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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Springdale Preparatory School Names Erin Holden Lower School Head**

(NEW WINDSOR, MD) -- Erin Holden, a seasoned educator who has served schools throughout the mid-Atlantic, has been named lower school head for Springdale Preparatory School, an independent boarding and day school located in Carroll County, Maryland.

As lower school head, Holden will open Springdale Preparatory School's K-4 program in September. She is leading the implementation of a project-based curriculum with assessment based on authentic observation of children engaged in play and exploration. She is implementing proven educational tools based on research and best practices and approaches teaching and learning at Springdale with that innovation at the forefront. She aims to fully engage families in their child's education and experience from the moment they join the Springdale program.

Holden brings extensive experience in professional development, coaching and mentoring to Springdale's teachers, coaches and administrators. She is a seasoned trainer and technical assistant provider for Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K and Child Care teachers and providers including Home Visitors and Family Advocates, an in-home early childhood education support program. Erin's background also includes product development at Teaching Strategies where she has co-authored and taught alignments of Teaching Strategies GOLD Objectives for Development and Learning State Standards and The Creative Curriculum for Preschool to, CCSS, NAEYC standards as well as co-authoring many of the 6-, 12-, 18- and 24-hour Teaching Strategies Professional Development Sessions and the Inner Rater Reliability Protocol.

"Erin brings a high level of academic research and study to her role as lower school head," notes Johnny Graham, Springdale Preparatory School's founding head of school. "She will implement the latest educational tactics based on proven research and successful best practices utilized both through her experiences and shared practices in the industry."

Holden also will lead the in-service training program for faculty and staff at Springdale Preparatory implementing proven best practices based on successful research.

Holden holds a master's degree in elementary education from Johns Hopkins University and an undergraduate degree in psychology from Gettysburg College. Most recently, she served as a professional development network trainer for Teaching Strategies, LLC, in Bethesda, Maryland. She has filled several roles within the curriculum publishing company over the last 12 years. She also served as a classroom teacher and teacher assistant in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland and at independent schools in Trenton, New Jersey, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

### **About Springdale Preparatory School**

Springdale Preparatory School is a co-educational, independent boarding and day school located on 21 acres in northern Maryland's rolling countryside. A college preparatory school with a diverse student population from Maryland counties, other states across the country and from all over the world, Springdale Prep offers rigorous academics while equipping all learners with the tools needed to meet all of life's challenges. Springdale prepares students for enduring success beginning with a foundation of respect for other students, faculty, and the world around them. Students develop strong relationships with each other and with faculty, who help to shape them to become tomorrow's leaders. Whether in the classroom, in the dormitory, or on the athletic fields, students experience learning through innovation and develop the skills needed to embrace lifelong learning and make a difference. For more about Springdale and its rolling admissions, visit <https://springdaleps.org>.