



FUQUA SCHOOL

Dear Fuqua Family,

Earlier this week the parent of a senior shared a letter his daughter received from the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince Edward County. The letter was authored by Megan Clark, the Commonwealth's Attorney. In the letter, Ms. Clark offered her congratulations to the senior for finishing the year strong in the face of challenging circumstances. She went on to share the following message:

"A falcon represents victory, success, and rising above challenges. Likewise, falcons are symbols of wisdom, courage, and power. You are forever a Fuqua Falcon and exemplify these characteristics. Focus your sights on greatness in the times to come. Please know your community is here to support you as you navigate the future."

The first four sentences of this excerpt from Ms. Clark's letter are a powerful, true, and encouraging message that I am sure she conveyed to all of the seniors in the county. And I am filled with gratitude for the words of support that flowed from her pen and from her heart. The last line is where I paused and reflected on the inclusive nature of her message and the immeasurable support we can all glean from our community. It speaks to the truth that we are all in this together, Covid-19 or not, and we all benefit from elevating those around us.

Many others in our school community and the larger Farmville community have expressed similar sentiments. I want to personally thank all of those who have played a role in helping our community navigate these uncertain times. While this surreal journey is far from over, I am confident our support of one another will sustain us and reveal a future filled with opportunity, possibilities, and deeper, more meaningful relationships.

In other news, our incoming Head of School, Chance Reynolds, and I have formed a "school re-opening" committee that will hold its inaugural meeting this Monday. The primary focus of this group will be to develop protocol that will bring us in full compliance with the state and federal government so our re-opening in August will be as seamless as possible. I can assure you that we will be open, even if daily procedures have to be modified and even if we have to pivot into distance learning at a moment's notice. The most helpful thing you can do to assist this effort is to re-enroll as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Scheduling students now and determining 2020-2021 enrollment at each grade level will assist the committee in making important decisions about next year.

Finally, please know that I am available to respond to any question you may have about returning to school in the fall. I encourage you to reach out to me directly. I may not have all of the answers, but I will certainly share what I do know and pursue responses to questions that I cannot answer. We will also hold ongoing Zoom Community Meetings to share out new information and hear feedback from our families.

Go Red! Go Black! GO FALCONS!

John Melton

Head of School