



Wm. Mark H. Murphy '58 Headmaster



RACINE, WISCONSIN

Mark Murphy has had one title for the past 37 years: headmaster. Serving three different schools during his career, it is safe to say that Mark has found his niche.

Prior to finding his true calling, Mark has had a few stops along the way: the U.S. army, a Baker Fellow (in economics, economic history and anthropology), teacher and coach at an all-girls school in Buffalo, NY and finally, five-and-a-half years as a trader in New York City. It was without a doubt the fatigue of the weekly flights between Manhattan and Buffalo that shifted Mark to his current path.

Mark's immersion into the world of school leadership came in Buffalo at The Park School, a private, co-educational, college preparatory school. His next destination was the state of Illinois, where he led Keith Country Day School for a period of 12 years, highlighted by a spike in enrollment and outreach. He departed Keith for his current assignment as headmaster and president of The Prairie School in Racine, WI.

For the past 19 years, Mark has overseen the growth and development of The Prairie School, an independent, college preparatory day school with an enrollment of 700 students. He is immersed in a strategic project focused on defining what the ideal Prairie School graduate might be in 2025. Two main components of the project are technology and a highly individualized plan for every student as they progress through each grade level.

Mark took meticulous care in articulating a main pillar of his school's philosophy, which is obviously a personal mission as well. In his own words, The Prairie School takes



the time to teach each child to learn best, the way each child learns best. In addition, he and his staff strive to celebrate the gifts of every child. This serves the student population at The Prairie School particularly well, as one out of every five students has a learning challenge.

Connecting his leadership goals as a headmaster and his time at Rosemont School of the Holy Child was effortless for Mark. He attributes his professional success to the values he learned and the experience he had at Rosemont School. Humanity, humility, sincerity, civility, kindness, and respect for the inestimable worth of every child - these are the values that inform Mark's judgment and decisions as a headmaster.

“I am guided daily by
‘Actions Not Words.’”