



## Announcement from the MCA Board of Directors

January 9, 2024

Dear members of the MCA community,

On behalf of the MCA Board of Directors, we are excited to announce Dr. Carla Haith has been selected as the newest Mother Caroline Academy Head of School, effective July 1, 2024.

Dr. Haith stands out as a highly seasoned educational leader within the Greater Boston region. With an impressive track record spanning over two decades, she brings a wealth of experience from both the public and independent school sectors. She has held teaching roles at Mattahunt Elementary School in Boston and The Chestnut Hill School. Currently, she holds a leadership role as the Head of Lower School at Dedham Country Day School (DCD), where she oversees 15 direct reports serving 156 Lower School students. Throughout her tenure there she made great strides in diversifying both the student body and staff of the Lower School, bringing in more families of color and recruiting male teachers.



She received a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education from Clark Atlanta University with Magna Cum Laude honors, a Masters in Education from Lesley University and most recently earned her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, she is a 2023 graduate of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads, which has certainly prepared her for this milestone career moment. She defines herself as a passionate educator who believes that all students can learn with the right support in place to help them thrive.

During Carla's school visit, it became evident that she has a profound passion for educating young girls and is highly motivated by the mission of Mother Caroline, having grown up across the street from the school. She shared her commitment to form a cohesive school community while continuing to build a well-rounded competitive girls education. We believe this is the perfect formula to strengthen and amplify the MCA story in the years to come. In making this choice, the Board has found a confident, warm, collaborative leader who recognizes the MCA "magic", and will help to continue to create a "best in class" girls education in the City of Boston for the next 30 years.

From a personal perspective, Carla is a proud member of the Boston Alumni chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, a national collegiate sorority with a mission to uplift the community through sisterhood, scholarship, and service. She is a committed Trustee of Project Step, a music program that provides comprehensive music and string instrument instruction to children of color who are aspiring musicians. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, mentoring young people, and engaging in sports as a certified basketball official. Carla is extremely proud of the professional partnerships she has formed with the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) and



the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) both locally and nationally. She is a regular speaker at the NAIS People of Color Conference where she most recently led a presentation titled Beyond Allyship, which provided practical strategies for shifting from allies to co-conspirators to move the work forward while strengthening partnerships.

Selecting a Head of School is among the most important duties of the Board of Directors and we are deeply grateful for our Search Committee and the entire MCA community who participated in the process. We are also thankful for our search partners at Storbeck Diversified Search Group and to all of you - faculty, staff, alumni, students, parents/caretakers, and friends of MCA who engaged in the head of school selection process. You all generously gave of your time and provided valuable insights along the way. Thank you.

We will take advantage of the fact that Carla is local and will begin to introduce her to the MCA community in the Spring. Stay tuned for more information as we outline an introduction plan.

As we look forward to welcoming Carla to Mother Caroline next July, we are also deeply grateful to Annmarie Quezada for her exceptional leadership of MCA over the past six years. She will continue to lead our school through June 2024 and support a smooth transition.

I'll end with Carla's quote from her biography:

*In the words of Norman Vincent Peale, her hope is for every child to "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you'll land amongst the stars!"*

Please join me in welcoming Carla to the MCA constellation!

*Essence Lee Souffrant*

Board Chair, MCA Board of Directors

#### **Head of School Search Committee**

Laurie Bevier, *Search Committee Co-Chair*

Essence Lee Souffrant, *Search Committee Co-Chair & Board Chair*

Meg Tallon, *Search Committee Co-Chair & Governance Chair*

Matt Engler, *Board Treasurer*

Miriam Alves, *Class of 2001*

Annya Haughton-Washburn

Ellen Segal



## **Message from Dr. Carla Haith**

Dear Mother Caroline Academy Community,

I am very excited to be the next Head of School of Mother Caroline Academy. This feels like a true homecoming because I spent a lot of my formative years directly across the street from MCA as my grandmother lived there during my childhood. As a child I had the desire to attend the school, however, I didn't have the opportunity because I was in high school when the school initially opened. The passion and commitment from the Board of Directors, faculty and staff, as well as the alumni was evident throughout my interview process. During my visit I enjoyed my time speaking with the current 8th grade girls and the MCA alum. I was drawn to the mission and the conversations that I had about how to strengthen community partnerships and eventually expand the community. Mother Caroline Academy is an amazing institution uniquely dedicated to empowering girls and their families to achieve generational growth and development and I am excited to lead a school that holds true to its mission!

After a full day on campus at MCA it further solidified my desire to lead and be a part of a great community. I am honored to be the next Head of School, and I look forward to joining and serving the Mother Caroline family.

Best,  
Dr. Carla Haith