

Monday, April 20, 2020

Dear Summit Families,

I would like to begin this letter by sharing news about goodbyes as well as welcoming new faces at The Summit. As some of you may already know, Mrs. Rhonda Lersch (5th Grade) will be retiring at the end of this year and embarking on new adventures with her husband, Jim. Please read more about Mrs. Lersch's legacy at The Summit [here](#). Ms. Sarah Pulliam (1st Grade) and Mrs. Michelle Brown (Upper School Math) will also be leaving The Summit at the end of this year to pursue other opportunities. We wish everyone the best in their future endeavors!

We would also like to introduce you to our new teachers joining us this fall, Ms. Lanae Ursino (1st Grade) and Mrs. Kendra James (5th Grade). We are also pleased to announce that Mrs. Anna Cook will return to teaching full-time this fall after welcoming her daughter this year, partnering with Mr. Paul Madar to teach Upper School Math and electives. Check out the Raven Report in the coming weeks for more information about our new teachers!

Thank you all for participating in our second distance learning survey. Teachers are reviewing your comments and working on additional updates to our distance learning plan for the final 3 ½ weeks of school, including a finalized policy for assessment and progress reports. In order to give teachers an opportunity to plan collaboratively, this Friday, April 24th, will be a Teacher Work Day, which will also include a professional wellness seminar developed by Burrell Behavioral Health in response to COVID-19. For an overview of the survey results, please see the following links:

[Early Learners](#)

[Grades K/1/2](#)

[Grades 3/4/5](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

I hope you have all enjoyed the Senior Spotlight in the Raven Report. We are so proud of our seniors, and it breaks all of our hearts that their final semester has to end this way. We are working hard to make sure graduation is still a joyful time of celebration, reflection, and togetherness. A final date for graduation has not been set as we await further guidance from local government and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, but we are planning for a mid-summer date that will hopefully allow our seniors to celebrate together with their families. We will share finalized details as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, we would like to ask you for your help to celebrate the Class of 2020. We would love to gather some words of encouragement from The Summit community to share with our seniors in the Raven Report in May. If you have time, please fill out the following form with your inspirational message or quote: [Celebrating the Class of 2020](#).

As a reminder, tonight's monthly Board of Trustees meeting is a virtual meeting. Please contact Susan Miranti if you would like to attend.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Heet, Ed.D
Head of School

Susan Miranti
Board of Trustees, President