May 1, 2020

# **Dear Upper School Parents,**

As we enter the month of May, I want to share some important information with you. In this email, you'll find:

- 1. Academic updates about grading, final exams, and Senior Practicum,
- 2. Initial plans regarding graduation for the Class of 2020,
- 3. Parent survey request, and
- 4. Important dates for the remainder of the school year.

## **ACADEMIC UPDATES**

The following academic decisions have been made:

- Second Semester FINAL EXAMS ARE CANCELED.
- The third and fourth quarters will be averaged evenly (50%-50%).
- · See Mr. Cherone's April 21 email for Senior Practicum modifications.

Parents, please use Veracross for your point of reference for your student's progress this quarter. As always, reach out directly to the teacher if you have questions. As you may know, teachers share an overview of assignments and expectations at the beginning of every week. These resources are helpful guides for understanding what your student(s) are working on daily.

## **GRADUATION PLANS**

As we look towards closing out the year and celebrating the Class of 2020, our desire echoes that of most of our seniors: *We want to have a formal in-person graduation ceremony.* Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that will be possible on our currently-scheduled graduation date of May 21. In light of this, our plan is to have two celebratory events for the Class of 2020:

- May 21: Virtual Candlelight/Graduation Ceremony
- August 1: In-person Graduation Ceremony (including senior breakfast, graduation ceremony, and reception).

As plans are finalized for each of these events, I will share them with you. Although I realize that no rescheduling or reimagining of these celebratory gatherings is ideal, I am grateful for your support. We are using all resources and data at our disposal to make decisions based on facts and care for our community. Additionally, department and program leaders are working tirelessly to appropriately and deservedly honor our Senior Class of 2020, from whom so much has been taken this spring. Included in these plans will be the distribution of graduation-related items, such as seniors' caps and gowns.

## PARENT SURVEY

A few weeks ago, students were asked to complete a survey, and their feedback provided us with valuable information that allowed teachers and administrators to make academic adjustments to better serve them. Now it is your turn! Please complete <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jww.nih.gov/">THE PARENT SURVEY</a>. Your feedback will allow us to see if the adjustments we made have been successful and to identify what still needs to be addressed as we enter into the final phase of the school year.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- May 7-10, <u>AACS Together 2020</u>, this online auction benefits the Galatians 6:10 Fund
- May 11, Absolute deadline for Senior Practicum
- May 13 or 20, Senior Chapel
- May 14, Last Class Day for Seniors
- May 15, Senior Practicum Celebration Day
- May 11- May 22 AP Exams
- May 21, Virtual Candlelight/Graduation Ceremony
- May 29, Last Day of Classes for Grades 9 through 11
- June 1-2, Campus Celebrations (in person IF POSSIBLE) and Locker Cleanout
- August 1, On-campus Graduation Ceremony (including senior breakfast, ceremony, and reception)

Please visit the <u>CALENDAR</u> on the school's website, for all year-end K-12 events. I look forward to celebrating the end of the school year with you all, in whatever format it may take.

Blessings,

Jason Burrell

**Interim Upper School Principal** 

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**Psalm 56:3** 

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

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