

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope you've all enjoyed a peaceful summer and had time to rest and reflect as we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year. It's been a busy summer in the Upper School as we plan for continued growth in our student body and faculty. We've renovated several classrooms, including relocating and upgrading the Becket House room, updating Mr. Davis's room, installing new lockers, and making adjustments to office spaces to accommodate new faculty and staff. We're almost ready for the start of the 2019-20 school year! As we get closer to the first day of school there are a number of items on the "Back to School" website that are important for you to review. Included on the website are the lists for consumables (Amazon list), student supplies, a major dates calendar, house information, uniform policies, and forms for the school year. As you prepare for the start of the school year, I wanted to call your attention to two items in particular:

- 1) **Meet the Teacher Day** (Monday, August 12th)— This year's Meet the Teacher Day will function a bit differently than in years past. In order to make better use of this time, we want to provide opportunity for students to not only reconnect with one another, turn in forms, and set up their lockers, but we also want to actually go through an abbreviated school day that morning (10:00 – 12:00p) to allow students to get a sense of their schedule, receive class policies, and meet their teachers. The full details are in the document on the "Back to School" webpage, but please plan to drop off / pick up students that morning.
- 2) **US Uniform Policy:** As you know, we updated the dress code last year, but please remember that there was a one-year grace period for some items in order to allow families to adjust. However, now that we're two years into the new dress code, the expectation is that every student should now be in full compliance (e.g., WA logos are now required on all outerwear and polos, with the exception of house polos). Please be sure to take a moment to carefully review the updated uniform policies to ensure that all items comply with the policies. Also, this is a good time to check all items to make sure they fit properly and are in compliance with the uniform policy.

Please read through all of the other information on the Back to School website as well, and return requested forms or fill out online where possible. We will send another update closer to the start of school that will include finalized student schedules, locker numbers, and academic advisors. You'll also receive an email toward the end of summer from Anne Walker with more details about House Reveal for rising 7th graders and new students, as well as information about the House Retreat for 10th-12th (with a permission slip). In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

On a personal note, I continue to feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead the Upper School. On behalf of the Upper School faculty and staff, it's impossible to express the privilege and responsibility we have in training and equipping your students during the years they are in our care. It is an honor to partner with your families this year, and we're looking forward to seeing each of you in August!

Grace and Peace,

Adam Woods
Head of Upper School