

Announcement from the Chair of Gateway's Head of School Search Committee

March 12, 2025

Dear Gateway School Community,

I am honored to have been selected to lead the Search Committee for Gateway's new Head of School, who will succeed Laurie Gruhn when she retires at the end of the 2025-26 school year ([read Laurie's letter here](#)). We are all immensely thankful for Laurie's extraordinary commitment to Gateway, and while her retirement is bittersweet, we are energized by the opportunity to build upon the strong foundation she has established. As noted in Polly Brandmeyer's letter on March 11 ([read Polly's letter here](#)), I have been working diligently over the past few weeks with members of the Board of Trustees to help establish a formal Search Committee and to retain a search firm to help guide the community through this important process.

After interviewing and meeting a variety of search firms, we have selected [Resource Group 175](#) ("RG175") to assist in the important search for the next Head of School. RG175 is one of the leading Head of School Search Firms for [independent schools in the U.S.](#) and abroad. They bring 22 years of experience, a vast network of potential candidates, and extensive knowledge about independent schools. Not only will RG175 assist in the hiring of a new Head of School, but they will also provide ongoing support during the transition into the role as our new Head of School navigates the opportunities ahead. [John Farber](#) will be leading the search team for RG175. We are particularly excited to have John working with us – he has 40 years of experience not only teaching in schools for students with language-based learning disabilities but also serving in the roles of Head of School and Director of Development and Admissions at various independent schools. Although globally experienced, John is very familiar with the complexities of hiring in New York and the Northeast – which only adds further to our comfort with him as our lead search consultant.

John will be on the Gateway campus the week of April 7, beginning his work in earnest – connecting with the broader community of parents, administrators, faculty, and students to understand what makes Gateway so special today and how our next Head of School can make the most impact in leading us forward. From there, we will analyze community feedback, source candidates, and begin the selection process over the summer, with the goal of narrowing down our candidate pool to finalists for visits and meetings with the community this upcoming fall. Finally, we intend to have a new Head of School named by the end of the first semester next school year to allow for ample overlap and enable a smooth transition.



More information will be coming in the weeks and months to follow, including a timeline of expected milestones and the development of a Faculty, Staff, & Administration Advisory Committee. We commit to the community that we will ensure all voices and opinions are heard as we evaluate and ultimately select the new Head of School. We will collaborate with John to provide regular updates and opportunities for community participation in this process (which begins today!). Updates will be published on Gateway's website this spring. In the meantime, should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact headsearch@gatewayschool.org.

Thank you for entrusting me with this important undertaking, and I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Chris York
Chair, Search Committee
Member, Board of Trustees