



Dear Seven Hills Families and Friends,

As I do each year at this time, I am writing to notify you about the upcoming Annual Corporation Meeting and to provide the annual report on the State of the School that is required by our charter.

The Corporation Meeting

We will host the Annual Meeting of the members of the Corporation of The Seven Hills School in the new Middle School Building on **Wednesday, April 17, 6:00-6:20 p.m.** At the meeting, Board of Trustees Chair Lair Kennedy and I will each give a brief report on the State of the School. We will also present for election a slate of trustee candidates proposed by the Board's Nominating Committee.

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, please email andi.guess@7hills.org. If you are unable to attend, you may also vote by proxy. Attached is a proxy for your use. Please print it out, sign it, and send it to the school. In the one attachment, you will find both the slate of trustee candidates and the proxy form.

For those unable to attend the meeting, here's an overview of our report for 2023-24.

State of the School Report

Enrollment Gains

We began the 2023-24 school year with enrollment of 1,044 students, down a little from last year, but up approximately 4% from just four years ago. Again this year, Seven Hills retained over 95% of its students, one of the highest retention rates among the nation's independent schools.

Academic Results

As usual, our students' scores on each of the AP courses we offer were well above those of college-bound students both in Ohio and across the country. Last May, 189 seniors, juniors, and sophomores took a total of 421 college-level Advanced Placement exams. A phenomenal 93% of those exams yielded college-qualifying scores of 3 or higher. In addition, 104 students were named AP Scholars, scoring 3 or above on 3 or more AP exams. At this year's regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, over 200 Seven Hills students earned recognition, and 27 students won "Gold Keys," qualifying for the national competition. In the critical essay category alone, 20 of the 23 (87%) of the top prizes in our three-state region went to Seven Hills students.

Strategic Program Initiatives

Guided by the Strategic Plan of 2019, now in its fifth (and final) implementation year, Seven Hills continues to make significant investments in broadening and strengthening its educational program.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

In addition to substantial new investments in instructional technology, the 2024-25 budget helps sustain our Lower Schools' innovative math and science programs, fund the school's six makerspaces (Doherty's *Creation Studio*, Lotspeich's *Project Math* program, the Middle School's *Innovation Lab*, and the Upper School's three new Engineering and Robotics Labs), and support a vast array of elective courses in science, mathematics, computer, engineering and robotics.

Mental Health and Learning Support

Seven Hills is proud to serve students with a wide array of learning styles, and like schools around the nation, we have also seen a significant rise in students struggling with mental health challenges. To address these challenges, recent budgets have funded additional guidance counselors and learning specialists. The 2024-25 budget provides new funds for faculty training in how to differentiate learning to meet the needs of a wide variety of learners.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Consistent with our commitment to providing a warm, inclusive school community, the new budget includes additional resources for professional training in culturally responsive pedagogies. It also helps underwrite the costs associated with student leadership training, affinity groups, and community-building events.

Experiential Learning

Each year, Seven Hills makes an extraordinary commitment to off-campus, experiential learning, including a myriad of grade-level field trips in the lower grades; overnight trips in grades four through nine; extensive travel experiences in Middle and Upper School associated with classes in theater, music, art, world language, and science; as well as the May Terms and service learning and Civic Engagement trips. Next year's budget helps fund the rapidly escalating costs of these valuable experiences which guide students beyond their comfort zones, help them develop responsibility and self-confidence, and foster closer ties with their classmates and their teachers.

Fine and Performing Arts

The new budget addresses the increasing costs of mounting large scale theatrical productions in The Schiff Center as well as the expansion of Arts Alive, a school-wide celebration of the arts.

Athletics

Consistent with our commitment to no-cut athletics, Seven Hills fields 106 athletic teams, in 15 sports, involving 70 coaches. The new budget helps sustain this wide array of offerings, including an expanded Middle and Upper squash program and expanded team options in our Lower Schools.

Facilities Enhancements

Over the last nine years, Seven Hills has invested more than \$40 million in new facilities. Extensive renovations to Haile and Jones Halls at Doherty (2016, 2023) and the construction of The Taft Early Childhood Center (2015) and the Middle School (2022) have helped support the innovative, inquiry-based learning that defines our academic program. The addition of The Lower Fields Complex (2015), a new four-court

field house (2019), 10 new tennis courts (2017, 2022), and four new squash courts (2024) have enriched the breadth and scope our athletic program. And The Schiff Center (2019), including the 497-seat Johnson Auditorium, has provided an inspiring venue for dozens of annual fine and performing arts events as well as a new alumni speaker series. All of this new construction has also made it possible to modernize and repurpose several existing spaces, including the Donovan Arts Center, the Hillsdale Commons, and the Young Family Library, to help sustain the warm and inclusive culture of the Seven Hills community.

In short, 2023-24 has been another busy and productive year, and by any conceivable measure, Seven Hills is in extremely strong shape.

As always, I deeply appreciate the confidence you have expressed in our leadership team, our faculty and staff, and our students. On behalf of the faculty and staff and all of our students, I want to thank you for your active interest and continuing involvement in Seven Hills. You are a big part of all we have achieved!

