



Christopher Freeman

May 25, 1961 – February 7, 2020

April 8, 2021

**University of Chicago Laboratory
Schools**

Musical prelude

Violin & Clarinet Duo in B-Flat by Georg Friedrich Fuchs
performed by Louis and Henry Auxenfans

Welcome

Patty Kovacs

Remembrances

Ryan Allen
Jane Canright
Tom Luthy
Anvi Padhi
Jeffrey Chen
Nicholas Pietraszek
Keara Booth
Zach Smith
Claire Weichselbaum
Richard Krull
Maria Freeman

Die Gedanken sind Frei
performed by Rundfunk-Jugendchor Wernigerode
Friedrich Krell, conductor

You'll Never Walk Alone (from Carousel)
Richard Rodgers/ Oscar Hammerstein
performed by 7th Grade, 8th Grade, and HS Choirs and
Bel Canto

Audience please join in song and viewing photos of Chris

Chris Freeman spent twenty-five years as a pillar of the Laboratory Schools community. He touched the lives of students in a multitude of ways, ranging from his classroom instruction that focused on the child before the mathematics, to his student groups that particularly appealed to the children with deep interests, to his passion for history, literature, and nature that blossomed at sixth-grade camp.

Chris loved sixth-grade camp. A highlight for every student at camp was the orienteering session, further developed by Chris when he took over from Jeff Benson. Chris believed in the importance of outdoor education; over the course of the session, he taught children how to use a compass, how to read a map, how to navigate in the wilderness using the sun, and how to celebrate missteps as opportunities to explore and observe. His confidence in, and support of, each student made every child believe they were capable of traversing an unknown path.

As a member of the mathematics department, Chris had a deep understanding of the threads of mathematical inquiry and thought that weave through the mathematics curriculum. He was responsible for initiating generations of eleven-year-olds into the pleasures of rigorous mathematical reasoning. He wrote a deep curriculum for the advanced middle school Geometry course, a curriculum that is still unique within mathematics education. Chris taught courses in the high and middle schools, as well as lessons in the lower school and in a summer enrichment program; this vast experience and expertise informed the classroom experience of every child in his care.

As the passionate leader of the middle school math team, Chris sparked students' interest and nurtured their talent in mathematics. The students loved everything about the experience: working on the challenging problems Chris wrote for their practice, following the mathematical tangents Chris would lead them down when explaining the solution to a problem, and applauding everyone's accomplishments. A long-time colleague of Chris' expressed our community's loss perfectly with these words: "I will always remember how his calm, thoughtful voice would remind me to return to more important priorities--to see my students as people, to treat my colleagues with kindness, to bring decency and joy to every day. Chris Freeman was one of the most sincere, earnest people I have ever met."