



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School

GSA December Report

Intervention Plan for struggling students

As I said in my November Report, we have about 10% of our students, some fully remote (11), and some coming to school in our hybrid mode (17), who really struggled in the first quarter. They are in danger of not getting credit for this year. Although each student is different, there is a common characteristic—these students all find it especially hard to manage their own learning to the extent needed in both the fully remote and the hybrid mode of school. They need more structure and regularity than our current ways of doing school can provide. To assist these students, we have put the following in place. A great many people at GSA worked very hard to put together this plan on very short notice, and the GSA Board enthusiastically signed off on it at their November meeting. (Normally, they do not make decisions about our program, but they had to endorse it because it requires reworking our budget a bit. I will also be fundraising in search of support for it.) Everything starts on December 7.

Fully Remote Students

Most of these students (8) are ninth and tenth graders, and for them, we are creating a “school-within-a-school,” *George’s Remote Academy*. (We are still working on our plans for the three seniors. Their situations and needs are somewhat different than the those of the younger students.) For the ninth and tenth grade students, we are creating four entirely new classes, in math, social studies, English and science. These will be newly created classes, designed to get these students reengaged in academics and to give them a chance to learn the content and skills they need to advance. The classes will meet every day over zoom, following a regular school schedule. Our hope is that by bringing structure and regularity back into their school experience, by providing daily contact with their teacher, and by giving them a fresh start, we will these students will buy back into school. This way we can change the trajectory of their year, and they can have a positive and successful experience.

Hybrid Students

Currently, these students come to campus two days a week, have one day of remote classes, and are home two days a week. This system requires them to be independent and self-regulating on their two at home days, and that has proven beyond the abilities of this group. They cannot manage staying on top of the work they need to do when they are home. For this group, we will begin requiring them to come to campus on their off days, and to be in a special study hall with an academic coach, who will assist and tutor them so they can successfully complete their work. Our hope is creating this greater consistency to their school lives, and having an experienced

educator to help them, will enable them to turn the corner and finish out this semester, and the next one, well.

Besides helping these particular students to be successful, this plan intends to provide some relief to their teachers, who currently are putting in a great deal of time and energy trying to help them be do better. As you all know, the most time and energy-consuming students are the ones who are struggling the most. By providing another support system for these most needy students, we will free up time and energy for their teachers for their work with the rest of their students.

Future plans for classes

As of this writing, GSA is fully remote, which we had already planned to do for the week after Thanksgiving. We made this plan for two reasons: 1) so we could practice being remote, in the event we were forced to do so, and, 2) to see what happened to the public health situation after the holiday. Given the outbreak at the Island Nursing Home, and the spread of infections in our county, we will assess on Friday whether or not we will continue remotely next week, or go back to our hybrid plan.

Thank you for all you do for the children of our towns. Good luck with all the current challenges.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School