

August 14, 2020

Dear 10th Grade Parents/Guardians:

Schools are special places, and when a school is functioning as it should, it enriches the lives of everyone connected to it. The sophomore year holds great promise for students, and is often the one in which they experience the greatest personal growth. Their 10th-grade school year will be unlike any other. I believe challenges bring the opportunity for triumphs, and my hope is that for all of us—you, your child, me, and everyone who is a part of George Stevens Academy—this year will be one of the very best years of school we have ever had, even under such unusual circumstances.

I trust you have been getting the emails I have been sending out with information related to the opening of school. If you have any questions, please email me or call the school at (207) 374-2808, and we will get you answers. This mailing includes paperwork to be filled out, dates to be noted, and the like. Please read everything carefully and take care of whatever requires action on your part. There is a great deal of important information here; becoming familiar with it will help you help your child have the best possible year at GSA.

The 10th-grade year is often challenging for young people. They are beginning to leave behind being a child, and beginning to become a young adult. But they have not yet completely left childhood, nor completely entered young adulthood, and this makes for confusing moments and unsettled emotions. Our desire is to support them through all this and to make this year as productive, full of growth, and fun as possible. If at any time you have a question, a concern, or just want to chat about your child, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you think something is not right, or you are confused by something we do or something you hear about us, call us or stop by. Our goal at GSA is to be exceptional in all we do, every day. If we fall short, please let us know.

The first day of school for all 10th graders is Thursday, Sept. 10. They will be the only students on campus that day, and we will run a special program to get them ready for school—going over health and safety plans, distributing their laptops, giving them training on Canvas, our new online learning system, giving them time with their advisors and teachers, and doing community-building activities. More information will be forthcoming. **Please make sure students dress comfortably and bring a water bottle with them.**

Educators have the great honor and pleasure of being a part of young people's lives and development. I am excited to have the chance to get to know your child over the coming year. Enjoy the rest of the summer. Thank you for sharing your child with us.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School