

Douglas W. MacKelcan Jr.
Head of School
Sanford School

A Delaware native, Douglas W. (Chip) MacKelcan earned his B.A. in History from Hobart College in 1971. He began his teaching and coaching career in Maine and then moved to suburban Detroit where he served University Liggett School for nine years as a history teacher, admission director, college counselor, and eventually as Upper School Head. He received his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (M.A.L.S.) from his father's alma mater, Wesleyan University.

Prior to his arrival at Sanford in 1998, Chip served as Headmaster of three independent schools: Louisville Collegiate School (KY), The Columbus Academy (OH), and Durham Academy (NC). He has been active in a number of educational organizations including his service on the Board of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and as a member of the Board of the Elementary Commission of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. He was elected to the presidency of three state independent school organizations (Kentucky, Ohio and Delaware) and recently completed a term as President of ADVIS, the Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools, an organization serving 135 independent schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and southern New Jersey. In addition, he is a member of the Country Day School Heads Association (CDSHA). He has been a speaker at many conferences and workshops, and has served on and chaired several school evaluation teams. Outside of school, Chip has been elected to two terms on the Vestry of Saints Andrew and Matthew Church and also served a term on the Delaware Symphony Board of Directors.

Chip met his wife, Debbie, at University Liggett School where she was teaching Lower School music. Debbie is a graduate of Smith College (B.A.) and the University of Michigan (M.M.) where she majored in music. Over the years she has been a music teacher, an early childhood educator, a church choir director and an employee of Williams-Sonoma. Chip and Debbie have two sons. Doug MacKelcan is an attorney in Charleston, SC with the firm of Carlock, Copeland & Stair. He is married to Catherine Bryan who is an attorney in Charleston. Matthew MacKelcan is a singer and songwriter, and guitar-playing leader of the Matt MacKelcan Band which performs all over the country. His home base is Charleston, SC as well.

The 2010–11 school year is Chip MacKelcan's 30th year as a school head.

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