



ROYCEMORE

100 YEARS Proud history
Inspired future

1200 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201 | 847-866-6055 | 847-866-6545 fax | roycemoreschool.org

June 8, 2021

Dear Roycemore Community,

Just as we encourage our students to embrace a journey of continuous learning and growth, we support the same approach with our faculty and staff. This sometimes means that members of our community, even if they love the environment they are in, decide that they are called to challenge themselves to learn and grow in ways that may result in their departure from our incredible school - this is the situation I find myself in.

I have made the very difficult decision that next year, my fifth, will be my final year at Roycemore as your Head of School. I did not make this decision easily; in fact, I so dearly love Roycemore that there is a big part of me that thought about staying as long as possible. However, I am someone who thrives off new challenges, and now that Roycemore is turned and headed in a strong direction, I believe I am being called to challenge myself in new ways. The end of the 2021-2022 school year is a logical time for such a transition. Next year marks year one in Roycemore's [seven-year accreditation cycle](#), and will herald important strategic planning work. I look forward to working with the Board and administrative team in the year ahead to build upon the great work that has been accomplished to define our Portrait of a Graduate and further our strategic plan. Completing the strategic plan in the coming year will position the school well for a leadership transition with a new Head of School. I am making this announcement now to provide ample time for the Board of Trustees to begin a search for my successor.

I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together and am excited to work with the community to continue to advance our program and campus in the year ahead. I am certain the next Head of School will inherit a future-focused and energized academic community that is poised to continue the growth trajectory in which the school finds itself coming out of the pandemic. The faculty and staff at Roycemore are excited about what lies ahead, and their devotion to the students and the School is inspiring. I am in awe of their commitment to the success of each individual student, and extend my heartfelt appreciation for the care and attention they provide to help each child reach their potential. Over the next year, I will have numerous opportunities to personally thank the many individuals who have supported my leadership over the years, but I would like to particularly acknowledge the incredible dedication of the members of the Board of Trustees who devoted countless hours in service to the school, especially this past year as we navigated the COVID pandemic and refinanced the school's bonds. I especially wish to acknowledge the support of Board Chairs Kathleen Scheidt and Tom Ellis, which has been nothing less than heroic.

Rich and I will greatly miss this special community of Griffins. Your support, friendship and love has meant so very much to us. The accomplishments of Roycemore are collectively ours to be proud of because none of them would have been possible without the steadfast support of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, parents, students, alumni, grandparents, parents of alumni and others who believe in our mission. And while I will be your Head of School for just one more school year, Roycemore has had a lasting impact on me that has changed me for the better. I am profoundly grateful and proud to have had the opportunity to serve this remarkable community.

With appreciation for your incredible partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Finley Odell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A'.

Adrienne Finley Odell
Head of School