May 2018

Dear Parents of Sophomores,

After classes end, the class of 2020 will be participating in a Transdisciplinary End-of-the-Year Culminating Project. We’re writing to introduce the project, to provide you with the schedule, and to ask for your help in making this project successful.

The project this year will draw on the year-long skills and concepts learned in English, History, and Chemistry class. They will take a ‘deep dive’ into learning about Haiti, with our theme of engaging the global community. At the start of the EOY days, students will participate in a debate. The debate serves as the culminating unit for all three of a student’s core classes (English, History, and Chemistry). The proposition for the debate this year is:

**In a post-colonial world, increased globalization promotes the greater good for Haiti**

After the debate, small groups will design a response to the challenges and benefits of globalization for Haiti, based on some of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. On May 31st, the final day of EOY, from 9-10:30 a.m. the groups will present their responses via a gallery walk, which will be open to you, the parents, and the larger MA community.

In all-school EOY events already this year, students have learned about Haitian culture and history (Black in Latin America, part 1, 2011), participated in Haitian dance and music with local experts, and learned about the 2010 earthquake (Frontline: The Quake, 2010; NOVA - Deadliest Earthquakes, 2012) and its devastating impact on Haiti.

Students will prepare for the debate in the last few days of regular classes, in their English, history, and chemistry class. Students will choose a lens to focus their studies, and devote all class time in these core classes to evaluating globalization:

- **SCIENCE** will consider how globalization affects the public health and infrastructure surrounding water and sanitation.
- **HISTORY** will consider how globalization affects the distribution of wealth, local economy, political structure, and social class.
- **ENGLISH** will consider how globalization affects education, culture, and identity.

Sophomores should **arrive at school each day for a 9 a.m. start**. They will finish each day at 2:45 p.m. Buses will run on the regular schedule arriving at school at 8:00 a.m. and departing at 3:20 p.m., and breakfast and lunch will be available in the school cafeteria during the project. On the last day, May 31,
students will attend a free all-school barbeque to celebrate the end of this school year. On this day, buses will depart at 1:15 p.m.

Please know that participation in this culminating project is mandatory; the End-of-the-Year Project is a graduation requirement. Students will be assessed on a Credit/Non-Credit basis, and this information will appear on both a student’s transcript and final report card of the year. They will also be given feedback on the ways in which they have engaged in the work, both in and out of the classroom. Please avoid scheduling doctor, dentist, or other appointments during this time; not only do we see this as a valuable experience for each student, but the collaborative nature of this project is dependent on all students being able to rely on each other in their debate and design groups. If your student plans to be absent for any amount of time, please let Jared, the class dean, and Lindsay, our attendance coordinator know right away. Missing a day or more may mean students will need to complete an essay in lieu of the project.

Our belief is that this End-of-the-Year Project will allow students to deepen their understanding of a process integral to being citizens in a democratic society, and that they will hone critical thinking, collaboration, listening, and written and oral presentation skills. Further, it is our hope that sophomores will engage in reflecting deeply on the moral and practical dilemmas presented by globalization. Finally, we anticipate a fun and meaningful end of sophomore year.

Sincerely,

KaTrina Wentzel, Academic Dean
Jared Baird, Betsy Muir, Sachi DeCou, and Mary Kay Dolejsi: 10th Grade EOY Coordinators