as the next head of St. Mark's School," Dr. Hills wrote in a letter to the St. Mark's community. "Education has always been important to me, and I am elated

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that I will soon work with all of you to help students grow into their full potential. As the world becomes more interconnected and complex, astounding opportunities await all of us. Helping guide St. Mark's is a true privilege.”

Amidst an exceedingly competitive nationwide search, during which the search committee encountered numerous talented and highly qualified educational leaders, Dr. Hills emerged as the standout candidate. The committee, chaired by St. Mark's trustees Mr. Moore and Elizabeth R. Santini '95, praised Dr. Hill's commitment to a clear and thoughtful decision-making process, his innate creativity and inquisitiveness, and his contemplative and strategic approach to leadership.

“I know I speak for everyone at Deerfield when I say that working with Ivory has been a joy and a gift,” said Deerfield Head of School John P.N. Austin. “His contributions to Deerfield have been enormous, his leadership inspiring, and his relentless focus on the experience and growth of students across every dimension of school life intentional and enduring. We will miss him terribly, but we are excited for Ivory and his family—and for St. Mark's.”

“With Ivory at the helm, we are confident that St. Mark's will continue to flourish on the strong foundation it stands upon,” Mr. Moore and Ms. Santini wrote in a letter to the St. Mark's community on July 31. “Together, we will embark on an exciting journey, starting next July, to shape a future filled with promise, excellence, and boundless possibilities.”

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