

January 31, 2018

Dear Friends of University High School,

As we begin a new calendar year, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the long and proud history of the laboratory schools at Illinois State University. This tradition is reflected in the four-part mission of the Illinois State University laboratory schools:

- ❖ *Provide a school in which excellence in education theory and practice can be observed, studied, and practiced by teacher candidates and other pre-service school professionals;*
- ❖ *Provide an environment in which research and development activities may be conducted;*
- ❖ *Provide a comprehensive, high-quality academic program for Thomas Metcalf and University High School students; and*
- ❖ *Promote effective high-quality education throughout the teaching profession and aid other educators in the process of improving the quality of education in their schools.*

The total combined enrollment of the laboratory schools is limited by state law to 1000 students. The maximum number of students that can be admitted from McLean County Unit 5 School district is 642; the maximum for Bloomington School District 87 is 246. The remainder of the students may be admitted from other districts in the state.

Although our enrollment is limited, our review process requires that we make admission decisions knowing not the individual, but the performance record of the individual. No names appear on the application reviewed by the selection committee. When admitting our secondary students, we seek a diverse student population that represents the diversity groups found in central Illinois. We seek students with a wide range of academic abilities that match either the academic programs available or the special needs program established by the HILIA partners. We expect our students to demonstrate the maturity necessary to use open campus privileges responsibly, to work cooperatively with our ISU student teachers, and to be willing to participate in college research studies. We seek students who have demonstrated a strong work ethic and who are interested in co-curricular activities. When possible, we give preference to applicants who have siblings enrolled in the laboratory schools.

For nearly 150 years, the laboratory schools at Illinois State University have helped shape the way we prepare future teachers. Now, as always, our partnership with the College of Education remains our most important contribution to teacher education. University High School continues to reinvent itself as a model teacher education center: creative, diverse, responsive, and inclusive. Looking for a small school environment that encourages diversity, change, personal growth, and respect for all? Look to the Illinois State University laboratory school system. Welcome!

*Andrea Markert
Principal
University High School*