April 13, 2020

Dear Seniors and Senior Families,

I am writing about a subject near and dear to your hearts and very much on our minds – graduation.

I said in my video on March 18 that we would do our best to bring you back to campus for one last opportunity to be together as a class before joining the ranks of our alumni. We want to celebrate your time at the Academy, recognize all that you have contributed to the life of the school, acknowledge your accomplishments, and stand witness to the love and affection that you have for each other. We remain determined to do just that, but much remains to be decided about the how and when.

It is now apparent that we will not be able to hold an on-campus graduation ceremony on June 7. But we anticipate some form of a virtual recognition of your graduation on that day. Your diplomas will be dated June 7.

It is our strong hope that we will be able to identify a time later in the summer when seniors and their families will be able to gather in person on campus for a commencement exercise and for related senior class events. I know from experience how meaningful the many rituals and events surrounding commencement are to graduating seniors, including, for example, the senior class dinner. But, our timing will be dictated by the evolving health crisis and we will do our best to share decisions as soon as possible.

I have asked Assistant Principal Lassey to head a committee to develop a plan for your graduation. She and the committee in turn will ask senior class officers, Audrey Vanderslice, David Kim and Leah Cohen, to help with a number of decisions that need to be made and to solicit broader input from the class of 2020. We will work together to recreate, shape, and perhaps reimagine your graduation opportunities, both on June 7 and when we are able to gather to celebrate in person.

I would like to thank all of you for your help and understanding as we develop a plan that reflects the school’s affection and admiration for the great class of 2020.

Please stay well and be safe.

Thank you.

Principal Rawson