February 10, 2020

Dear Parents:

I am sharing my letter that annually precedes the issuance of re-enrollment contracts. My gift to you in this final year of my tenure is brevity, not exactly a signature trait. I have two aims: one, to explain the basic financial metrics related to the tuition schedule; and second, to capture the love, optimism, trust, and purpose that we share in educating your children.

We will send re-enrollment contracts for the 2020-21 school year to you on February 11. Contracts to new students in grades with openings will be sent on February 14.

We have increased tuition by a weighted average of 2.99%, consistent with increases over the last twelve years. Increases translate into 3-5 dollars a day over the current schedule. The projected net revenue yield from the tuition increase based on an opening day enrollment of 1125 is $800,000. The expense attached to a baseline raises of 3% for all faculty and staff is $700,000. Our budget is consistent with national averages for independent schools: 70-75% percent of our operating expenses are salaries and benefits. