

August, 2021

Dear Seven Hills Families,

I hope that you all are enjoying a restful summer! We look forward to seeing your children back at school in a few short weeks! Here's a quick update on what has taken place over the summer.

### **Facilities Improvements**

When your children return to school in August, they will see many improvements on our campuses. Following the extensive renovations previously completed at Doherty (to Jones, Haile, and Brooks Halls), this summer, we completed a major renovation to the Lotspeich Building, including new paint, flooring, and lighting throughout, and a significant redesign of the Lotspeich Library.

In preparation for the long-awaited renovation and expansion of the Middle School, much of the former facility has already been razed and the new site readied for construction. In addition, 16 modular classrooms, larger and at least as well equipped as our former classrooms, have been set up to house our Middle School until construction is completed, hopefully by April 2022.

The summer also brought some very gratifying validations of the continuing strength of our academic program.

### **College Matriculation**

After a few last-minute changes, the 79 members of Class of 2021 have all made their final matriculation decisions. The final list includes: Allegheny College, American University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Baldwin Wallace University, Barnard College, Baylor University, Boston College (2), Brandeis University, Brown University, University of California/Los Angeles, University of California/Santa Barbara, University of Cambridge (England), Carleton College, Case Western Reserve University, University of Chicago, University of Cincinnati, Clark University, Colby College (2), Denison University, University of Denver, Duke University, Elon University, Emory University, George Washington University (2), Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Indiana University (5), Johns Hopkins University (2), University of Kentucky, University of Maryland (2), Miami University (2), The New School, New York University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ohio State University (6), Purdue University (3), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rhodes College, University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, San Diego State University, Sewanee, The University of the South, Texas Christian University, University of Toronto (Canada) (2), Trinity College, Tulane University, University of Virginia, Vassar College, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Wake Forest University (3), Wheaton College (MA). We are very proud of all they have achieved!

### **Advanced Placement Scores**

In May, 150 seniors, juniors, and sophomores took a total of 336 college-level Advanced Placement exams. A phenomenal 94% of those students earned college-qualifying scores of 3 or higher on at least one exam. As usual, our students' scores on each of the 20 subject tests for which we submitted result were well above those of college-bound students both in Ohio and across the country.

In spite of the continuing challenges associated with the pandemic, the Board, administrative team, and faculty have been working diligently to enact the Strategic Plan of 2019, which calls for enhancing our students' experience in several key areas. Based, in part, on feedback from the annual parent survey, here are some of the areas in which we hope to make further progress in 2021-22.

**Faculty Excellence**

Continuing efforts to provide competitive salaries and benefits to help Seven Hills compete aggressively in the national marketplace for the best teachers available. Significant resources allocated for on-going professional training and curricular innovation.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)**

Enhancements to Doherty's *Creation Studio* and new *Robotics and Engineering* courses, Lotspeich's *Project Math* program, the Middle School's *Innovation Lab* and coding electives, and the Upper School's vast array of elective courses in science, mathematics, computer science, and engineering.

**Civic Engagement and Global Awareness**

New curriculum grants to infuse contemporary and global topics into language arts and social studies courses, new elective courses in social studies, economics, and environmental studies, and a broader array of world language and travel programs.

**Diversity & Inclusion**

After gathering stakeholder perspectives from over 1,000 students, faculty and staff, parents, and alumni as part of last year's AIM self-study, the Board and school leadership have recommitted to a series of efforts designed to prepare our students for an increasingly diverse and interconnected global community. These include: continuing to build the diversity of the student body; recruiting a more diverse administration, faculty and staff; providing on-going faculty training; enriching the curriculum by exploring the rich diversity of human experience and viewing the world from a variety of perspectives; and designing mechanisms to empower students to help sustain a truly inclusive school community.

**Health and Wellness**

Program enhancements in counseling, learning support, college counseling, and health education, and for 2021-22, a new relationship with MindPeace, to provide on-site access to licensed mental health providers.

**Co-Curricular Programs**

Robust schoolwide programs in athletics, the fine and performing arts, enrichment clubs and activities, and the new Experiential Learning Program, including the *May Terms*, *Concentrations*, and the launch, in 2021-22, of the Civic Engagement Seminars.

Finally, we are pleased, again this year, to welcome a great many new faces to our school community. We have hired several talented new teachers and staff members, experienced and committed people, who – we feel sure – will add a great deal to our school community.

With some new applications still in process, we will open the new school year with at least 1,037 students, the highest enrollment since 2014-15, including 164 new students and their families. I know you will join me in welcoming all these new families to our community. We look forward to the significant impact they will have on our school in the coming years. In these very challenging times for schools, we are very proud of both these growing enrollment numbers, and, especially, of our record high retention rate (94% school-wide). We are deeply grateful to all of you for your continuing confidence in and loyalty to Seven Hills.

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school and to working with you in the year ahead. Enjoy the waning days of summer!

Warmly,



Christopher P. Garten  
Head of School