



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School

George Stevens Academy December Report

Covid-19 Update

Unfortunately, we had a flurry of positive cases crop up over the Thanksgiving holiday—five. So far, none have come from transmission on our campus, although, of course, that could change at any time. One of the cases was on a sports team, and we are waiting to see if any of the close contacts from their practices and scrimmages became infected. With the increase in cases on campus, and the situation in Hancock County, we are making some adjustments. The fall play has been videoed, and, rather than have an in-person performance, we will broadcast the recording when it is ready. Likewise, we will not be doing an in-person holiday music concert. That too will be recorded and broadcast.

We have moved to an inside lunch. To do this in a way that provides both decent spacing for students, and some measure of order, we have moved some of the benches that were in our tents to make outside classrooms into the locker room wing hallway and other spots. It is wide enough that they do not pose any fire code issues, and they provide good places for students to eat. We are also using the perimeter of the gym for students to eat lunch. Together with the limiting seating we can provide in the cafeteria due to spacing needs, these areas give us enough room. None of it is ideal, but what is, in this second year of dealing with Covid-19?

We will bring down most of our tents this week, as they are not rated for snow. Two will be left up as places for students to eat outside, if they choose. We have two heaters to put in them to keep the snow load low, and make them at least somewhat warm. We have a contingent of students who will no doubt eat outside all winter.

We had hoped to start some grade level and all school-assemblies, in order to build a sense of community, but will do those via zoom for the time being.

Other updates

- We have welcomed a new student from China, a ninth-grade young woman. She has come to us through an alumna from China who is working with us on connecting with Chinese students. Although we have a long way to go to fully rebuild our boarding program, it is a start.
- Winter sports have started. We will be following MPA and MDOE guidelines, with players masked (as last year), and allowing spectators at contests. All our teams have

good participation; girls basketball, which had seen declining numbers the last few years, is back up to sixteen. We will be able to run both a varsity and a JV program for the first time in a few years.

- The second quarter of the year has started, which means, in our block schedule, some courses for some students have ended, and new ones have begun. Other classes continue until the end of the semester. Everyone seems to have settled down into our new schedule, and I believe it is proving to be a good change. Come spring, we will gather feedback on how it has gone, and make any adjustments that seem prudent for next year. We will live with it for at least two years before considering any major changes.

Thank you for all you do for the children of your town.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School