



Franklin Academy

BELONG | GROW | SUCCEED

November 2, 2023

Dear Franklin Friends and Supporters,

Twenty-one years ago, I stood on the campus of what was about to become Franklin Academy. I remember it as if it were yesterday. Now, twenty-one years later, as a parent of two very successful Franklin alums and as chair of the board of trustees, I once again stand at the threshold of the next chapter in this remarkable school's history.

With great pleasure and excitement, I announce the appointment of our new Head of School, Alex Morris-Wood, who will begin his tenure on July 1, 2024.

Alex is a highly regarded national expert in neurodiversity research and advocacy. He is currently the Vice President of Program Development and Global Partnerships at Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida. Beacon College is the first four-year accredited college in the nation to award bachelor's degrees to students with ADHD, dyslexia, ASD, and other related learning differences. In this role, Alex is responsible for developing auxiliary programs and curricula, conducting nationwide professional development, and strengthening Beacon's brand through strategic initiatives. In his career ascent to the Vice Presidency at Beacon, Alex served as Dean of Admissions, Transition Services, and Outreach. He re-designed the wrap-around model for the first-year college experience and developed seven college readiness programs, now serving nearly 2,000 students globally. Alex has led Beacon through five years of record enrollment and is a sought-after speaker on outcomes for students with learning disabilities in the US and internationally.

In addition to his deep understanding of Franklin Academy's student profile, Alex brings extensive expertise in curricular development, student experience, training and professional development of educators, and cutting-edge strategic initiatives and programming. His passion, commitment, and exciting vision for Franklin Academy have deep roots. Before Beacon College, Alex spent ten years at Franklin Academy in various roles, including Director of Transition Services and Assistant Dean of Students. He was instrumental in designing and implementing the Franklin Academy College Transition Support program, a nationwide advising model aimed at helping graduates with learning differences navigate college. Indeed, he credits his time at Franklin Academy as being so influential to his success in the field he is eager to give back to the community that launched his career. We are confident that under the leadership of Alex Morris-Wood, Franklin Academy will continue to thrive and grow in new and exciting ways!

Franklin's Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to Fred Weissbach and Tom Hays, who will be retiring at the end of this school year. Please join us in wishing them well!

Sincerely,

Belinda Brennan,
Chair, Franklin Academy Board of Trustees