



April 16, 2015

Dear Middle School Parents,

Over the past several years, I have been working along with Tim, to determine the most effective administrative support structure for our Middle School. Initially, the role that most naturally fit the requirements we had at the time was one that focused on supporting the vast requirements regarding logistics, scheduling and general coordination. As the needs for curricular support, teaching mentorship and even greater levels of in classroom differentiation grew, it became clear we needed to expand the scope and responsibilities of the current Middle School Coordinator position and evolve it into an Assistant Head of Middle School position.

The focus of this role would be to not only maintain middle school operations including scheduling, budgeting, and general support for teachers and staff but would involve guiding curriculum design and implementation in the classroom, teacher observation and coaching, and comprehensive coordination of learning support resources. To be successful, hiring requirements would include middle school aged classroom teaching experience, proven ability to craft curriculum design as well as hands on experience differentiating instruction for diverse sets of learners.

We embarked upon a thorough hiring process, which involved the creation of a diverse selection committee including all members of the Middle School staff. We interviewed an extensive number of highly qualified candidates including several internal and external applicants. I am pleased to report that we successfully completed this process and I, together with our selection committee, am extremely pleased to formally announce that Heather Graesser will be assuming the role of Assistant Head of Middle School in the Fall.

Heather is a valued member of the Stanley faculty and has years of experience both in terms of administrative and instructional expertise. For nearly fourteen years, Heather has distinguished herself as an engaging, intuitive and deeply committed teacher and while she will be missed among the faculty ranks, she will bring a needed level of skillset to this new role.

We have initiated the process of seeking Heather's replacement in the science department and we will be sure to provide you with updates as to her successor. Heather will continue in her Homeroom teaching partnership role with Art Gluck and students can look forward to continuing to maintain their connection with this greatly respected teacher.

Along with this new role, comes the transition in the Middle School Coordinator role, which Hans Broers has so effectively filled over the past two years. Hans will be leaving Stanley to pursue the next phase of his educational career. Please take a moment to read his personal letter (attached below) to all of you expressing his deep gratitude and appreciation. We wish him the very best.

I am personally very excited for the opportunities this new role presents the Middle School. I look forward to working closely with Heather in continually bringing best practices to our classrooms and doing so according to the Stanley Vision and Mission.

If you have any questions regarding this transition, please feel free to reach out to me. I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

Matt Barber
Head of Middle School
matt.barber@stanleybps.org

From the Desk of Hans:

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that I will be leaving Stanley at the end of the year. As I write this, I am finding it difficult to sufficiently express what my experiences here have meant to me. Never before have I had the opportunity to work with so many caring teachers, curious students, and supportive families. These individuals really are the core of what makes Stanley unlike any other place I have experienced.

My relationship with SBPS started 5 years ago while working as an academic advisor in the School of Education at UCD. I visited campus alongside the late Dr. Bill Goodwin, who was integral figure in the creation of the Teacher Prep Program. At the start of the day, my goal was to help prospective interns make an informed decision about whether Stanley was the best place for them to pursue their goals of becoming educators, however, when I left that day my goal had changed; I wanted to work at Stanley.

Working at Stanley the past 2 years has been a pleasure. I consider myself very lucky for having an opportunity to work at a place where the philosophical views of what education should be are so similar to my own, even if it was for just a short time. Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to work with your wonderful children. I truly believe that it will be individuals like them who will go out into the world and work towards the greater good, and am so happy that I may have had some small part in helping them discover the people they want to be.

No matter where my journey takes me, Stanley will always be close to my heart. Thank you all for your kindness and support. It means more than you know.

Until we meet again,

Hans