



## RIVERSIDE

*Presbyterian Day School*

November 8, 2016

### **Riverside Presbyterian Day School Names Ben Ketchum As Next Head of School**

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) and its Board of Trustees announced today that Mr. Ben Ketchum has been named Riverside's next Head of School effective July 1, 2017. Mr. Ketchum was unanimously selected.

Ben Ketchum is currently the Director of the Upper Division and Outplacement at National Presbyterian School (NPS), a Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade private school in Washington, D.C. Ben will succeed Riverside's current Headmaster, H. Palmer Bell, who will retire in June 2017 after nine years at RPDS.

"The Board embarked on this Head of School search process from a position of strength, thanks to Palmer's leadership and the strong administrative and academic foundation he has created. We believe Ben is the perfect person to further this success based on his passion for educating the whole child and commitment to continual improvement, which will allow RPDS and its students to continue to thrive in the future," said Scott Verlander, President of the RPDS Board of Trustees.

Ben is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he earned his B.A. in Economics, as well as his M.A. in Educational Administration. He also holds a M.A. in Teaching from the University of Portland. Ben is currently enrolled in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Fellowship for Aspiring Heads of School.



**Mr. Ben Ketchum**

Ben began his teaching career in 1997 as a 5th Grade homeroom teacher at Holy Rosary School in Jacksonville. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to teach 3rd Grade at St. Ann's Academy and was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2004. In 2006, Ben was appointed Assistant Principal at St. Ann's, a position he held for a year. Ketchum later served as Principal of Holy Redeemer Catholic School (PreK – 8th Grade) in Washington, D.C. from 2007 – 2010 before moving to his current role at NPS.

"The opportunity to work alongside a passionate, driven, and cohesive faculty was significant in my decision to join the Riverside school community as Head of School. Equally compelling was the strong sense of community and school focus on celebrating childhood in an engaging and vibrant academic setting," said Ben Ketchum.

Throughout his career, Ben has been recognized as a highly motivated and collaborative leader with excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Above all, he is student centered, respectful, patient, empathetic and sensitive to the needs of children from all backgrounds and ability levels.

"Selecting Ben as our next Head of School was a unanimous decision by our search committee and Board of Trustees. We believe Ben's integrity and natural ability to promote a positive school culture aligns perfectly with our school's educational philosophy. His character embodies our school's mission which will preserve a unique and special community for our children," said John-Paul Saenz, Chair of the Head of School Search Committee.