



April 13, 2022

Dear St. George Community,

The St. George Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Thor Kvande as our next Interim Head of School, beginning July 1, 2022. Mr. Kvande's appointment follows the overwhelming endorsement from many constituents in our school community, the unanimous recommendation of the interim head of school search committee, and the unanimous approval of the board of directors.

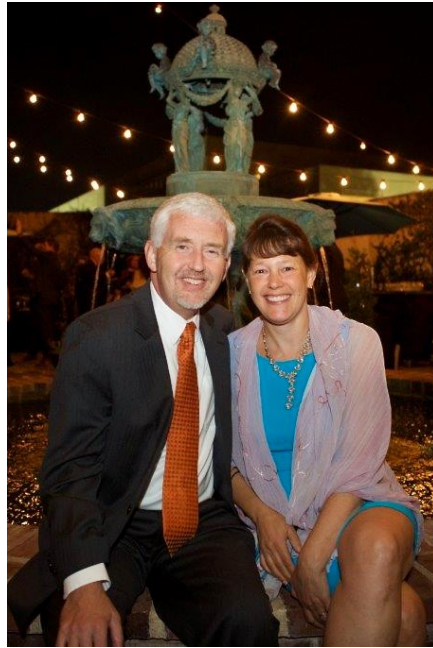
Mr. Kvande brings years of experience in an Episcopal school environment, as both a Head of School and Director of Middle School. He not only has significant leadership experience but direct teaching experience which will be beneficial to our community as we enter into our new chapter in the school's history. Mr. Kvande's commitment to building relationships with purpose, joy and understanding, as well as developing the next generation of academically-prepared servant leaders, aligns directly with our community mission and spirit.

Please join the board in welcoming Mr. Kvande and his wife Dawn to the SGES Family!

Sincerely,

Lindsay C Blanton III
SGES Board - President

Introducing Thor Kvande



Thor Kvande is an experienced head of school, a former middle school head, a seasoned upper school director, a successful history and French teacher, and an educational leader who possesses a wealth of teaching, coaching, and administrative experiences in Episcopal, independent, and private schools. Mr. Kvande received his M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Delaware and his B.A. in History and Teaching Certification from Muhlenberg College. In addition, Thor has coached cross country and track, and holds an E Level Soccer coaching license.

Thor will be joining St. George Episcopal School from Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School in Memphis, TN, a coeducational day school serving children, ages 2 through grade 8. Thor served Grace-St. Luke's for 18 years, beginning as a middle school administrator before serving for 11 years as Head of School following a national search. His legacy at Grace-St. Luke's has been filled with numerous commendations, including the school's accreditation and re-accreditation, growth in student enrollment (including representation of students/families of color), successful strategic planning, increased fundraising, the addition of new classrooms, and the growth of the faculty and staff. He has been responsible not only for the day-to-day operations, the school's budget, student discipline, admissions, academic scheduling, hiring and evaluation of faculty, but has also been instrumental in the cohesive and successful oversight of the school's strong academic program and the strong relationship created between the church, school, and the Scouting programs.

Prior to his work at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School, Mr. Kvande was the Upper School Director at St. John's Episcopal School in Olney, MD, a teacher and coach at The Independence School in Newark, DE, and a teacher and coach at Woodland Country Day School in Bridgeton, NJ.

Mr. Kvande has led and participated in numerous workshops at independent and professional organizations. His interests in travel have resulted in numerous experiential student opportunities and the chaperoning of annual student trips. In addition, his work with student athletics, including the founding of a private school soccer league, has earned him high marks. Thor is also a veteran of the school accreditation and self-study process, where he has served as a member of Middle States accreditation teams and worked closely in the area of curriculum review and oversight.

Dear St. George Community,

I am thrilled and humbled to be called to serve as the Interim Head of School at St. George Episcopal School. It was clear to me even from early conversations with the Search Committee that St. George is not only a vibrant academic community, but also a place of incredible warmth and care. As those conversations continued, my impressions were deepened and reinforced, and my recent visit to campus was tremendously exciting. The sense of purpose and community spirit was palpable with each person and group, and it was clear to me this was shared by every group- faculty, students, Board, administrators, and parents.

My visit to campus offered me a window into St. George, and showed me the incredible good work that has already been done to create an amazing school. The beautiful, well thought out campus is designed and laid out to facilitate and empower students and faculty in their teaching and learning together. Regular campus improvements have created an incredible learning environment, and are a testament to a vision of steady, continuous improvement. Mr. Devlin was an incredibly gracious host, and shared with me a vibrant learning community from outdoor spaces for the youngest learners to high tech spaces to engage future leaders. It was clear from observing classes that St. George is a place of joyful, purposeful learning. Students and teachers alike care deeply about academics, and they go about this learning with excitement and curiosity. The watchwords of "Wisdom, Courage, and Faith" were evident everywhere I looked!

I look forward to joining this special community this summer, and I am eager to meet and build relationships with one and all in the St. George community. I have a note on my desk that says, "Everything we do is about relationships", and I believe these positive connections enable curriculum development, deeper student learning, and strong community support for St. George as it continues to grow and evolve as a school.

I want to give special thanks to everyone who has been part of this Interim Head of School search process, including families, students, faculty, staff, and administration. Your engagement with this process has helped me begin to understand the special nature of St. George. I want to particularly thank Lindsay Blanton, Father Ram Lopez, and the entire Search Committee and Board for their incredible investment of time and energy to the search process. I look forward to continued collaboration with them as the new school year approaches.

Finally, a special thanks to Mr. Devlin. He has led St. George with wisdom and grace for many years, and leaves a wonderful legacy at St. George. He has been incredibly open and gracious, and I look forward to collaborating with him on this transition so St. George Episcopal School continues to thrive and grow. I wish one and all a safe and successful completion to the school year.

Warmest regards, and GO, DRAGONS!

Thor Kvande