

September 25, 2026

Dear Holland Hall Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are delighted to announce that Brent Kaneft has been named Holland Hall's 16th Head of School. He will begin his tenure on July 1, 2027, succeeding JP Culley.

Brent is an educator at heart. He brings a deep commitment to teaching and learning, intellectual curiosity, and a genuine belief in understanding how students learn best. He spent twelve years as an English teacher and department chair at Christ School in Asheville, N.C., earning Faculty of the Year in 2014, and later served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis. He continues to teach AP Literature today.

Brent currently serves as Head of School at Wilson Hall in Sumter, South Carolina, a PK3-12 independent school of approximately 860 students. Since becoming Head in January 2023, Brent led the school through remarkable growth, including record enrollment, expansion of the campus footprint, four major capital projects, and the school's first annual fund. He is equally engaged in the academic life of the school, training faculty in Mind, Brain, and Education research, establishing a Director of Research role to evaluate classroom practices, and contributing regularly to local news media, NAIS, and Intrepid Ed News about educational research and pedagogy.

Brent holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina, a master's degree from James Madison University, and a master's in educational leadership from Indiana University. In addition to his stellar academic credentials and track record as a thought leader on 21st century education, Brent has coached football and baseball, led rock climbing programs, and enjoys reading, writing, drumming, and vacationing with his family. He and his wife, Jess, have been married since 2010 and are the parents of four daughters, currently in 9th grade, 6th grade, 3rd grade and Kindergarten, all of whom will attend Holland Hall.

Earlier this month, many members of our community met the three finalist candidates on campus, and 373 parents, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and trustees provided detailed feedback to the Search Committee. The support for Brent's candidacy was strong across every constituent group. Feedback consistently praised his personal warmth, humor, and transparent communication style. His leadership reflects the qualities we value in our students: curiosity, engagement, thoughtful inquiry, and a willingness to listen and learn.

This announcement is the result of a thorough national search led by our Search Committee: Dennis Weikle (Chair), Hannah Beck, Roger Collins, Beth Goddard, Kulsum Siddiqui and Liz White, in partnership with Educators Collaborative and with the support of our Advisory Council. The Search Committee's recommendation of Brent was unanimous, and the Board's approval was also unanimous.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for our community to celebrate the Culley family and to recognize JP's many contributions to our school. In the meantime, we would like to reaffirm how grateful we are for JP's continued leadership and his commitment to leading our school through this transition. The Board has also approved a Transition Committee led by Liz White to ensure we provide all the resources that would be helpful for the Kaneft family in their move to Tulsa.

We are deeply grateful to the members of our Search Committee, Advisory Council, and community members who participated in the process. Their engagement and care for Holland Hall helped us arrive at this decision with confidence and excitement for what lies ahead.

With gratitude for your support and encouragement throughout this process,

Dennis Weikle
Chair, Search Committee
Holland Hall

Matthew Bristow
Chair, Board of Trustees
Holland Hall