

HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL APPOINTS DR. MARY FRANCES BISSELLE 14TH HEAD OF SCHOOL

Introductory Letter from Dr. Mary Frances Bisselle:

October 2, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is a tremendous honor to become Hathaway Brown's 14th Head of School. HB's 140-year commitment to high academic achievement and to educating young women to become independent thinkers who value character and public service, and who are confident to be creative and socially conscious is closely connected to my core beliefs. It is a privilege to be invited to lead this inspiring school community, and my family and I are looking forward to being part of the next great chapter in the HB story!



In my visits to campus this past fall, I have met exceptional educators, sagacious Trustees, passionate alumnae, deeply caring parents, and immensely joyful students. Clearly, HB is a community that lives its mission daily and embraces the value of lifelong learning, engendering in girls (and Early Childhood boys!) a strong sense of independence, initiative, and unfettered intellectual pursuits. HB is recognized nationally for being an extraordinary girls' school, no doubt due in part to the excellent leadership of Bill Christ for the last 29 years. I am thrilled to carry the torch forward, and—together with the school's unrivaled faculty and administration—continue to light the way for future generations of students.

I have been so impressed with the poise and enthusiasm of the girls I met during my visits to HB, and I enjoyed hearing their astute observations and hopes for the future. It was great fun to join the school community last week and be immersed in the sisterhood, service, and spirit that define Legacy Day, and I so enjoyed seeing and interacting with the hundreds of families who gathered around the iconic fountain in the courtyard for the Hathaway Brown Parent Association's Light the Night picnic and celebration. I look forward to participating in many more HB traditions in the years to come. It is a tremendous honor to join a vibrant team dedicated to visionary teaching, thoughtful innovation, and learning for life.

For the past nine years, I have cherished each and every day at Maple Street School. Nestled in the Green Mountains of Vermont, Maple Street School unites academic excellence and joyful learning in very much the same way that HB does. In fact, both communities seek to be known as beacons of excellence that cultivate curiosity, and they both approach education with an eye toward innovation and bringing learning beyond the school doors. I will certainly miss my dear friends and my time in Vermont, but I can't wait to make HB my new home.

I'm so grateful for the faith that the HB Board of Trustees has placed in me. I look forward to meeting all of you and to embracing the energetic spirit of Hathaway Brown School.

Fondly,



Dr. Mary Frances Bisselle
Hathaway Brown Head of School Appointee