



Dear Miss Hall's School Community,

We, the Board of Trustees, write with updates on the ongoing investigation into historical sexual misconduct at MHS. All of us on the Board, in partnership with school leadership, are committed to learning the truth about what happened, to supporting survivors, and to centering student well-being, and are taking necessary steps to make Miss Hall's better.

- The MHS Health and Wellness Team is working through the summer to add to the School's already **robust wellness and social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum**, partnering with outside organizations to provide additional counseling and to enhance programming about consent and reporting of sexual misconduct.
- The external investigators at Aleta Law have conducted **fifty-three interviews so far** and estimate that the full investigation will require an additional six to nine months.
- Miss Hall's did not wait until the investigation was complete to begin **strengthening safety practices and support**, taking swift actions to protect students and provide trauma-informed resources.
- Our partners at Learning Courage are currently reviewing all existing policies to make recommendations for immediate implementation, including **cementing the process for reporting and responding to claims** of misconduct and abuse by current or past employees.
- Starting this fall, there will be opportunities for **alums to engage with Learning Courage** experts in-person and on Zoom.
- We are committed to being forthright and transparent and **will share Aleta Law's full report** with our community when it is available.

Investigation + Report

In April, [Aleta Law](#) was engaged to conduct a neutral, external investigation into past misconduct at MHS. Aleta Law's trained investigators specialize in investigating misconduct at educational institutions. We remain steadfast in our commitment to learn the truth about what occurred, so that we may continue to support survivors, address past harm, and prevent future misconduct.

The investigators at Aleta Law have been working diligently. They have interviewed fifty-three MHS alumnae and employees (current and former) to date. They anticipate scheduling many more interviews in coming months, in order to gain a complete understanding of what happened, and they continue to review relevant documents and evidence. Miss Hall's School is cooperating fully in the Aleta Law investigation and with the investigation being conducted by the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office.

Based on their progress, Aleta Law estimates that the full investigation will require an additional six to nine months to complete. They are committed to moving ahead as efficiently as possible, balancing the need for a thorough investigation while understanding that individuals may require differing amounts of time to process their experiences and decide to come forward.

Because it is important that everyone involved has the opportunity to share their perspectives and information at their own pace, the Aleta Law team will continue to make themselves available to anyone who wishes to talk with them in the future.

Anyone who experienced sexual misconduct by a Miss Hall's employee while a student, or anyone with other pertinent information, is encouraged to contact:

Kai McGintee
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207-535-9497

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After the fact-finding is complete, Aleta Law will prepare an investigative report that includes findings and conclusions. MHS will share the report with our entire community, as part of our commitment to being forthright and transparent in this process.

No survivors will be named in the report. Further, Aleta Law also will not personally identify individuals reporting misconduct and will be sensitive to all trauma-related concerns when preparing the report.

Learning Courage + Corrective Actions

Even though the investigation will take time, we know that our community needs education, care, and supportive action steps right now. We also need to ensure that our current policies and practices represent the most updated thinking around student and school safety. To that end, Miss Hall's entered into a multi-year partnership in April with [Learning Courage](#), a survivor-led national nonprofit that works with schools to support sexual misconduct prevention, trauma-informed response, and healing.

As we speak, Learning Courage is conducting a thorough review of all MHS policies related to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct. They will make recommendations that can be implemented immediately for the start of the 2024-25 school year. In September, they will conduct a comprehensive assessment of programs and practices related to adult-student and student-student boundaries; hiring, supervision, and evaluation of employees; education and training for students; and procedures for reporting and investigating sexual misconduct. Through the lens of best practices in schools, and informed by conversations with MHS alums, faculty, and students, they will make specific recommendations, both immediate and ongoing.

Starting this fall, there will be opportunities for MHS alums to engage with Learning Courage's experts both in-person and on Zoom to process and talk about their role in changes underway to prevent future abuse. Dates, locations, and times will be shared as they are confirmed.

Supporting Student Needs

Our most important work is to educate and inspire girls to contribute to the common good — our reason for being. This begins with ensuring the well-being of all students. Campus leaders, together with external partners, are making important progress to expand wellness initiatives and intentionally prepare for the 2024-25 school year.

MHS offers an extensive wellness program, overseen by the Dean of Wellness and staffed by two full-time nurses and two counselors, with curriculum that evolves in response to student needs and to data provided by students about their health and wellness. More detail on student support services can be found on the School's [Safety + Well-being](#) page.

Looking ahead to 2024-25, we have partnered with [UWill](#), a network of licensed therapists who provide students with extra mental health and wellness support 24/7/365 via telehealth, expanding availability and enabling quick access to counselors outside of the School and beyond MHS counseling hours. With a goal of eliminating all barriers to care, UWill counselors reflect the identities of all MHS students and work with them in their native languages.

The School has also engaged [MassKids](#), a Massachusetts-based child advocacy organization committed to preventing the abuse and neglect of children, to secure additional training in sexual misconduct prevention for MHS faculty and staff. It is anticipated that this will be added this fall to our existing training on healthy student-adult boundaries and mandatory reporting.

Moving Forward

This is a challenging time for MHS. The Board and school leadership are laser-focused on the well-being of Miss Hall’s students, alumnae, and the broader MHS community. We continue to hold ourselves accountable, and we are working closely together on multiple measures for corrective action. We know that change is necessary in order to heal our community and restore trust.

We are grateful to alumnae, families, and friends for your support, and for always centering the mission and the students. We will get through this together.

As always, please reach out to trustees@misshalls.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The Miss Hall’s School Board of Trustees

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