



March 6, 2019

Dear BES Friends and Families,

After more than 42 cumulative years as an educator, administrator, and Head of School, I have decided that it is time for me to retire as the Head of School at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. It has been a pleasure to serve your children these past six years, and it is with great anticipation that I continue to assist in the transition with Episcopal School of Jacksonville for the 2019-2020 school year.

Serving at Beaches Episcopal School has been an amazing experience and one that I will always treasure. As a school, we have the perfect balance of academics, enrichments, spiritual education, character education, and nurturing that is poured into children on a daily basis to create compassionate and competent leaders of tomorrow. Our new partnership with ESJ will only enhance our program, facility, and core values. I am so excited about our future and look forward to a seamless transition.

Sincerely,

Martha Milton
Head of School



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire BES family, I want to thank Martha for her unwavering service and wish her a joy filled retirement. Martha has been a creative, unselfish, and steadfast leader for Beaches Episcopal for the past six years and has helped prepare our school for its next chapter in our bright future. When Martha first approached me a little over a year ago about her pending retirement, I knew that she had come to that decision after giving it much thought and consideration. I know she is content that she has taken BES to new heights and is excited about enjoying the next chapter in her life with her family.

As many of you may know by now, it was Martha who first had the vision of merging Beaches Episcopal with Episcopal School of Jacksonville. She had long known that the combined institutions would yield even stronger academics, more diverse offerings, and a reinforced foundation of faith for our children. Martha's courage, dedication, and conviction to this idea have enabled the vision of Beaches Episcopal to continue to be both strong and thrive for generations to come. Her passion for our children's learning has become the catalyst for a path forward for our children that few of us could have imagined, and we will forever be grateful. We are very thankful that Martha has offered to stay on in a consulting role for the 2019-2020 school year to ensure a smooth transition as we finalize the partnership with Episcopal School of Jacksonville. We are eternally grateful for Martha's leadership over her tenure and look forward to celebrating her retirement at a later date.

We are also happy to announce the hiring of Jennifer Ketchum as our interim Head of School beginning July 1 for the 2019-2020 school year. Jennifer comes to us from Episcopal School of Jacksonville where she currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and most recently, the merger transition coordinator. Before joining the ESJ family, Jennifer spent nine years as the Principal at St. Peter School, *Pre-K4-Grade 8*, on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. Throughout this time, she led the school across many facets including academics, finance, operations, and school advancement. Because of Jennifer's leadership, the school also earned the prestigious *National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award*.

Jennifer has nearly 20 years of teaching experience in various roles and has served on many DC area boards as well as led district wide initiatives. Jennifer received a **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology** from Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ and a **Master of Arts in Teaching**, Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, MD.

She also received a **Master of Arts in Educational Administration** from The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.

I want to welcome Jennifer to the Beaches Episcopal School family and wish her the best of luck. She has both our confidence and support, and we are excited to have her at the helm as we continue our journey to a merged school with Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Respectfully Yours,

Brian J. Steffes
Chair, Beaches Episcopal Board of Trustees