May 2018

Dear Senior Parents,

After senior projects end, twelfth graders will be participating in one of four culminating experiences. In making these opportunities available, our goal is for members of the senior class to “journey out and journey back.” The entire class will be out in the community, or engaged in a collaborative project, or out in the wilderness reflecting on their high school experience and enjoying time together, and then everyone will come back to MA on the last day (Thursday, May 31) for a class barbeque and the final Senior Circle. We have created an intentional, reflective culmination that completes both the four-year path and the circle created at the opening Senior Retreat in August.

Seniors have chosen a culminating experience from four options:

Community Action: Education, where students will be working with a local elementary school. Each MA student will be assigned to a classroom and will work directly with both the teacher and the students in the class, in both small groups and one-on-one. MA students will serve as role models for the elementary students, as they engage fully in the school community during their time there.

Marin Senior Outing, where students will be developing backcountry leadership skills, learning about natural history, and practicing minimum impact camping. They will hike Mt. Tam and then head out to Pt. Reyes, where they will camp along the ocean.

Music and Theater, where students will work collectively to develop a short live performance piece that combines music with theater, spoken word, and dance. The piece will be performed on Thursday, May 31, for the MA community.

Senior Wilderness Quest, where students mark the transition from childhood to adulthood through a rite of passage experience in the Mono Lake Basin. Each student engages in a 3-day solo as well as equally important time spent preparing for and debriefing the solo experience with the broader group of questers and guides in the high desert east of the Sierra.

Please know that culminating projects are mandatory; participation in them is a graduation requirement. Please avoid scheduling doctor, dentist, or other appointments during this time.

Each of the culminating experiences will end on Thursday, May 31, in time for a whole-class senior barbeque in the plaza at 12:30 p.m., which will be followed by Senior Circle. Seniors will be done by 2:30 p.m. that day. On Friday, June 1, members of the senior class will need to be at MA at 10:30 a.m. for
graduation rehearsal, which is followed by the Senior/Faculty Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. They should be done by 2:00 p.m. that day.

We hope that the members of the senior class enjoy their end of the year experiences, and we wish them well in all of their endeavors to follow. It has been a pleasure working with them this year, and they should be proud of all that they have accomplished at MA. This is an exciting moment in their journey and we feel fortunate to share it with both them and you.

Sincerely,

KaTrina Wentzel, Academic Dean
Senior Experience Coordinators:
   Community Action, Education: Krista Curtis and Glenn Stanfield
   Marin Senior Outing: Jon Bretan and Jamie Collie
   Music and Theater: Chris Detrick and David Sinaiko
   Wilderness Quest: Julie Barnes and Doreen Clark