

RICK JULIUSSON

HEAD OF SCHOOL CANDIDATE



Rick Juliusson brings to the FSM community three years as Co-Head of School at Monteverde Friends School, a Master's Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, over 25 years of education and leadership experience in 15 countries, and a deep love and affinity for children.

The Friends School he currently leads in Costa Rica shares many of FSM's strengths - strong mission focus, committed faculty and parents, progressive Quaker education - and also similar challenges and opportunities. Rick's key initiatives as Co-Head of School have included: creating a welcoming environment that fosters diversity, developing a comprehensive K-12 Quaker Education program, creating 100% enrollment and a budget surplus, addressing teacher retention and life-work balance, dramatically increasing fundraising and outreach, and rebuilding a culture of respect and collaboration among faculty, parents and students. "At the heart of this work is the honoring of relationships," Rick says. "My favorite part of the day is greeting each student, parent and teacher as they arrive to set a positive tone and connection every morning."

Rick's path to Friends School leadership has involved teaching and leadership with a variety of types of institutions and populations. He served for four years as Executive Director of an NGO running 10 elementary schools in Kenya, and designed and led community education programs with Habitat for Humanity for 7 years in 9 African countries. He has taught ESL to Bosnian refugee children, Guatemalan orphans, Zambian street children, immigrants to Canada, and Tanzanian students. At his home on Vancouver Island, Rick served as Executive Director of an internationally-recognized permaculture school, substitute taught at a K-8 Waldorf School, ran an organic farm, and worked as a leadership consultant and co-op developer.

On a personal level, Rick is a committed Quaker, avid soccer and Ultimate Frisbee player, enthusiastic musician, and storyteller. He says his stories "reflect my love & respect for people of all ages and walks of life, an open and responsive communication style, and a deep connection to community. These are the characteristics that I believe color my interactions with parents and teachers, relationship with children, and way of being in the world."

Rick's wife Sarah is from Chicago and is known online as "The Website Doula", designing websites for birth professionals inspired by her 20+ years as a childbirth educator and doula. Their sons are eagerly researching local schools that would build upon their cultural experience in Costa Rica: Zekiah (grade 8) is seeking high-level sports and a jazz band, while Galen (grade 10) has his sights set on musical theater and dance, perhaps at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. Having lived together in Texas, Vancouver Island, Myanmar (Burma) and now Costa Rica, the whole family "feels like Minnesota would be a welcoming place to settle down and call Home."