

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

June 23, 2020

Dear Cheverus Students and Families,

During the class meetings that Fr. Pecoraro, our Dean of Students Dan Costigan and I hosted on the final day of classes this year, we addressed the two pandemics facing our world today: COVID-19 and Racism.

In regards to the first pandemic, we told students that it wasn't their job to worry about how we would return to school next fall – it was ours. This summer we have the chance to prepare our campus and ourselves for the realities of the coronavirus in ways that we didn't when we made the switch to online learning in March. Our priority in planning is to return to school with in-person classes. We are investing in technology to improve our campus' already strong network capabilities, and our classrooms are being outfitted with Meeting Owl cameras to facilitate hybrid and remote learning. Our teachers are using their experience with remote learning over the past few months and engaging in professional development to make the delivery of our curriculum even more flexible. Our Facilities team is investing in PPE and sanitation equipment, and we're thinking about how to best use our spaces to keep everyone safe while on campus. We know that there is a degree of decision-making regarding school next fall that is beyond our control, but for those parts we can control Cheverus will be prepared.

In regards to the second pandemic, Racism, we told students that they did have a role to play in preparing our campus to face this challenge. Their job over the summer is to think about the ways in which racism affects all of us, to honestly assess their reactions to racism in the past, and to contemplate what it would look like to be actively antiracist moving forward. To facilitate this work, we have chosen a summer reading book for all members of the Cheverus community that addresses the evil of racism: *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. The novel tells the story of “two young men, one black and one white, whose lives are forever changed by an act of extreme police brutality.” We believe the book presents a realistic and balanced message about how racism impacts all of our lives, and we think you will find it to be a very engaging summer read. Though the book does contain some strong language, we believe that in the context of the story this language is not used gratuitously or just for effect.

When we return in the fall – however we return – we will be even better prepared as a community to face both of the pandemics threatening our nation today. Stay tuned for updates throughout the summer on our plans for returning to campus, as well as the ways in which we will engage with and discuss our Community Read, *All American Boys*. We wish you and your family a peaceful and restful summer, and we look forward to resuming our work together in the fall.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal