

# San Domenico School

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## **San Domenico Names New Head of School —Dr. David Behrs Will Assume Duties in August—**

10 May 2010 -- (San Anselmo, CA) The Board of Directors at San Domenico School is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. David Behrs, as Head of School, effective August 2, 2010. Dr. Behrs is currently the 15th president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana.

The announcement follows an eight-month national search conducted by the San Domenico Search Committee with the guidance of consultant Gregory Floyd, of Gregory Floyd & Associates, Maine.

“Our Search Committee conducted extensive due diligence of a slate of very experienced candidates. The Committee reviewed each candidate’s skill sets, education and experience, focusing on individuals with strong strategic vision, capable of leading the 160-year old institution, before selecting Dr. Behrs. No one could have given more freely of their time and talents than the members of this Committee, and we owe them our gratitude,” stated Board Chair Robert Dornbush.

President of St. Mary-of-the-Woods since 2007, Dr. Behrs has made critically productive decisions that helped position the school as a financially sound, educationally excellent institution. Together with his team, he examined the effectiveness of each school program to the centrality of the school’s mission. As the first layman to be president of SMWC since 1840, Dr. Behrs appreciates the importance of tradition, values, and history, but also understands the challenges of 21st century education.

Prior to his tenure at SMWC, Dr. Behrs served as both the Associate Provost for University Initiatives and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Dominican University of California in San Rafael, CA. Known as a change agent, Dr. Behrs is admired by colleagues for his openness, encouragement, engagement, and deep knowledge of institutional data and program analyses. From his time at Dominican, Dr. Behrs knows Marin County and the Bay Area intimately, and looks forward to continuing his practice of joining local community activities. He currently participates in local Indiana groups such as the Economic Development Corporation, the Rotary Club and the Economic Club of Indianapolis. He sits on the Boards of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, and the Swope Art Institute.

“As a natural leader who cares deeply for people, we are confident Dr. Behrs will guide San Domenico through the next phase of its long, impressive history,” remarks Glenn Snyder, Search Committee Chair. “At a school where the integration of mind, body, and spirit are deeply valued, we’re confident that Dr. Behrs will provide the personal and professional leadership required to meet our future challenges and achieve our goals.”

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Current Head of School Dr. Mathew Heersche will retire June 30, 2010 at the end of the school year. Dr. Heersche joined the school in 1995. During his years of leadership as Middle School Division Head, Interim Head of School, and Head of School, Dr. Heersche achieved major accomplishments. Over the course of his tenure, San Domenico has seen major additions to the physical plant, including a new Science and Technology Center, Hall of the Arts, Athletic Center, and the largest school-based solar installation in Marin County (Marin Magazine, March 2010). In addition, Dr. Heersche personally directed the recent renovation of the high school building that resulted in state-of-the-art labs for biology, chemistry, and physics.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Founded in 1850, San Domenico is the oldest independent school in California. Situated on 512 pristine acres in Marin County, the School is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. San Domenico is dedicated to providing values-based education for students of all faiths and cultural backgrounds worldwide. With more than 500 students in grades Pre-K through grade 12, San Domenico offers a co-educational day school program through 8th grade, and a girls' day and boarding school for grades 9 through 12. For more information, please visit [www.sandomenico.org](http://www.sandomenico.org).

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