



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School

GSA November Report

It has been a while since I have written a report. That is partly due to how busy it has been, and partly due to the fact that you all have had meetings this fall with representatives from GSA's Board of Trustees as you begin to consider our tuition request.

We have come to the end of the first quarter. If I were to sum up in a few sentences how it has gone so far, it would be these:

- For a good majority of the students, it is going ok to well, and they are happy.
- A concerning minority are not doing well.
- The adults are working at a breakneck pace, and are tired.

Our faculty have had to completely rethink and create anew nearly everything about their classes, all while in essence managing three different groups of students, each with different needs: the hybrid students who are on campus on any given day, the hybrid students who are home that day, and the remote students, who really need their own program. It is a Herculean task. I worry about their ability to persevere for an entire school year.

Although most students are doing well, 10% - 15% are not. Of our fully remote students (we have about 50) about 10 are really struggling. Most of these struggling students are only inconsistently connecting with and communicating with their teachers, in spite of frequent attempts to engage them. Of students doing the hybrid model, 20 to 25 are struggling. Most of these struggling students are either not doing the work they should be doing on the at-home days, or are not coming to campus with regularity on their in-person days, or both.

There will not be perfect, complete solutions. There will be some students who fail to thrive, or even get by. That is true every year, but it will be a higher number this year than is the norm, because our usual tools for addressing and assisting students who are falling away are not available to us. Normally, they are at least coming to school, and we can establish supportive relationships, and put in place interventions we know work.

However, that is not to say we have no recourse, and we will work very hard to turn things around for these struggling students, and I expect we will have some successes. We are looking at schedule changes, curricular changes, and perhaps increasing the number of days students who are not doing well come to school.

We have used and are using the Coronavirus Relief Funds money to make our campus compliant with the DOE guidelines for in in-person instruction (sanitizing stations, PPE, air

purifiers and window fans, etc.), to improve the on-line learning experience for teachers and students through online learning tools and equipment for classrooms and people, to create outdoor teaching spaces, and to pay for increased staffing costs, among other things.

All our students have been wonderful. They have followed guidelines without complaint, and are adapting as best they can to this new educational world.

Thank you for all each of you is doing for the students and families in your town.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School