



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School

Hello. I hope message finds you and all your family healthy and well. I want to update you on several matters related to next school year.

First and foremost, we at GSA are excited to have your children with us, and plan to serve them and help them reach their educational goals as fully as is possible in these difficult times. Our plan right now is to have on-campus classes, with the capability for remote learning as well. We will begin the year in what is known as a hybrid model, with all students coming to campus for classes with their teachers some days each week, and doing school remotely the other ones. More information on how this works will come soon.

Here are some specifics about our plans for the fall.

1. **We will follow a block schedule for 2020-21.**

Students will take half their courses for the year in the first semester, and half in the second semester. This arrangement works better when elements of a student's education are done remotely. It allows students to focus on a smaller number of courses at a time. Similarly, teachers will have a smaller number of students to work with, which should improve engagement.

We will be providing more information about your student's block schedule soon.

2. **Numerical grades as before**

In the spring, when we went to remote learning, we made the decision to grade classes as credit-no credit. We will be returning to the practice of using numerical grades, beginning this fall.

3. **Using a standard system for remote education**

We will begin using *Canvas*, an online teaching and learning platform that supports both synchronous and asynchronous learning. *Canvas* is used by schools around the country, and enables teachers to display videos, stream content, and post grades, information, assignments, and feedback. It lets students take tests and quizzes online, and has multiple various features to keep students and teachers connected.

There are still many details to be worked out. I will keep you informed as the pieces fall into place.

We all know there are many uncertainties regarding travel to and from the US right now, and there may still be significant issues next month. Different countries will be in different situations. Please stay in touch with us about your plans, questions, and concern.

Tim

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'S'.

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