



## 11 GRADUATION



Adriana Winkelmayer, '21

## 24 FACULTY NEWS



Kindergarten Teacher, Hugo Basurto

## 28 ATHLETICS



Coulson Batchelor, '21



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Cecily Morrison, '29, plants in our Backyard Garden

# From the Headmaster

GARHETT WAGERS

**“Y**ou’re on mute!” Perhaps this is one of the most common phrases of the past year. The thing about common phrases is that we all know them, and we are mostly tired of hearing them. In this case, “you’re on mute” was both literal and metaphorical. While we both said it and heard it many times, it also speaks to the fact that many of us struggled to actually listen to others over the past year. The stress we universally felt, and the unbelievable disruption we experienced, increased the noise around us, limiting our ability to sort the valuable from the useless. The exhaustion we felt from so many demands on our time and attention limited our capacity to absorb those valuable messages that we received.

Throughout the year at St. Mark’s, we sought opportunities to listen with purpose and intention. While the year was full of disruption, distraction, and general “noise,” we found that, in our school, learning happened continuously and often in unexpected ways. Yes, like all schools, we worked tirelessly to ensure students were exposed to requisite content, while continually modifying our methods to mitigate the health risks of in-person experiences. We found ourselves constantly asking “why do we do \_\_\_?” and “what does \_\_\_ provide our learners?” By slowing down and listening to the questions, concerns, and hopes of our students and parents, we discovered numerous opportunities to innovate. Ultimately, this year, as a school, we did exactly what we ask our students to do - we took time to learn about ourselves and about the world around us.

During the 2020-21 school year, collaboration in the classroom and cross-curricular experiences were limited, and we are excited for a return of programming that continues to champion those efforts. There were also places where we were forced to grow at light speed, helping us eliminate processes we’re ready to outgrow and move forward with initiatives that serve our students better through our mission lens. One such area is in our support of student learning variations.

Every school is made up of unique students, who learn differently. The question is, is the school’s size and culture intentional about noticing and empowering students to manage their own learning needs? We are called to identify if a student needs stretching to explore their curiosities and go beyond others to build on their learning, or if a student needs slowing down to recognize why they appear to be stuck on a particular concept.

We plan to emerge from a year of adaptation fueled by disruption with an upgraded plan for student support. In the 2021-22 school year, we welcome back **Amanda McGee** as our Learning Specialist. She is tasked with supporting our younger students with proactive assessment and intervention efforts, allowing us to better understand the needs of each learner. We are also proud to expand **Sarah Aylsworth** beyond her 7th grade math class to the role of Learning Coordinator, where she will start our Academic Achievement Center. Here we can offer support for our middle school students, better serving our goals of graduating lifelong learners with a sense of agency.

As always, our Portrait of a Graduate is a continuous guide for developing readiness among our students. *A St. Mark’s graduate displays flexibility in thought and action, and thinks creatively and seeks to innovate. A St. Mark’s graduate demonstrates resourcefulness, self-awareness, empowerment, and resilience. A St. Mark’s graduate practices open-mindedness, responsible citizenship, service to others, and respect for all people and cultures. It is our goal that our graduates leave us ready to use their voice in advocacy of the needs of themselves and others.*

Throughout the pages of this magazine, you will find numerous examples of St. Mark’s graduates who are thriving in life after St. Mark’s and examples of our current students, who are well on their way to becoming world changers. We’re proud of the young men and women who currently walk our halls and all those who have come before them.



Garhett Wagers  
Headmaster

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