

Hello all,

It appears the nursery rhyme about April showers has arrived in central Florida. At this rate, May's flowers will be something to see! I hope the Easter vacation and spring break were restful, reflective and recharging times for your family. We find ourselves, somehow, nearing the last quarter of the school year. Faculty continue to inspire thinking and learning among our talented students, students are continuing to work on completing a successful school year and we all are joining with our seniors as they look forward to the next phase of their journey.

This is also the time of the year when we look forward to next year and ask how we can improve the experience for our families. The faculty, department chairs and administration have been focusing on curriculum, graduation requirements, schedule advising and college advising. After years of extraordinary growth, it is clearly time to take a breath and look forward to providing systems for not only the All Saints' Academy that is today but, equally important, the All Saints' Academy that will be tomorrow. Every educator at All Saints' Academy is committed to preparing our students for the world that will be...not just the world that exists today. While looking at nearer term trends which will affect our Upper School students is quite a challenge, predicting the world that will exist for our three-year-olds, fifth graders, and middle school students requires an educational organization that is dynamic, organic and constantly evolving.

To frame this position, and to help reinforce how different the world will be for our children, I highly recommend viewing the following 6-minute video. It is the most dramatic and data based illustration of the obligations and opportunities that are presented to us as we prepare our children.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljbl-363A2Q>

As we look forward, it is clear that we will provide a stronger class scheduling, college advising and student support experience for our Middle and Upper School students by creating specialized and acutely focused resources. This year, Steve Canlon accepted the role of Dean of Students to provide consistent, attentive and healthy boundaries for our students. In addition, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Linda Duemmel will be serving as the Director of Studies, working with Division Heads, Department Chairs and faculty to plan and guide our students along a strategic path for academic success. Mrs. Duemmel has significant independent school experience and deeply understands the unique opportunities that exist for our talented and curious students. Mrs. Duemmel will work closely with Mrs. Brice to provide an accessible and professional resource for our families.

The complexity and competitiveness of the college admissions process, along with the growth of our senior classes, has created the need for a dedicated college advisor resource. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Gail Bonnichsen will lead our college advisor process as the Director of College Advising. Working with Mrs. Bonnichsen as College Advisor will be Mrs. Nancy Kormann. Both Mrs. Bonnichsen and Mrs. Kormann have extensive independent school experience that will be invaluable to our families in this, unfortunately, increasingly anxiety driven process. Mrs. Bonnichsen attended independent schools and has served All Saints' Academy as a member of the English

faculty, English Department Chair and Director of Admissions (which she will continue in addition to her new role). Mrs. Kormann has worked in independent schools for many years serving as Dean of Studies, a member of the English Faculty and as Library Media Specialist. These talented educational professionals will guide our students and families comfortably and professionally through the college admission process. They will work hand in hand with Mrs. Brice and Mrs. Duemmel to provide a comprehensive, strategic and thoughtful plan for each of our students. Communication will be forthcoming from these great folks regarding aspects of their roles and inviting you to touch base with any questions or ideas to make this the most positive and seamless transition possible.

I have mentioned my fondness in earlier newsletters for the organizational improvement roadmap outline in Jim Collin's book, *Good to Great*. In this proposal, Collins and his MBA students at Stanford's Graduate School of Business gathered data that identified why and how some businesses separate themselves from the universe of "good" companies and became the "great" companies. One of the principles outlined in the book is that the great companies had the courage to "lift up the rock and look at the ugly, squiggly things underneath." At All Saints' Academy, we are dedicated and passionate about our own journey providing a GREAT experience to our community. To provide the feedback and data we need to see under our own "rock", we have developed a broad, general survey that will allow each family to provide genuine and authentic feedback to guide school leadership on this journey. For this instrument to be of maximum benefit, **we ask each family respond only once and complete the survey by Friday, April 18.** You may click on the following email link,

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s\\_pass.aspx?sm=%2f1BXcXK0FaDrhSPlustNhA%3d%3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s_pass.aspx?sm=%2f1BXcXK0FaDrhSPlustNhA%3d%3d)

or visit our website at <http://www.allsaintsacademy.com/> where a visible link will take you to the survey from our homepage.

In both cases you will be asked to sign in using a password so only those in our community can provide the information. **The password is "asa parent" (space between asa and parent and all lower case).** Your information will, of course, be completely anonymous. We will collate and mine the data in May and utilize the different pace of the summer to allow us the opportunity to reflect on the results and develop strategic steps and programs to move our school forward. This information will be in my first newsletter of the year in September.

Thank you all for your generous support of our mission through the annual fund, sharing your talents and for your time. We are excited about our school, our community and the great things that are in store for our children. Thank you for sharing your children with us this year and for valuing education enough, especially in challenging times, to share them with us next year.

Take care,

*Tony*  
[tjordan@allsaintsacademy.com](mailto:tjordan@allsaintsacademy.com)