WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

Pioneering. Thinkers.

Dear Upper School Families,

As we prepare to begin another exciting school year, I am pleased to welcome both our returning families and those who are joining the Upper School community for the first time.

This year, our Upper School will be guided by the theme *Belong, Contribute, Thrive.* These three words reflect our vision for every student. We want each student to feel a sense of belonging throughout our community, recognize that their voice and talents matter, and develop the confidence and skills needed to prosper both inside and outside the classroom.

A central part of this work will be focusing on our advisory program. Advisory provides students with a consistent connection to a mentor and a small cohort of peers. Throughout the year, advisors will help students establish meaningful relationships, develop important life skills, manage challenges, recognize accomplishments, and remain connected to the life of the school. Our goal is to ensure that every student feels known, supported and encouraged throughout their Upper School journey.

Our advisory program also serves as an important resource for families. Advisors are often the first point of contact and work closely with teachers, counselors and administrators to support each student's success. If you have a question or concern about your child's academic progress, well-being or school experience, we encourage you to contact your child's advisor first. They are prepared to provide guidance, answer questions and connect you with the appropriate resources when needed. We consider this partnership between home and school essential to helping every student succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing trust, partnership and support. I look forward to working together as we create a school year in which all students feel connected, make important contributions to our community and reach their fullest potential.

All the best,

Christine Cerminaro
Head of Upper School