



Leadership Update From: Head of School Eric Niles & Board Chair Jon Nickens

Dear Athenian Community:

As we move into the warmth of spring and towards planning for next year and beyond, I wanted to share the news that I have accepted a position of Head of School at The American School in Japan, starting in July of 2025.

It has been my great pleasure to serve Athenian's mission for fifteen years. I am filled with profound gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. I've witnessed Athenian's remarkable growth over the years while seeing the school successfully through a major and long overdue capital project and a global pandemic. With work on the school's 2021 Strategic Plan—Boldly Athenian—well underway, the time has come for a new leader to take the helm of this incredible school. Margaret and I are ready for our next adventure in Japan.

To our superb faculty and staff, I am greatly indebted. Watching our students be engaged and changed by Athenian's unique mission and program—brought to life by all of you—has been the greatest joy of my professional career. To our students, parents and alumni community, I thank you for your commitment to Athenian, and for all the joy and connection you have brought to me and my family in my time at Athenian.

I look forward to the time remaining with all of you and to serving the school as it prepares for the upcoming transition.

With warm regards,

Eric F. Niles
Head of School

Dear Athenian Community:

As you've read in the message above, our Head of School, Eric Niles, has accepted a position at The American School of Japan starting in July of 2025. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to extend our profound appreciation for Eric's impactful leadership throughout his long tenure.

Since joining us in 2009, Eric has been instrumental in raising the school's aspirations. From leading the school in its largest capital campaign in school history to overseeing the quick and safe return to in-person learning during COVID, Eric's leadership has been characterized by an optimism and dedication that has helped elevate the school's reputation and the student experience in innumerable ways.

In the coming weeks, the Board of Trustees will develop a plan and process for the Head of School search, engaging key stakeholders and informing the community along the way. In the meantime, we will continue to benefit from Eric's experience and leadership.

We are deeply grateful for his years of service and are committed to finding a leader who will uphold and advance the exceptional standards he has set for Athenian.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nickens
Chair, Board of Trustees

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