



Sullins Academy

A Special Announcement

Dear Sullins Community,

The Board of Directors of Sullins Academy is pleased to announce the selection of **Christopher J. Rehm** as our next Head of School beginning July 1, 2014. Mr. Rehm comes to Sullins Academy from Boyce, Virginia. Most recently, he served as Associate Head of School/Academic Dean at Middleburg Academy and as Director of Residence Life for the Blue Ridge School, an all-boys boarding school in St. George, VA. Mr. Rehm majored in both History and Business Operations/Information Technology at the College of William and Mary, holds a Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia, and is currently nearing the completion of his coursework for a Ph.D. in Strategic Leadership Studies through James Madison University.

This selection is the result of an extensive, six-month national search which was conducted by a seven-member Head of School Search Committee in conjunction with our outside search firm, Southern Teachers Agency. The committee selected four finalists, each of whom was invited to Sullins Academy for interview sessions with the Search Committee and with advisory panels consisting of parents, grandparents/alumni, faculty, staff and students. Mr. Rehm received the Search Committee's unanimous recommendation to the Board of Directors. Following further review of Mr. Rehm's credentials, experiences, and references, as well as a subsequent full-day interview session, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Rehm to the position.

In selecting Mr. Rehm as the next Head of School for Sullins Academy, the Board of Directors has chosen a leader with a true passion for education and learning. His immediate and perceptible connections with the Sullins students and community, his high level of energy and enthusiasm, combined with his resume of accomplishments, were seen by our directors as an immediate fit for our school's mission and values.

The Sullins Board is also pleased to announce that our Interim Head of School, Dr. Ronald P. Sykes, has agreed to continue his leadership and work with Sullins by remaining for a year in the role of President. In this role, he will be responsible for managing the external affairs of the school, including development, admissions and marketing, and for maintaining the momentum for initiatives in these areas that have already been undertaken. The Board believes that the partnership of Mr. Rehm and Dr. Sykes working together for the next year will help ensure a smooth transition, allow for a significantly increased pace of accomplishment and promote the continued success of Sullins Academy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank the members of the Head of School Search Committee, our consultants at Southern Teachers Agency, the leadership of our past Board and Past-Chair Kaye Crutchfield, and all of the members of our Sullins community who have contributed greatly to the search process. We laud all who were involved for their commitment and dedication to the integrity of the search process.

We thank you again for your continued support of Sullins Academy and ask you to join us in welcoming the Rehm family to our community.

Courtney Cavatoni, Chairman
Sullins Academy Board of Directors

Suzanne Senter, Chairman
Head of School Search Committee

An Introduction to Christopher J. Rehm

For the past thirteen years, Mr. Rehm has participated in education as a teacher, coach, advisor, dorm parent, consultant and administrator. For the past eight of these years, he has focused on leading school-wide improvements and initiating effective programs that highlight and integrate the values and culture of the schools. Mr. Rehm loves working in school administration, because it allows him to enhance the effectiveness of his faculty colleagues, which in turn increases the value of the education they are providing their students. In particular, he appreciates how independent schools value the professionalism and expertise of their faculty while forming close relationships with students and families.

Mr. Rehm has designed curriculum and co-curricular programs, coordinating these efforts across departments and divisions. He has developed and led student leadership development programs and focused his doctoral studies around this work. He has managed large budgets and successfully worked with parents while forging relationships with key constituencies for the school. He has a background in technology and enjoys catering programs to the 21st century student.

Through his education, training and professional experiences, Mr. Rehm has a history of combining the best practices of business and education with his passion for working with students to train the leaders of tomorrow. In previous administrative positions, Mr. Rehm crafted programs based on best practice, research and feedback while honoring tradition. He is energized by the pursuit of excellence.

Mr. Rehm's educational philosophy values the whole child taught within a community, including academics, athletics, character, service and global citizenry. Mr. Rehm has a keen sense of the educational outcomes necessary to prepare students for success in secondary school and beyond.

Mr. Rehm grew up in rural Virginia and moved to Charlottesville in high school where he met his wife, Sasha. They are the parents of three children, Caleb (7), Lily (5) and Avery Ann (2) and look forward to raising their family in the Sullins Academy community.

"For nearly 50 years, Sullins Academy has focused on academic excellence while nurturing the moral character of its students. In addition to these foundational tenants of the school, my family and I were attracted to the warmth of the faculty, parents and students. Also, the area's natural beauty and cultural values fit with our outdoor and family-focused lifestyle. I feel blessed, humbled and honored to be the next Head of School at Sullins Academy, and I look forward to embracing this wonderful community to lead the school into the future."

- Christopher J. Rehm

"I am excited to continue my work at Sullins Academy for the next year in the role of President. I look forward to the entire Sullins community getting to know and love the Rehm family. Chris Rehm will be a dynamic and visionary leader for the school and I am confident the future of Sullins Academy is one of excellence in elementary and middle school education."

- Dr. Ronald Sykes, Interim Head of School

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