



For Immediate Release  
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### **NANSEMOND-SUFFOLK ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL**

SUFFOLK, VA. February 22, 2008 - Mr. William H. Riddick III, Chairman of the Nansemond-Suffolk Academy Board of Trustees, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Colley W. Bell III as the Academy's fifth Head of School. Current Head of School, Mr. Shane A. Foster, announced in December that he would be relocating with his family to Kansas City, Missouri.

The Board of Trustees began an extensive, nation-wide search for a new Head of School in December. Mr. Bell was selected from an exceedingly strong pool of candidates after consultation with all segments of the NSA community including administration, faculty, parents, alumni and students. As Riddick stated, "Colley brings with him strong academic credentials, a wide range of talents and a warm, engaging personality. He impressed us with his deeply held personal commitment to excellence in education and his thoughtful appreciation for the role independent education plays in the lives of young people."

Mr. Bell comes to NSA from Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware, where he has served as Assistant Head of School since 2005. An eminent educator, Mr. Bell has established an impressive record of accomplishments having worked in education since 1984 in both boarding and day schools. He has extensive experience as a teacher, dorm parent, Director of Residence, Dean of Students and Assistant Head of School. He has worked in schools in New York, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Illinois and Delaware.

Mr. Bell received his B.A. with a major in History from the University of Kentucky in Lexington and his M.A. from the Klingenstein Center for Independent School Education from Columbia University in New York. Mr. Bell is married to Edwina, and they have one son, Colley, who will attend NSA's Lower School. Commenting about his recent appointment, Mr. Bell said "I know my family is excited to call Suffolk home! For me, it

is a profound privilege to be called to serve the students, faculty, alumni, parents, and trustees of the Nansemond-Suffolk Academy family. There is no question that the level of dedication and excellence is apparent the moment one walks the halls of Nansemond-Suffolk. The Academy has faithfully delivered an exceptional independent school experience to its families; and it is clearly poised to build on that tremendous work.”

The Academy has been fortunate to have had many wonderful leaders through the years. Under the leadership of the first Headmaster (position now known as Head of School) Mr. Arthur E. Jones (1971-1984), the school developed a full range of academic, athletic and extracurricular programs and began to draw students from Portsmouth, Chesapeake and surrounding areas, as well as from Suffolk. Upon Mr. Jones’ retirement, Mr. J. Albert Barrett (1984-1989) became Head and the Academy adopted an exclusively college preparatory curriculum. During Mr. Barrett’s tenure, enrollment grew to 850, a pre-school was established, expansion of the Lower School took place, and the school became a member of the National Association of Independent Schools.

Dr. Douglas C. Naismith (1989-2005), the Academy's longest serving Head, continued to pursue a course of academic and extra-curricular excellence. Through his leadership, enrollment grew to approximately 1045 making NSA one of the largest independent schools in the Commonwealth. In addition to continued expansion and improvement of facilities, the Academy adopted programs for financial aid, foreign student exchange, minority recruitment, character education, classroom technology, and an expanded array of athletic offerings for boys and girls.

In July of 2005, the NSA Board of Trustees selected Mr. Shane A. Foster to assume the position of Head of School. Prior to becoming Head of School, Mr. Foster served as the Upper School Headmaster for seven years. Under Foster’s leadership, NSA purchased 47 new acres of a land, renovated the Thomas W. Johnson Gymnasium, adopted a new fundraising and marketing policy, secured the school’s largest foundation gift from the Beazley Foundation and increased the school’s Annual Fund to record levels. He was also instrumental in launching the Academy’s new website and facilitating a partnership with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

In a letter sent to the NSA community, Riddick stated, “With change comes opportunity and the Board is pleased and excited that we have found such a dynamic person in Colley Bell to take over the Academy’s helm. The Board of Trustees enthusiastically supports Mr. Bell’s appointment as Head of School and is confident in his ability to lead the Academy into a bright future while also cherishing the great traditions of our past.” Mr. Bell will assume his duties as Head of School beginning July 1, 2008.

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