



## THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL

The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head Master

June 13, 2016

Dear Members of the Lawrenceville Community,

As the school year draws to a close, I am writing to you regarding our efforts to ensure the well-being of all of our students, past and present. There has been considerable coverage in the press over the course of this year concerning incidents where the safety and welfare of young people have been significantly compromised through inappropriate, intimate contact with adults. The context for these cases varies and has included many types of organizations, but these behaviors are especially damaging in a boarding school environment where the very fabric of the institution depends on the inviolable trust between student and teacher, who live and work at close quarters.

At Lawrenceville we continue to maintain a zero tolerance approach to physically intimate or other inappropriate contact between adults and students. As an institution, we have sought to maintain the highest standard of care in this area, but we cannot pretend to be immune to the possibility of an issue, in spite of our ongoing efforts to reinforce boundaries and promote healthy relationships.

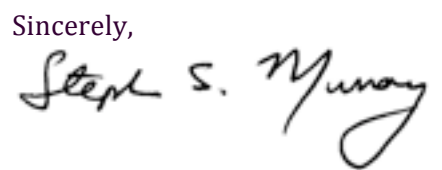
In an effort to be more transparent and to signal genuine concern for all members of the community, some schools have made the decision to reach out pro-actively to learn if there are any past instances of unacceptable behavior. I feel that Lawrenceville has a responsibility to do this as well.

I also feel we need to consider afresh all we do to educate and protect our students, and we have undertaken a number of steps in this regard. We have begun by reviewing all of our policies and practices aimed at maintaining the healthy adult-student relationships that are so central to the Lawrenceville experience. This includes reviewing our approach to teaching students about self-advocacy. We will work over the summer and the course of next year to further refine our teaching and practices in this area.

As a part of this process, we have set up the means for any individual to report a concern that he or she feels warrants our attention. If any situation is brought to our attention, with the help of the outside legal team we have retained, we will take steps based on the information supplied and will seek the truth. We will be guided above all by a deep concern for the well-being of any individual who might come forward with a report. If you have any information that you feel should be of interest to us, you may communicate directly with Julie Tattoni, attorney at Windels Marx in New Brunswick, NJ ([jtattoni@windelsmarx.com](mailto:jtattoni@windelsmarx.com); 732.448.2559). Alternatively, if you wish, you may communicate with Robin Karpf, M.D., who is a long-time Lawrenceville employee ([rkarpf@lawrenceville.org](mailto:rkarpf@lawrenceville.org); 609-895-2080); or you may prefer to communicate directly with me ([headmaster@lawrenceville.org](mailto:headmaster@lawrenceville.org); 609-895-0408).

While this communication is by nature unsettling, I feel it is part of an important responsibility that all educators have to maintain the crucial trust between the school and the students and families whom we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steph S. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Stephen S. Murray  
The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head Master