



June 9, 2023

Dear Lawrenceville Community,

The tremendous spirit and vigor of our campus community remains palpable as we close the academic year. We have much to celebrate, and indeed many opportunities on the horizon as we seek to more fully explore the spirit of House, Harkness, and Heart – the elements that define the Lawrenceville experience.

In my Baccalaureate remarks to the Fifth Form, "[On Certainty](#)," I challenged our graduating seniors to guard against unexamined, dogmatic conviction. While there are moments in which steadfast certainty is appropriate, we must also understand how being absolute in our beliefs can thwart our ability to evolve our own thinking, or to consider alternative viewpoints. Being open to competing ideas that take us out of our comfort zone facilitates intellectual growth -- growth that our faculty foster every day through Harkness teaching and learning. It is my hope for all of our students that when they leave Lawrenceville, they carry with them a foundation of civil discourse and critical thinking, continuing to advance their own learning while creating opportunities to extend this approach to various facets of their lives, their relationships, and their communities.

Baccalaureate was followed by Commencement, where [Valedictorian Satvik Dasariraju '23 spoke on the theme of "gratitude."](#) An Eagle Scout who is headed to Harvard University, where he has been selected to participate in the ROTC, Satvik told his classmates, "It's so telling that my best moments have had nothing to do with me, but everything to do with you all ... What makes Lawrenceville this life-changing, magical place is that we create these moments and traditions with one another that become inextricable to who we are."

At the Underform Prize Ceremony, Second through Fourth Formers were recognized for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, sports, and service. Fifty-one individual honorees included 16 new members of the Eglin Society, a group of Fourth Form students who demonstrate unselfish leadership, generosity of spirit, and moral courage. For House excellence in athletics, the Katherine W. Dresdner Cup was awarded to Kirby House on the Crescent, and the Foresman Trophy went to Cleve on the Circle.

We created many occasions to come together this spring – at the all-new [Big Red Park](#) for pickup games of basketball or volleyball, during [Community Day](#), where we examined Lawrenceville culture and our role within it, and at one of the most popular House events: [Springfest](#), where nearly 300 local children from the School's community service programs enjoyed games, treats, crafts, face-painting, and pony rides. Hutchins Galleries hosted a remarkable [Ansel Adams exhibit](#) for the Lawrenceville community and the public, with works generously loaned to the School from Glenn Hutchins '73 in honor of his 50th reunion. Campus continues its transformation, with Phase II of Tsai Field House on track for opening in

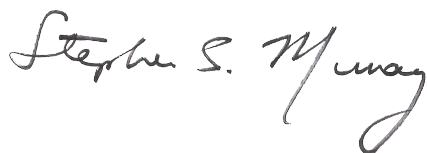
spring 2024, bringing basketball and squash courts, indoor track, indoor practice facilities, a wrestling room, and a performance fitness center to the heart of campus.

Finally, on May 21 the [boys' lacrosse team won the National Prep Championship](#), edging past Brunswick School, 14-13, in double overtime. Big Red capped off an undefeated season, topping both the Nike/USA Lacrosse High School Boy's National Top 25 and the Inside Lacrosse National High School Power Rankings. At the same time, a stellar girls' varsity team won the Mercer County Championship for the fifth year in a row. In an extraordinary spring season, the girls' outdoor track and field team broke eight School records, ultimately taking home both the NJISAA and MAPL championships.

Summer will continue to be a busy time on campus as we host myriad camps for the outside community and welcome students participating in Lawrenceville's esteemed Research Institutes. A cohort of faculty will continue to advance the topic of generative AI as we consider how this tool will impact our students now and into the future. And as I recently announced, we will welcome our new [Dean of Campus Wellbeing and Medical Director](#) and have launched a student-centered Wellness Team aimed at providing holistic support for our community members. You will be hearing more from me in the fall on this topic as we further shape our well-being strategic plan, driven in large part by productive feedback and visioning sessions with students, parents, faculty, staff, and trustees.

All of this important work, and our ability to fulfill our mission and meet the needs of each and every Lawrentian, is made possible through the time, talent, and treasure of our community members. Our Emerge Transformed campaign, the most ambitious in independent school history, will conclude on June 30 following five years of generous support. I look forward to sharing our progress with you, and to building on the momentum we have achieved together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen S. Murray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16 '21  
The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head of School