Warmly,



Christopher P. Garten
Head of School

April, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Corporation of The Seven Hills School will be held in the **Middle School** on the Hillsdale Campus, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. Election of Trustees.
2. Reports from the Head of School and Officers of the Board.
3. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

As in the past, members may vote by proxy as well as in person. Below is a proxy for your use and you are urged to print it out, sign it and send it to the School, even if you contemplate attending the meeting in person.

PROXY

The undersigned member of the Corporation of The Seven Hills School hereby makes, constitutes and appoints Stephen J. Baggott and Christopher P. Garten, or either of them, her/his proxy and attorney-in-fact to represent her/him and vote in her/his name and take any other actions on her/his behalf at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation to be held on April 17, 2024.

Signed _____

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Signed _____

THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
The following persons are offered by the Nominating Committee*
as candidates for election to three-year terms expiring in 2027

Kimberly Jackson

_____ B.A., Bowling Green State University; B.S., Northern Kentucky University
City of Cincinnati, Department of Transportation & Engineering
Current Activities: Treasurer of SNAAP; Member, DEI Committee; Member, Nominating &
Governance Committee
Former Activities: Co-chair of SNAAP; Member, TSHS Strategic Planning Committee
Children currently attending TSHS: Saxon Lackey, 11th grade, and Savoy Lackey graduated in 2021

David Maxwell

_____ B.A, Hamilton College
Vice President, Surgical Appliance Industries
Children currently attending TSHS: Andrew, 2nd grade at Doherty, George, 6th grade, and
Henry, 7th grade

Alana Pepper

_____ B.S., University of Cincinnati; M.P.A., Northern Kentucky University
Current Activities: Board Member, University of Cincinnati's College of Arts & Sciences
Advisory Board and Scholarship & Retention Subcommittee; Member, Cincinnati Animal
CARE Humane Society; Member, TSHS Annual Giving Committee; Member, Cincinnati
Zoo Visitor Engagement Committee
Former Activities: Volunteer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House
Children currently attending TSHS: Charlie, 1st grade, and Jack, 4th grade, at Lotspeich

Rachel Rowe

_____ J.D., University of Cincinnati, College of Law; B.A., Miami University
Partner & Chair of Mass tort & Insurance Coverage Practice Group, Keating Muethling &
Klekamp (KMK Law)
Current Activities: Board & Nominating Committee Member, Cincinnati Bar Association; Board
of Visitors, UC College of Law; Volunteer Juvenile Court Magistrate, Hamilton County, Ohio
Children currently attending TSHS: Atti, 6th grade

Max Schimberg '09

_____ B.A., University of Arizona
Director of Construction, Uptown Rentals
Current Activities: Member of The Seven Hills School Facilities Committee; Director, The
Schimberg Family Foundation

Samir Shah, MD, MSCE, MHM

_____ B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.D., Yale University Medical School

Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs and Education, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical, and CCHMC Endowed Chair

Current Activities: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Hospital Medicine*; Member, American Academy of Pediatric Committee on Infectious Diseases; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Meningococcal Vaccines Workgroup member, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Children currently attending TSHS: Anika, 6th grade, Avani, 10th grade, and Siddharth, 12th grade

Priya Shahani

_____ B.A, Miami University

Realtor, OwnerLand Realty Co.

Current Activities: classroom volunteer, The Seven Hills School

Children currently attending TSHS: Emerson & Nikhil, 3rd grade at Lotspeich, and Lila Edmunds-Shahani, 6th grade

Kelli Stein

_____ B.B.A., Texas A&M University

Active Community Volunteer, Former Management Consultant, Finance and Employee Transformation

Current Activities: Committee Chair, TSHS Development Committee; Board Member & Committee Chair, Women Helping Women; Gala Committee Member, Alzheimer's Association; Member, Cincinnati Country Club Women's Committee

Former Activities: President, TSHS Parent Community Board; Chair, Upper School Parent Community, Former Co-Chair, TSHS Middle School Parent Community; Former Chair, Doherty Silent Auction; Former Sunday Salon Host, Women Helping Women; Former Gala Committee Member, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Children currently attending TSHS: Nicholas, 11th grade

Anna Topalidis

_____ B.S., Eastern Michigan University

Former lecturer, Eastern Michigan University

Current Activities: Member, TSHS Program Committee; Ex-Officio Chair, Lotspeich Parent Community; President, Kindervelt 50

Former Activities: Member & Chair, TSHS Lotspeich Parent Community; Volunteer, Girls on the Run

Children currently attending TSHS: Mako, 3rd grade & Stamatia, 5th grade, at Lotspeich and Bobby, 6th grade

Governance & Nominating Committee:

Meredith Ficks (Chair) (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Karen Callard '80 (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Former Parent)

Peter Cha (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Christopher P. Garten (Head of School)

Kimberly Jackson (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Margo Kirstein (Director of Development)

Lair Kennedy (Chair, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Pretty Patel (Ex-Officio Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Alana Pepper (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

John Schneider (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Kelli Stein (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)

Heather Vecellio '92 (Member, TSHS Board of Trustees; Current Parent)