



April 26, 2017

Dear Friends in the Japhet Community,

For more than 40 years, Japhet School has been fortunate to have been led by dedicated, exceptional individuals creating a place of learning and unequalled character education. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am writing to announce that Cathy Mohan, Japhet's Head of School, with joy and gratitude, has decided to retire at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Although this decision does not impact this – or even next – school year, we wanted to be as transparent as possible about this development.

Cathy has been a part of the Japhet family for nearly 30 years. She began as a teacher, added Director of Studies to her role, and has served as Head of School since 2005. Under her tenure, Japhet was named as a National School of Character and a Michigan Green School. She transitioned the school to its current home, oversaw a new 8-year Strategic Plan currently being implemented, and, most importantly, impacted the character education of not only 30 years of Japhet students, but also children attending public schools in Michigan.

Without a doubt, Cathy will be missed. She and her husband Joe, also retiring from his Technology/Facility/PE Teacher positions, have been such a fixture of Japhet's daily operations that these will be very big shoes to fill. We are very fortunate that Cathy has given us so much advance notice that we can plan for a comprehensive, international search for our next Head of School for the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.

A Search Committee has been established consisting of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and parents. This group will seek out and interview potential candidates before making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. We anticipate that there will be opportunities for the Japhet community to meet these candidates before the process concludes.

The Board of Trustees is very appreciative of Cathy's cooperation in the transition process. The critical and generous advance notice will allow for this to be as seamless as possible. As always, we Trustees value you and your opinions and feedback. I invite you to attend the upcoming Trustees, Administration, and Parents meeting on June 1st with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your time and for sharing your wonderful children with Japhet.

Best Regards,

Frank M. Edwards
President, Board of Trustees
Japhet School



April 26, 2017

Dear Japhet Families and Friends,

I am writing to share that on June 30, 2018, I will be retiring from Japhet School. At that time, I will have served Japhet for 30 years as an educator. I started as the Middle Class teacher, taught and worked as Director of Studies, and for the last thirteen years I have served as Head of School.

Japhet School is rooted in the support of a strong community of families, faculty, staff, trustees, and donors who embrace Japhet's mission and philosophy. I have been inspired by the commitment of this community as we moved into our own building in 2013 and created an 8-year Strategic Plan in 2015. I am confident that the school will continue to prosper with this plan in place, supported by the thoughtful leadership of our new Head of School.

I will be involved with the Search Committee and Trustees in the process of identifying a new Head of School. I value the process, and know that there will be opportunity for you to share your input.

It is not easy to leave a place to which my husband Joe and I are so deeply devoted, both professionally and personally. Japhet is a treasure. We also hold dear our farm in Avoca, and for many years we have dreamed and planned to one day explore life as farmers. This is the adventure that awaits us in 2018, along with spending time with our new grandson.

It is a privilege to share in Japhet's Journey and to work with this extraordinary community. Along with the class of 2018, I too will graduate from Japhet School next June. It is an event I cherish.

With gratitude,

Cathy Mohan
Head of School
Japhet School