

August 14, 2020

Dear 11<sup>th</sup> 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 junior year is, in some ways, the most important one for maximizing the options students will have after graduating. Their 11<sup>th</sup>-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 ever, 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 lot of important information here; becoming familiar with it will help you help your child have the best possible year at GSA.

In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, a student's classes move from being introductory and relatively straightforward to being more in-depth, thus requiring more sophisticated thought and deeper understanding. The ideas are more complex, and doing well on assignments calls for more independent, creative thought. For students who plan to continue school after graduating, the record they forge as 11<sup>th</sup> graders will form a large part of their college and university applications. For students who plan to take another route, 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be fundamental in demonstrating their abilities to analyze and solve problems, to work successfully with others, and to know themselves as thinkers. Our desire is to make this year as productive, full of growth, and fun as possible. If you ever have a question or concern, or just want to chat about your child, please call us or make an appointment to stop by. Our goal at GSA is to be exceptional in all we do, every day. If we fall short, please let me know.

The first day of school for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders is Wednesday, Sept. 9. They will be the only students on campus that day, and we will run a special program designed 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 more over the coming year. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Seeley  
Head of School