



**February 19, 2019**

Dear Cavalier Community,

As I departed Augusta yesterday to head back to Charlotte, I thought back on my brief visit to campus Monday. It was exciting to get another look at my future home at Augusta Prep, and I was moved by the kindness and warmth shown to me. I still cannot help but think how fortunate I am to soon be the Head of such a wonderful school.

I am incredibly honored and humbled to serve Augusta Prep, and I am full of gratitude to have the opportunity to guide this community as we prepare for its next 60 years. This school is full of potential, and I know there is much more that can be accomplished at this top-notch independent school. But, I also know that I cannot do it alone. It will take all of us working together in a concentrated effort to set Prep on a course that not only ensures our relevance today in the Augusta area, but also our place in the future within the larger independent school world as a *premier* independent school.



Throughout two careers and other life experiences, I have always found that there is much to learn from other people if you are willing to take the time to sit down and listen. I have always prided myself on being a lifelong learner, and you – the Prep community – are my next set of teachers!

While this is goodbye for now, rest assured plans are being made for my return to campus several times this spring. Look for future communications from the school regarding those visits. I look forward to engaging with more and more of the Prep community as I prepare to start full time July 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrick J. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derrick