FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARLEY SCHOOL AND ALLENDALE COLUMBIA PURSUING FORMAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

Boards of Trustees Aim to Create Preeminent, Unified School Positioned to Excel into the Next Century

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (May 1, 2019) – The Boards of Trustees of The Harley School and Allendale Columbia School have initiated the process to formally affiliate the two Rochester-based independent schools. The final Affiliation Agreement is expected to be signed by June 30, 2019, with The Harley School assuming operational responsibility for the two schools from that point forward.

“The prospect of combining the historic strengths of our two schools has been a topic of conversation for decades,” said Scott Frame, president of the Board of Trustees for The Harley School. “Since their founding, both schools have been committed to academic excellence and have more than a century of successfully building thriving, diverse communities of engaged and lifelong learners. This affiliation sets the stage for another 100+ years of exceptional, student-focused, academic excellence.”

The Harley School celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2017; Allendale Columbia School traces its roots in Rochester back 127 years. Harley and Allendale Columbia, Rochester’s preeminent independent schools, have shared common programs and activities for much of their histories. They have operated joint athletic programs for nearly 50 years, hold combined proms, celebrate homecoming together, have a unified Middle School MathCounts team, and conduct other joint social activities each year.

Students and families will notice few changes over the course of the current and 2019-2020 school years. Today’s students in grades 11 and 12 will graduate from their current schools, and students at both schools will experience the educational programs in place as expected during the upcoming school year.

“Our students will continue to be the drivers of all we do,” said Charles Symington, chair of Allendale Columbia School’s Board of Trustees. “This affiliation will leverage the strengths of each school to combine into an even more powerful force working to guide our students into their futures.”

Collaboration will increase in the 2019-2020 school year, but leaders do not plan to initiate significant changes to curriculum until after June 2020. As has always been the case at both schools, levels of employment will continue to be dictated by student enrollment and course, curriculum and program needs.
“Given the promise of combining the strengths of Allendale Columbia with those of The Harley School, we expect more families will seize the opportunity for an independent education,” Mick Gee, Head of School at Allendale Columbia, said. “We are currently focused on this affiliation – beyond that comes growth and continued strength, all harnessed for our students’ success.”

“Harley and Allendale Columbia are already intertwined communities, and we enter into this opportunity with a deep mutual respect and appreciation for the extraordinary history, traditions, and programs of each school,” said Larry Frye, Head of School at Harley. “Combining the distinctive strengths of our storied institutions will create a truly extraordinary school.”

ABOUT THE HARLEY SCHOOL: Founded in 1917, The Harley School is a nationally-recognized, independent school in Rochester, NY, offering an innovative and demanding college preparatory program for approximately 500 students in Nursery (age 3) through Grade 12. Across the curriculum, faculty guide students through idea-driven exploration and problem solving, cultivating curiosity, confidence, and joy in learning. Taking a balanced approach to academic disciplines, the arts, and athletics, Harley teaches critical thinking, creativity, empathy, and civic responsibility. Harley’s motto, and hope for each student, is "Become What Thou Art.” For more information, visit www.theharleyschool.org.

ABOUT ALLENDALE COLUMBIA SCHOOL: Now well into its second century, Allendale Columbia prepares students for the world they will inherit. In our trusting and responsive environment, students in nursery through grade 12 grow in confidence and develop scholastic independence. Together, our students and teachers imagine, design, and create in order to make a positive impact locally and globally. We value and foster these core values: making connections that matter, mastering strategies for learning, inspiring curious and creative learners, sparking resilient spirits, and daring to take risks. Visit the school’s 33-acre campus at 519 Allens Creek Road in Pittsford or learn more online at http://allendalecolumbia.org/. Allendale Columbia School. First here, then anywhere.

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