

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope everyone is looking forward to a restful Spring Break. We are eagerly awaiting the week of March 29, when we will welcome students back to campus and jump into a busy spring season. Though many of our events and programs will continue to look different or include virtual elements, we are excited to get back to some of the school's signature events and celebrations.

We wanted to share an important scheduling update with you. **Students in all divisions will have a half day on Thursday, April 1**, for a faculty/staff professional development day. Specific dismissal times will be shared in the March 21 version of Parent Notes. As previously noted, we will also be closed on Friday, April 2, for the Good Friday holiday.

In the morning on April 1, K-12 students will engage in divisional workshops centered on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work; faculty and staff will have their session during the afternoon professional development time. This workshop is the fourth in a series of sessions that our community has engaged in since the beginning of the school year. As we shared back in the fall, GFS has partnered with professional psychologists and experienced DEI facilitators, Myque Harris and Bryanna Campbell, to facilitate and guide DEI workshops for our community. Myque and Bryanna have provided age-appropriate workshops on topics such as:

- Identity
- Empathy
- Belonging
- Civil Discourse
- Community Connections

Each one has built upon ideas covered in the previous session to create a well-rounded and helpful curriculum for our students and our entire faculty and staff.

These sessions and workshops are just some of the initiatives the school has implemented this academic year to bolster our ability to support all students and create a more inclusive campus where everyone feels safe and valued and has a sense of belonging. We will be sending out a more comprehensive overview of the initiatives and programs we've enacted this year, as well as a look at areas we will continue to improve and enhance, later this spring.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and partnership. We wish you a restorative and safe Spring Break, and we look forward to seeing everyone virtually on March 23!

Warmly,



Chris Hughes
Head of School



Carolyn Lewis

Director, Community Life and
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