

The Lawrenceville School

WELCOME, LAWRENTIANS! THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

September 19, 2022

We're back! I said at our opening School Meeting that one of the blessings of a school year is the rejuvenating energy that fills campus when our students arrive in August. From preseason athletics to House Olympics, we have spent the past several weeks coming together as a community and preparing our minds, bodies, and spirits for a fulfilling year. At our annual Convocation ceremony on September 4, we formally opened the academic year and inducted 250 new students from 25 states, as well as the District of Columbia, and 20 countries. Selected from nearly 3,000 applicants, these bright and bold Lawrentians will further strengthen the fabric of our School community while upholding our values of lifelong learning, integrity, and high purpose.

My Convocation speech was titled "On Faith," in which I shared a personal reflection on faith and trust, and how they have anchored my life and restored my spirit in times of uncertainty. Maintaining a sense of mystery and curiosity, extending compassion and empathy, and allowing ourselves a bit of grace can yield unexpected gifts. I finished with the notion that my greatest inspiration and source of faith were the students themselves, your children. As I told them, "... you give me tremendous faith, not simply that a great year lies ahead, but that you will take with you out into the world your resilience, your hard-earned wisdom, your belief in yourselves, and put it all to work in wonderful ways. And this is the faith that sustains me most." This commitment was also echoed by student body president Andrew Boanoh, who believes that lending a hand, being genuine, and engaging all voices contributes to a change-oriented and connected community.

Please read on for recent news and successes related to our students, our campus, and our future, as well as an important opportunity for feedback and engagement as the academic year gets underway.

Summer Initiatives

As part of Lawrenceville's Harkness Travel Program, 14 Lawrentians traveled to the United Kingdom to perform an original play as part of the prestigious 75th Edinburgh Festival Fringe, attended by thousands of arts lovers from across the globe. This year's play, "Stay Safe," will be performed in the KAC Black Box Theatre in December. Cohorts of students also traveled to Austria and Italy, expressing gratitude for learning about different people and cultures, history and geography, and logistics and leadership.

Our academic Research Institutes were in full swing this summer in the areas of science research, social justice, archival and historical research, ecology and ethics, and literary research and creative writing. Students will continue their studies in specialized fall seminars and will present their findings and reflections to the school community at the end of the term.

Lawrenceville's summer programs continue to support important community engagement efforts, as well as to provide stimulating intellectual and collaborative opportunities for current and incoming students. This year marked the return of both School Camp and the Lawrenceville Performing Arts Camp, beloved traditions in which Lawrenceville students and faculty members forge connections with young people from local communities.

Campus News

Students have already begun to make their mark in important areas of school life. Two students recently worked with Sustainability Director Stephen Laubach to apply for the River-Friendly Certification Program by the Watershed Institute, prioritizing issues of water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat. The doors of the Hutchins Galleries are once again open, with a handful of students engaged to help elevate the visibility of this campus resource. In addition to an impressive permanent collection of art, the Galleries also host rotating exhibits that are open to the community.

Campus Enhancements

Phase I of the much-anticipated Tsai Field House is nearing completion, and boys' water polo recently hosted its first home match (a resounding 22-8 win over Malvern Prep) in the new pool. Tsai Commons, the dining portion of the building, opened today with a special preview for Fifth Formers. It features a commercial-grade kitchen, expanded menu options, and dedicated seating for Second Formers in the Irwin Mezzanine. Phase II of the project is a complete renovation and expansion of the existing Field House, and is anticipated to open in fall 2023. It includes a Hall of Fame lounge, auxiliary gymnasium, athletic training room, squash courts, indoor track, arena, wrestling room, fitness center, and team sports performance center. Please bookmark lawrenceville.org/TFH for updates on the construction timeline, location of temporary facilities and athletic practices, campus access information, time lapse videos, and more.

Our Buildings and Grounds crew was also engaged in numerous campus projects over the summer, including replacing the roofs of Kirby and McClellan Houses, installing new lighting around the Bowl, trimming trees, laying new carpet in Mackenzie, replacing water lines, and repaving the Circle. Additionally, the School established a dedicated classroom and adjacent workspace for engineering in the Gruss Center for Art & Design, as well as a dedicated classroom for tech design in response to student interest in these areas. The building also offers two new laser cutters and several 3D printers.

Support and Transformation

The generosity of our community resulted in another exceptionally successful and transformative year, helping to empower our students with life-changing opportunities and one-of-a-kind experiences. As we enter its final year, Emerge Transformed: The Campaign for Lawrenceville has raised \$416 million toward a Campaign total of \$425 million. The Lawrenceville Fund tallied an impressive \$8.4 million in 2021-22, providing critical support for important initiatives such as scholarship aid, exceptional faculty and student support, technology advancements, and experiential learning opportunities. I am sincerely grateful to all who have contributed; thank you for your support.

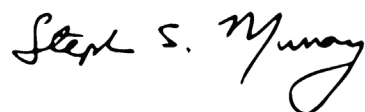
Looking Ahead

As we aspire to fully live our mission statement to inspire the best in each to seek the best for all, and as we look to the future of education and of this great institution, the voice of our community remains a vital tool toward progress. One of the themes that emerged last year was a strong desire for voices to be heard, and we will be attentive to that in many ways, including a forthcoming community survey for current parents, parents of recent graduates, students, faculty, and staff. It is important that we understand community sentiment across various facets of School life, and that we are well-informed in order to be intentional and thoughtful in how we define and approach institutional priorities. Please look for additional information from me in October regarding this effort.

In further efforts toward community listening and dialogue, Assistant Head of School Marquis Scott is working with Parents @ Lawrenceville on a webinar series with our deans, designed to engage parents on topics that are relevant to their child's day-to-day Lawrenceville experience. The schedule will be announced shortly.

In closing, I want to reiterate my deep and abiding belief in our community, and in our ability to come back as a stronger Lawrenceville. When we encounter significant challenges - and we will - we must know that it is our close-knit friendships and collective resilience along with our ability to come together in support of each other that sustains us through difficult times. We know that about ourselves after last spring, and I reflected a great deal over the summer on the strength we demonstrated as last year was ending. And this is precisely why I greet this new year with such faith and optimism. I am deeply proud of our community and feel privileged to be a part of it.

Most sincerely,



Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '65 '16 P'16 '21
The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head of School

