

Gerard J.P. Connolly Appointed New Upper School Head at Indian Creek School

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Gerard J.P. Connolly as the new Head of the Upper School at Indian Creek School. He will join us this summer in time to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mr. Connolly has thirty years of combined administrative, leadership, teaching, and coaching experience in co-ed college preparatory high schools. He is the recipient of the prestigious Klingenstein Fellowship emphasizing leadership in administration at the Teachers College at Columbia University. He has been honored for excellence in teaching by schools throughout his career.

As a leader, he has guided the development of teacher/student accountability criteria promoting open, honest communication, instilling student leadership, and implementing professional development incentives for teachers. He has tackled the demands of designing and developing major educational and sports facilities as well as participating in the launch of an urban charter school focusing on classical education.

Mr. Connolly is equally comfortable in the administrative office, the classroom, and on the basketball court. With a major in history and a minor in classics, he has taught Latin and history (Ancient, European, and U.S. including AP) in several New England and area schools. At every opportunity during his career, he has coached girls' and boys' basketball teams to winning records and championships in five states including a team led by an eventual NCAA Division 1 Player of the Year.

The position of Upper School Head is a position of leadership, and we are fortunate to have his rich experience as a school leader. Mr. Connolly began his leadership and managerial experience at the Derryfield School in New Hampshire and moved on to become Senior Dean at the Nichols School in New York, and then Upper School Head at the Providence Country Day School in Rhode Island. He moved to Maryland as Upper School Head at Severn School and, most recently, was Assistant Headmaster at the Washington Latin School in Washington, D.C. Of his new position, he says, "Indian Creek is a good fit. The school is ready to take the next step in its growth. This fits with my skills and experience in building a school's program."

Most importantly to the future of Indian Creek, our students, and our faculty, Mr. Connolly is an educator, administrator, and coach whose philosophical commitment to the education and development of young people is consistent with the philosophy of our School. "As Upper School Head at Severn School, I knew many Indian Creek graduates who attended Severn. They were some of Severn's best over the years. I was (and am) convinced Indian Creek was doing something right."

He is a man of integrity and honor who dedicates his efforts to the education of young people, the professional growth of teachers, and the development of the community every day with the insight and foresight to lead us well. "I love the community that a private school offers. The school has a bright future, and I look forward to being part of it."

Of the change in leadership, Head of School Anne Chambers said, "We look forward to Gerry's arrival over the summer and to introducing him in person to our community. Upper School Head Eileen Mattingly has worked to establish a strong academic program in a vibrant learning community. We are confident it will continue to thrive under Gerry's leadership as our Upper School Head."