



Dear Parents,

August 31, 2021

It is a pleasure to be writing this letter to you. One year ago, this letter outlined how our School would be incorporating the all in-person plan for teaching and learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Fortunately, we had (and have) more than adequate space to adhere to the COVID-19 health and safety precautions set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as well as by the state mandates. With the exception of some events that had to be cancelled, such as dances, alumni events, and the annual Junior/Senior trip, our teachers, staff, and students figured out ways to compensate for the losses. Many of the “compensations” were so inventive and creative, that we will incorporate several of them in our programming this year.

In our recent August 2021 Orientation Week for teachers and staff, we challenged ourselves to continue the theme of discussing and teaching the subject of “racism” and “antiracism” – a topic that will be pertinent for the foreseeable future. And given the amount of time and energy we have been spending on keeping our School in session, we encouraged ourselves to get back to the basics and focus on what each and every student needs academically and socially/emotionally in order to close any gaps that have occurred during the past 17 months, a large space of valuable time when considering the ages of our students.

What is most interesting about the substance of this focus is that it is what the Willow Hill School experience has always been. If you are a parent that is looking for a school that will appreciate your child’s learning style and will work diligently to expand their learning strategies, you are encouraged to become acquainted with our student profile, found under the “Admissions” tab of this website. Your child might well express that they do not like school and many of our students would say the same. However, most of our students do say that they want to come to Willow Hill. School is not easy when your learning style does not match the typical middle and high school profile. At our School, students with a specific

range of learning challenges are given the tools and time to be proficient students along with discovering new-found interests and talents that will give them confidence going forward into their future.

Because we are small, by design, with a maximum enrollment of 67 students, we typically only have between 15 and 20 openings per year. This means that with approximately 200 received applications per year, it is a select group of students that are admitted. Our Admissions Director, Tom Rimer, starts reviewing applications typically 12 months in advance of matriculation. Occasionally there are unexpected withdrawals that allow for mid-year admittance, albeit they are rare.

If you are considering our School for your child, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn G. Reid". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marilyn G. Reid
Head of School