

# Marlborough

July 21, 2016

Dear Members of the Marlborough Community,

As we communicated to you earlier this year, an important conversation surrounding issues of diversity and inclusivity, specifically as it relates to the path of transgender students, has been taking place at Marlborough. Although this is largely new territory for parents, children, doctors, and schools, we have begun our exploration—as we do all issues related to our students—from a place of caring, compassion, and empathy.

Just as Marlborough is committed to supporting its diverse and inclusive community, the school remains steadfastly dedicated to the philosophy that academic excellence, leadership, and confidence flourish best in an environment devoted to the education of girls. For 126 years, Marlborough has served as a model of educational distinction, bolstered by its mission of inspiring and empowering its students as they grow into confident, competent, and compassionate young women. As their needs evolve in today's changing and dynamic world so too will our school, but our mission will not change.

To help determine the best way to create a safe and supportive environment for all Marlborough students—while also holding true to the guiding principles that define our mission and community—a Task Force of parents, teachers, administrators, alumnae, and trustees has been working diligently to make recommendations regarding best practices for admissions, enrollment, and the ongoing student experience. In addition to a thorough examination and evaluation of the practices of other institutions and organizations, members of the Task Force also attended a symposium on creating safe schools for gender non-conforming children and transgender youth, as well as a National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) workshop on the unique considerations that exist within a single-sex educational community.

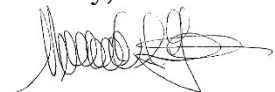
The Board of Trustees has endorsed the following Task Force recommendation, which is consistent with those of most NCGS member schools. This recommendation, as well as the academic, community, and graduation requirements and rules governing all Marlborough students, will apply to students enrolled after July 21, 2016:

- As it relates to admissions, Marlborough will continue to consider any student who identifies as female.
- Should a Marlborough student in 7th-10th grade no longer identify as female, the student would no longer meet the school's enrollment criteria. The school will work with the student and the family to facilitate a move to a more fitting educational environment at the end of the school year during which the student begins to no longer identify as female.
- Should a Marlborough student no longer identify as female in 11th grade, the school will use a case-by-case approach with each student.
- Should a Marlborough student no longer identify as female in 12th grade, the student will be allowed to continue enrollment through graduation.

The Task Force reached its conclusions after significant thought and consideration for our students, our school, and Marlborough's ongoing mission. Our most important charge is the well-being of the 530 young women entrusted to our care each year, and every decision we make is guided by our unwavering commitment to their academic and personal development.

Thank you for being partners with us on this important work, and for your continued support of our school and students.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Gendler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "S".

Michael S. Gendler  
President, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Sands". The signature is cursive and includes a large initial "P".

Dr. Priscilla Sands  
Head of School