



March 11, 2020

Dear Lancaster Preschool Families,

It is with great delight that I write to tell you we've found the final piece of the puzzle for our new school. Since the decision to become an independent preschool, we've decided on a name, created a Board of Trustees, become a legal entity, applied for non-profit status, and now have our first Director. Last week the Board unanimously voted to invite Cathy Atkinson to become the first Director of the Lancaster Preschool and, better yet, she's accepted!

Cathy is an exceptional educator known to many of our teachers and families. She's taught at Caldwell Academy, Holy Trinity Preschool, and, most recently, St. Francis Preschool. Donni Lancaster approached Cathy to see if she would consider leading our school not long ago, but the timing was not right. Now it is, and we're blessed beyond words to have her coming to lead the school. Her experience and vision are just what we need, and her knowledge about curriculum will empower us to grow in countless ways.

I was asked to come help lead the transition to independence, and this appointment is a significant step in that direction. Once Cathy arrives on June 1, 2020, I will work with the Board to offer the support Cathy will need in her new role. In the meantime, Cathy will be around on Fridays to meet families and spend time with the teachers. She and her husband Bruce will also be with us on May 7<sup>th</sup> for the evening honoring Donni. We will also host a meet-and-greet event before the year's end.

I am grateful to all who brought Cathy to our attention, the Board for their wise and conscientious discernment, and to Cathy for agreeing to come lead us into a bright and exciting future.

Sincerely,

Chip Bristol