



CHARLES RIVER SCHOOL

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING, HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT.

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM GABE:

Dear Charles River School Community,

At the conclusion of my three-day visit to Charles River School in early May, I was picked up by an Uber driver in the parking lot. As the car pulled away, I craned my neck to get one last look at the campus. The driver's Spotify played Coldplay's ubiquitous pop song *Something Just Like This*:

*I want something just like this
I want something just like this
Ooh, I want something just like this
Doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo, doo, doo,*

By the time it got to the “doo-doo-doo” part, I was “doo-doo-dooing” along. The song captured my feelings... almost exactly. But not exactly. Because I didn't want to be part of something like Charles River School.

I wanted to be part of Charles River School.

And so I write to you today with deep gratitude. When I left campus soaring, I was certain that Charles River School is a perfect match for my values as an educator. I am honored to serve the community as the next Head of School.

This match was obvious the first time I read the mission statement. It was obvious on my campus tour when I saw the walls and hallways decorated with proud PreK/K self-portraits, the sixth-grade interdisciplinary “Times Ten” sculptures, and covers of fifth-grade books that allow each student to see a reflection of their own stories and identities while learning about experiences different from their own.

Every time I turned a corner or listened to another community member, my enthusiasm grew...

I was moved when faculty spoke about the children in their care – consistently holding students' needs at the center of their thinking.

I could feel the love and warmth of the community in the voices of parents, as they described why they chose CRS for their children.

I felt hopeful when I met with a group of students over lunch and saw that, at Charles River School, academic excellence holds hands with the joy of childhood all the way to age 14. Their combination of curiosity, empathy, and optimism is exactly what our world needs right now.

For my wife Rebecca and me, CRS also aligns with our hopes for our own young children. This is not a school where students simply acquire knowledge and skills to use for their own self-interest; it is a shining example of what is possible in progressive education—a community where students build skills and are empowered to use them to “shape the future of a diverse world.”

I am so fortunate to be passed the baton from Gretchen Larkin, and I am grateful for her leadership. Education is a relay race, and we will continue to feel the wind at our backs thanks to her work. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees for their thoughtful stewardship of Charles River School.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Search Committee for the grace and care with which they led the search process. I want to thank them, the Board of Trustees, the administrative team, faculty, staff, families, alumni, and students for already making my family feel so welcome in our new school home.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

With gratitude,
Gabe