



Appointment Notice

April 9, 2010

St. Michaels University School Appoints Director of Learning

VICTORIA – St. Michaels University School is pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Clayton as Director of Learning, a new administrative position created by the school.

In recent years, it has been a formal priority of the SMUS strategic plan to implement significant enhancements in teaching and learning, a consequence of landmark advances in the last 25 years of research about the brain and about how students learn. At SMUS this has led to a focus on differentiated learning, more current and effective assessment and evaluation practices, and a collaborative professional environment. The creation of the role of Director of Learning recognizes the need to continue this evolution as a cornerstone of the school's approach to learning. Therefore, SMUS has decided create this role for a knowledgeable professional who is well-versed in the research and dedicated to differentiated learning as a central theme in our goal of pursuing academic success in an environment where the character and self also grow.

When she starts her new position in September, Heather's responsibilities will include an examination of the applicability of brain-based learning research and best practices to SMUS, and the development and implementation of a plan to support teachers in their professional growth. She will also suggest appropriate modifications to the curriculum and recommend how best to meet the needs of learners in a demanding academic context where the fundamental goal is outstanding preparation for higher learning.

Heather is currently employed by the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board in Peterborough, Ontario as an instructional leadership consultant. In this role, she has worked collaboratively with teachers, parents, administrators, and provincial representatives to support learning through professional development sessions, professional learning communities, conferences, and team planning with a focus on student success.

A keynote speaker and facilitator on learning strategies, assessment, differentiated instruction and brain research, Heather has travelled across Canada and the US, training teachers and administrators. As the Canadian trainer for Dr. Kathie Nunley, a foremost expert on the links between brain research and classroom instruction, Heather also taught layered curriculum as one method of differentiating instruction.

Heather has worked as both an elementary and secondary school teacher in Canada and Australia. She has received undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certifications from University of Waterloo, University of Toronto and Queen's University, and her master's in leadership from Royal Roads University.

For more information:

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