

Announcement from the Head of The Gateway School

March 11, 2025

Dear Gateway School Community,

When I was asked to submit my name for consideration for Head of School in the summer of 2019, I already knew that Gateway held a special place in my heart. As the mother of a then 8th grader, I had witnessed firsthand for five years the profound impact this school has on the lives of children and their families. This experience fueled my unwavering commitment to our mission and a clear understanding of our vital role. Now, as we conclude our 60th anniversary, Gateway is ready to continue its life-changing work for students and families. I am writing to share that I have made the decision to retire in June 2026.

Since joining Gateway in July 2020, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredibly dedicated team of professionals and an inspiring Board of Trustees as we navigated a set of defining years for the school. Gateway's faculty and staff are the heart of the school. Their care, compassion, and dedication to our students and families is among the best that I have worked with in my career. Together with the Gateway team over the past five years, we have accomplished remarkable things, including:

- Developing a five-year Strategic Plan that has guided school priorities and systematically fulfilled those initiatives, including expanding the Lower School, rebuilding the Music Department, and expanding Gateway's presence at local, state, and national conferences and workshops
- Successfully achieving renewed NYSAIS accreditation
- Enhancing and strengthening the Admissions Office
- Redesigning the school's website and forming a marketing initiative
- Advancing our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)
- Renewing and deepening our community connections with new programs such as "The Road Less Traveled," and offering a variety of new communication touchpoints through Lunch-and-Learns, "Conversations & Connections," monthly blogs, quarterly division-wide newsletters, and weekly program updates
- Establishing online and hybrid teaching modalities through COVID that culminated in continued student achievement
- Creating, preserving, and revitalizing our cherished traditions
- Onboarding the next generation of valued and dedicated trustees

None of these achievements would have been possible without the ongoing dedication, passion, and collaboration of our extraordinary Administrative Team and Board. I am



profoundly grateful to each of you for your unwavering support and trust. You have all played a crucial role in the progress we've made together, and I will always carry that gratitude with me.

This has been a pivotal period in our school's history. As we approach the completion of our 60th anniversary year, I remain fully committed to our school and will be actively engaged. Our work to make and keep Gateway exceptional will continue, and our school will be strong and ready when its next and very fortunate leader takes over in 2026.

The next 15 months fill me with anticipation and excitement. I find myself looking forward, perhaps with a slightly different lens, to those moments I have grown to love over the years that mean so much to us all. The Graduation speeches and hearing firsthand from our eighth graders, talking with families at "The Road Less Traveled," and meeting prospective families and seeing in their eyes what I recall so vividly ten years ago feeling myself. Watching students, teachers, staff, and families reconnecting at school after COVID, pulling together to navigate challenging moments and celebrating as a community during the happiest of times, whether it was making it to the MSAL Championships, attending an extraordinary musical, or witnessing the academic and social growth of our students. It has been the greatest of honors and privileges to share this time together; this is a community that is second to none.

I have the utmost confidence that Gateway will continue to thrive, driven by the incredible community we have built together. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve this school and for the privilege of working alongside such talented and dedicated individuals. It has been an honor to be part of Gateway's remarkable journey.

My best,

Laurie Gruhn
Head of School