



December 1, 2009

Dear Friends School Haverford Families and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that we announce the School Committee's appointment of Michael Zimmerman as the new Head of School for Friends School Haverford. Michael was chosen from a strong field of candidates after a lengthy and thorough selection process, and with unanimous and enthusiastic recommendations from faculty, parent groups and the Search Committee.

Michael Zimmerman is currently the Director of the Lower School at the Friends Select School in Philadelphia, where he has served since 2004. Prior to that Michael taught grades three, four, and five, and served as a reading specialist at the Philadelphia School. Michael earned his undergraduate degree from The George Washington University and a Master of Science Degree in Reading and Language Arts from The University of Pennsylvania. He will begin at Friends School Haverford July 1, 2010. Until then, he will be working closely with Pete Jaques, Interim Head of School, to ensure a smooth transition – even as he completes his term at Friends Select.



As the Head of School, Michael will be both an educational and administrative leader. Educationally, he will work with teachers and students to add his experience and passion for education to advance the excellent Friends School Haverford program. He says, "An appropriate challenge for every child is the gold standard for educational success." As an administrative leader, Michael's reputation is to lead by inclusion and with transparency. His integrity fosters collaboration and builds consensus throughout the school community. In the critical area of enrollment, Michael was instrumental during Friends Select's recent period of significant growth, achieved through strong program development and marketing.

The School Committee sees Michael's educational philosophy and leadership style as a wonderful fit for Friends School Haverford. During his meetings with the FSH community over the last few weeks, Michael demonstrated his willingness to engage others as a thoughtful listener and a source of creativity and inspiration. Michael joins an excellent group of administrators and faculty at Friends School Haverford, and we believe he will build on our proud history and help to shape an exciting new future for the benefit of our students, their families and the entire FSH community. He will bring knowledge, energy, passion, and joy to the position of Head of School.

We are also pleased to welcome Michael's spouse, Debbie Fox, and their sons, Alex and Matthew, to the FSH community. The Zimmerman family lives in Wynnewood, PA.

On behalf of the School Committee, we would like to thank all those who worked diligently during the search process. The Search Committee was comprised of current and former School Committee members, parents, faculty, and members of the Haverford Monthly Meeting and supported by parent and faculty advisory groups. We would also like to thank our search consultant, Clay Stites of Resource Group 175.

Please join us in welcoming Michael Zimmerman and his family to Friends School Haverford.

Sincerely,

Thomas Caramanico
Clerk, School Committee

Susan Callahan
Co-Clerk, Search Committee

Roderick Wolfson
Co-Clerk, Search Committee