



## Announcing Our Next Head of School

Dear Members of the University Liggett School Community,

With unanimous support from the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to share that Mr. Paul Rossi has been appointed the next Head of School for University Liggett School, effective February 2, 2026.

This decision follows a rigorous national search, in partnership with our search consultant DovetailED, that attracted 47 highly qualified candidates and culminated in three outstanding finalists. We are deeply grateful to the members of the Head of School Search Committee for their commitment and discernment throughout this process.



Each finalist brought impressive experience and alignment with our mission. Ultimately, one candidate stood out as the clear choice for both the committee and the community. Paul Rossi is a leader who not only reflects the highest standards of independent school leadership but lives out our core values of integrity, respect, empathy, community, and excellence that define University Liggett School.

Paul has been serving as Interim Head of School since June 2025 and has had a distinguished 12-year career at University Liggett, including roles as a teacher, coach, Assistant Head of Middle School and Middle School Athletic Director, and Assistant Head of School and Head of Middle School.

Throughout the search process, we conducted extensive interviews, reference checks, and community engagement sessions. The feedback about Paul was exceptional. One person described him as “the best Head of School I’ve ever worked for.” Another noted that he “holds us to a high standard while motivating us and bringing us together.” That sentiment was echoed by faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni, as we heard consistent appreciation for Paul’s authenticity, steady leadership, and ability to inspire trust. During his time as Interim Head of School, he has demonstrated the insight, judgment, and empathy that define truly excellent leadership.

The future of University Liggett School is bright. Paul deeply understands the unique strengths of our school community and the opportunities ahead. During his finalist visit, he reflected that “excellence has no finish line,” which is a powerful articulation of our shared commitment to continued growth.

**Community | Integrity | Respect | Excellence | Empathy**

Under Paul's leadership, we are confident that Liggett will continue to reach new heights of excellence, guided always by our mission: Inspiring lives of purpose through an education grounded in a spirit of discovery.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Paul Rossi as our new Head of School.

Respectfully,

Maureen Juip  
Chair of the Head of School Search Committee of the Board of Trustees

Search Committee

Richard P. Dahling ('77)  
Jennifer Dickey  
Dr. Kristen Feemster-Kim ('91)  
Gretchen Knoell  
Erin Martin  
Shernaz Minwalla  
Dr. Phillip Moss  
Nicholas Noecker ('85)  
Tony Smith