

James Newman, Ph.D., Head of School

October 2010

Dear Academy Families and Friends,

Our new academic year is off to an exciting start. I'm pleased with the learning that is occurring, and the effective transition new students are making to the Academy. We have already completed five weeks of school, and our Homecoming Weekend kicks off this afternoon with the all-school pep rally. Our Alumni Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening will be a wonderful opportunity to visit with former students and pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of eight of our alums.

In addition to Homecoming Weekend, October is traditionally the month when we mail our *Annual Report of Gifts* to you and many other members of the Academy community. I think you'll enjoy reading this year's edition. In particular, I hope you'll delight in reading about the exciting learning opportunities available to our students because of your donations to last year's annual fund campaign.

As Jess Ritchie, our director of development and alumni relations, announced at our Back-to-School nights, we are now calling our annual campaign the "Academy Fund." The purpose of past campaigns has been to fund important "meat-and-potatoes" portions of our academic and support programs. Every year, the Academy community collectively contributes to our annual campaign. Recent contributions to the Academy Fund have supported the professional development of our mathematics teachers, allowed us to convert old florescent lights in the McCormick Auditorium and Lehrman Gymnasium into energy-saving fixtures, and have provided equipment for our Lower School science labs, textbooks for the nationally-acclaimed *Great Books Programs* for the Middle School, and teacher training for our Upper School's IB program, among other initiatives.

Our goal for this year's Academy Fund is \$285,000. With the support of every Academy family, we can reach it. Your gifts to the Academy Fund this year will offset the costs of budgeted projects such as:

- A new series of mathematics textbooks for Lower School instruction
- An air-conditioning system for the lower level of the Upper School
- Events for our new 8th Grade Experience Program
- Transportation of our Middle and Upper School athletic teams to away games
- Upgrades to technology

You're not alone in this important campaign. Our trustees are planning to raise \$40,000 for the Academy Fund. Our faculty and staff already have committed to funding \$8,100. During the last three years, we've received an average of \$95,000 from local corporations and foundations, and we're planning to increase that amount. Our alumni repeatedly are generous, as are their parents.

Challenging our students in an environment that nurtures and inspires.

When you soon receive our appeal to make a contribution to the *Academy Fund*, I hope you will be generous. We're counting on current Academy parents to donate \$50,000 collectively to the Academy Fund goal. Your participation matters; each gift is meaningful if we hope to provide the learning materials and program support listed above.

Giving as we can of our time, treasure, and talent to the Academy community is a commitment expressed in our *Community Compact*. I hope you will join the rest of our community in achieving our critical *Academy Fund* goal.

With warm regards,

Jim