

Welcoming Remarks
Charter Day
April 6, 2009
By Robert E. Caplan, Chair, Board of Trustees

Happy Birthday, Harrisburg Academy! The school is now 225 years young and on this day 200 years ago, the Commonwealth made it official by granting the school a charter. We are here to mark our bicentennial anniversary, our 200 years of success, and to celebrate the greater Harrisburg area's diverse mix of educational options at every level.

John Harris, Jr.'s legacy is much more than the name of our capital city. Mr. Harris founded the school in 1784 at his home on Front Street adjacent to Harrisburg Hospital. The school was created to educate his children and his neighbors' children. Mr. Harris' initial concept has survived for 225 years – what an amazing accomplishment. Especially when one considers what transpired during this time period:

- a civil war
- two world wars
- depressions
- recessions
- multiple floods

Harrisburg Academy has proven itself to be integral to the greater Harrisburg community over the years. We have had a positive impact on many lives in the past 225 years and our alumni, in turn, have touched and improved the lives of countless others. We have been and continue to be the safe haven for growth and discovery - the school where students are challenged in a diverse environment that nurtures and inspires. This atmosphere gives our graduates and student body an advantage. We are the school that encourages students to work harder, dig deeper, and reach further so that they can achieve their fullest potential.

As a parent and a business owner, I appreciate the work ethic, compassionate values and high standards that young people absorb at Harrisburg Academy. The faculty at Harrisburg Academy considers it their privilege to know and to teach the children who attend our school and present them with the tools to thrive as competent, open minded, and socially aware adults.

When my wife, Marianne, and I moved to our community we considered ourselves extremely fortunate to have found the Harrisburg Academy. I greatly appreciate what it has done for our children and for the thousands of other children who grew up with us over the past 225 years.