



August 2019

Dear Upper School Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2019-20 school year. I trust that you and your son have enjoyed the recreational and recuperative opportunities that summer often affords us. Though the halls of the Upper School are strangely quiet, we at Haverford have been preparing for your son's arrival in September. For teachers this means reading up on the latest developments in their fields, fine-tuning their curricula for the coming year, and attending a variety of professional development workshops. For Mark Fifer, Megan Dieckhaus, and me, it means providing you with the information you need so that your son can hit the ground running in September. **To this end, please access the following forms and documents by clicking the link here: <https://www.haverford.org/parents/back-to-school-information/us-back-to-school>**

Student Class Schedules: These will be available on My Backpack by August 19. You will also find your son's advisor listed there. Form III students will receive hard copies of their schedules from their advisors on September 3. As a reminder, The Haverford School does not accept requests for specific teachers.

Contact Time and Exams: The academic day will run from 8:30 to 3:15; Wednesdays will still begin at 9:00. There are five blocks in the academic day and some classes will meet five out of every seven days while others will meet four out of every seven days. Some classes will meet three 45 minute blocks and two 80 minute blocks while others will meet one 45 minute class and three 80 minutes classes every seven days.

This year students will have two exams in mathematics, both in the fall and in the spring. In the other departments, they will sit for only one exam, either in the fall or the spring depending on the subject. Exams, then, will be staged on December 19, 20 and 21 and June 3, 4 and 5; please do not plan to have your son dismissed during either of these time periods.

Books: Once again, the school will provide many, but not all, of the books. Textbooks will be purchased by the school and checked out to the boys by their teachers, with the expectation that the books will be returned in reasonable shape. There are other books, primarily paperbacks and workbooks, which need to be purchased by families. Lists of such materials were sent in the June mailing and also are listed by course. If you haven't already done so, **please begin this process as soon as possible – some books may take some time to arrive.**

Health and Medical Forms: The School has transitioned to an electronic medical records system, **Magnus Health**, to manage our students' health information. There are many benefits, including less paperwork to complete each year and more accurate information that is accessible to parents and the

appropriate employees at Haverford. You will have continuous access to your child's health record as well as the ability to make updates when needed. You will also have the option to take the digital health file with you after your child graduates.

You can access Magnus Health at haverford.org/parents, both on the main page and under Handbook, Policies & Forms. **You may also log into MyBackpack and click Magnus Health portal under the Resource Center.**

All health information required for The Haverford School for the 2019-20 school year is to be completed in your Magnus Health SMR account no later than **Aug. 30, 2019**. You can access all forms via your account. Compliance is required for attendance and participation in activities and sports, including pre-season for Upper School athletes. **Health forms will no longer be accepted in the Health Office.**

New Teachers: Included in the Back-to-School forms and downloads is a document that provides some biographical information about each new teacher in the Upper School this year.

Finally, please accept my thanks for sending your boys to Haverford. I strongly believe in the school's mission and in the people who enact it on a daily basis. The enthusiasm and support of parents is no small part of that equation. See you in September!

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Andrén
Head of Upper School