



July 25, 2010

Dear Upper School Parents:

As I write this letter, I reflect with pride on the efforts of 8 current students and 3 alumni who just finished running our fifth Summerwood program. This is an outgrowth of our Interact Club's tutoring program at the homeless shelter during the school year and provides two weeks of reading, math, drama, food, and hugs. Two weeks of structure and caring won't remedy everything, but like tending a garden, these efforts will enrich the later harvest. The Interact Club was recognized by Rotary for all its efforts as the best club in the entire region. In addition, it was four years ago that we began requiring 20 hours of community service by every student each year in the Upper School, and this year Upper School students completed almost 6000 hours, averaging over 50 hours per student. This is impressive and gives credence to the third part of our motto of academics, character, and service.

Summer offers the opportunity, like the Roman God Janus, to look backwards at the just completed year as well as forward to the new one soon to start. I hope you found the NetClass software useful in allowing you to follow your student's progress in classes as well as keep abreast of assignments. While most of our communications have evolved into the electronic mode, please understand that personal channel is still alive and well with advisors, teachers, college counselor, and Dean. Please don't ever hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions or want to share what you are seeing at home. I am very excited about the new faces we have hired to the faculty for next year: Norma Cloud is a former parent who went back to school to become certified and will teach World History 1 and AP World; Bobby Stephenson has just earned his Master's degree and will teach AP US History and World History 2 and help coach wrestling as well as Model UN and Mock Trial; Brad Feldman completed a math major at Elon College and will teach AP Calculus and Pre-Cal; Lindsay Herring has a theater major and manages Mathis Auditorium, and she will teach Drama, Speech, and coach Literary and One Act; Leanne Bennett was the starting shortstop on a national champion college softball team and a former police officer, and she will join us to coach Varsity and JV softball. These new people all bring talent and commitment to our faculty.

The Curriculum Committee recommended, and the headmaster approved a new policy for dealing with course failures beginning with the 2010-11 school year. The full text will be found in the Family Handbook, but its essence is that the old form of "credit recovery" will no longer be allowed. Instead a formal program of tutoring and successful completion of a culminating piece of work (exam, paper) will be required, and this all must be approved in advance and monitored by the Dean to earn credit.

Each year there always seem to be a few areas in which we want to place extra emphasis:

- Dress code is described in the Handbook, and failure to comply will result in a parent being called to rectify the situation, so please oversee it ahead of time.
- Upper School students may use a cell phone **outside** of our buildings, and any inside use will result in its confiscation.
- Community service hours not earned by a student will result in a multiplier penalty of 1.5 and will be served in detentions at the beginning of the next school year.
- Punctuality is essential in the real world, and daily detentions began last spring to curtail tardiness, and these will continue.

I would like to highlight a few important events at the beginning of the school year:

- Monday, August 9: 11:00 – 2:00, Senior Day
- Tuesday, August 10: 2:00, 9th grade orientation for all students and parents (RPH)
2:30, NEW 10th-12th student orientation (RPH)
3:00, Middle School orientation for all students and parents (RPH)
3:30 – 5:30, Open House for ALL Middle and Upper School students
- Wednesday, August 11: 8:00 am, OPENING CONVOCATION, all students in Eager Sports Center
Monday Dress required.
- Monday, August 23: 6:00 pm, MS/US Open House for parents.

As I begin my 45th year in education, I have established a few goals for myself and the division, one of which is to find ways to hold students more accountable for their behavior and performance. Your support in structuring your child's time for study, dress for school, good manners, and punctuality will go a long way towards helping him or her maximize their talents right from the start. Everybody comes back with a clean slate, so it is important to establish a routine right from the beginning, because it is so hard to come back from being behind. The school-home partnership is essential to our mutual success, and I appreciate your efforts to work with us. Please make sure that summer reading gets started early, as teachers are quite serious about using it in their classes and will check its completion by papers or tests. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns.

I am looking forward to a terrific upcoming year...enjoy the rest of your summer.

Chuck Glassmire
Upper School Dean