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July 6, 2026

Dear St. Stephen's Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of St. Stephen's School, I am pleased to welcome Maria Nunes as the new Head of School. She officially joined St. Stephen's on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

Maria has arrived in Rome directly from New York City, where she has just completed her term as Upper School Division Head at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, NY. While at Packer, Maria built a culture and student experience where consistently high expectations were paired with thoughtful support for every student. As a gifted communicator, she fostered strong, caring relationships with students, faculty, and families alike, creating a community in which every member felt valued and challenged.

Although her tenure at St. Stephen's officially commenced this week, Maria has already devoted a significant amount of time during recent months working with the Board of Trustees, meeting with lead administrators at the school, and spending several weeks on campus talking with students and visiting classrooms. Her willingness to engage proactively with the school before her official start date reflects her passion for what she does – Maria has already demonstrated her commitment to building relationships, her intellectual curiosity, and her thoughtful approach to leadership. We are fortunate that she is joining St. Stephen's as our new Head.

Maria succeeds Jill Swisher Muti, who is retiring after 4 years as Head of St. Stephen's and a 40-year career in education.

Under Jill's leadership St. Stephen's has flourished and, as a result, is well prepared to meet the challenges that might lie ahead. Jill has worked tirelessly over her four years at St. Stephen's to strengthen the educational program offered to our students, support and develop our outstanding administrators and faculty, and expand the overall St. Stephen's experience in innovative new ways. Of particular note is the impact her vision has had on the physical spaces of the school – renovating classrooms, opening the Collegio, reinvigorating the Cortile. Recognizing the school's ongoing space constraints, Jill also recently helped secure additional auxiliary space at the Istituto Nazareth in Prati, creating greater flexibility to support the school's evolving needs.

The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to Jill for her years of dedicated leadership of St. Stephen's and wishes her all the best as she steps into her future.

Over the summer, Maria will fully transition into her new role. She and Jill began this process many months ago, and the school is fortunate to benefit from their dedicated partnership – a professionally executed transition is invaluable to any educational institution and will ensure that Maria opens the school this fall well prepared for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Maria is stepping into the role as Head of St. Stephen's at an exciting moment – the school has never been stronger, and she is eager to build on this strong foundation and lead St. Stephen's into its next chapter.

I am very pleased to welcome Maria Nunes to St Stephen's School and anticipate an exciting and inspiring year ahead for all.

Sincerely,

Libby Morris

Chair of the Board of Trustees