

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students of the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023,

We have reached that point in the summer when our thoughts increasingly turn toward the coming school year. For students, it's a mad dash to fit in all the fun and adventure that four weeks can hold before your days are once again less completely your own. We hope you enjoy it. Wile away a day on a good book--like the All-School Reads! Hang out with your friends. Go on a road trip and blast the tunes. Watch a sunset. Catch a movie.

For SEM faculty and staff, the next month is a time of growing energy, anticipation, and excitement as we prepare to get "our" kids back. SEM is too quiet without them. Since graduation, we've been refining our lesson plans, tidying our rooms, researching study skills that make the material stick, developing methods to foster non-cognitive skills like conscientiousness, and watching a few sunsets of our own.

One of the new initiatives we've developed deserves special mention.

Starting in September, the 3rd Tuesday of each month (with the exception of December and April), will be a SEMinar Day! SEMinar Days are an opportunity to explore the passions and curiosities of the entire SEM community through field trips, performances, deep investigation and hands-on learning. On these days, students, faculty and staff will explore a theme through cross-disciplinary and collaborative experiences. For our first SEMinar Day, on Tuesday, September 17, we will reflect on our All-School Reads and ask, "What does it mean to be human?" There will be workshops exploring the stories we tell, how we create maps, the biology of memory and many other topics. We are so excited about this new adventure, and are eagerly looking forward to all our SEMinar Days this year!

Now, a few logistical matters:

- For all important dates and reminders please refer to the link "Important Information Fall 2019" below. Throughout the year, please go to [the full school calendar](#), which will provide up-to-date details about happenings at SEM.
- The portal pages for each of your classes will list any books and supplies you will need. You may order books from any source, but be sure to use the correct ISBN number.
- Please take some time to review the dress code policy. It is important that you understand what is and is not in dress code before school starts. We recommended that each student bring in a change of clothes to keep in her locker, just in case. SEM will not provide clothing for students who are out of dress code.
- Permission forms and important information for each class trip are provided in the links below. Please return all required forms to the Main Office on or before Friday, August 23.
- Remember to complete all health and permissions forms, which were sent via email on July 4, 2019, and are available on the portal. Submit all forms to the Main Office. Students are not allowed to begin fall sports without completed forms.

Lastly, a message to our students. Everyone here at SEM is invested in helping you cultivate your intellect and your character. We are full of ideas about how to make this happen, and very much look forward to partnering with you in this most important project. In all things great and small, SEM is here to support you.

Finally, we have an exclusive SEM apparel offer that expires on Sunday, August 4. [Click here](#) to place your order today!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Kanika Durland
Assistant Head for Academics and Equity



Natalie Stothart
Assistant Head for Community Life