



## AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 12, 2023

Dear SEM Community,

I write today to announce that I will retire as Head of Buffalo Seminary in June 2024. This is not a decision made lightly. I love my job and the opportunity to work with everyone associated with SEM. Over the years, I have been honored to work with remarkable and committed trustees on our Board. They have supported me and my vision in countless ways. SEM students are curious, kind, and talented; the faculty is brilliant and passionate about their work; the administrative team and staff are thoughtful and unbelievably hard-working; the parents are committed and engaged; and SEM graduates care deeply about the school and contribute to their communities throughout the world.

Leaving a school that has become so much a part of me is not easy. It is hard to imagine that in June 2024, I will complete my 43rd year in independent school education and my 17th at SEM. The time has flown by, and I will miss the anticipation of walking into school each morning, wondering what will amaze me today. I was never disappointed. Yet personally, I know the time will be right for my family and me. Throughout my career, I have been lucky to have the support of my extended family and my husband, which allowed me to advance my dreams. I want to provide the same support to my children as they pursue their professional and personal dreams. I also imagine more time to read, play the games I love, and find new opportunities to engage with young people.

I am energized for the next 18 months and look forward to welcoming the next Head of School. SEM will forever hold a place in my heart.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen L. Marlette".

Helen L. Marlette P'13  
Head of School

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January 12, 2023

Dear SEM Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am writing to announce that Head of School Helen L. Marlette recently shared with us her intention to retire in June 2024. We are immensely grateful for Helen's outstanding leadership and dedication to SEM and look forward to celebrating her legacy with all of you over the next 18 months.

During her tenure as SEM's Head of School, Helen led our community with remarkable vision, expertise, and humanity. She has cultivated a passionate, dedicated, and generous faculty that she proudly identifies as the finest group of educators with whom she has ever worked. She led the school extraordinarily well through the unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic while carefully balancing health and safety with SEM's extremely high standards of education.

Helen is a leader who personifies our school's values and highest aspirations. She is driven by doing what is best for SEM above all else. By giving the Board ample notice of her retirement, she ensured that the transition in leadership will be thoughtful and measured, and we are excited for what lies ahead.

Trustee Jennifer Gress P'23 P'26 is chair of the search committee. After a thorough process, the Board retained the professional expertise of Storbeck Search, a nationally recognized firm specializing in the recruitment of Heads of Schools and leaders of undergraduate institutions. Together with the search committee and with participation from the entire SEM community, the Board of Trustees will appoint a new Head of School ready to take on leadership in July 2024.

Leadership transition is an exciting time for any school, and we will keep you continually informed. Please look for emails and communications from us over the coming months. As members of the SEM community, your input and involvement will be critical as we choose the school's next leader.

We look forward to celebrating Helen's tenure with all of you while we plan for SEM's future, building on the exceptionally strong foundation of our almost 175 year-old school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bowen Smith".

Kate Bowen Smith '92, P'23  
Chair, Board of Trustees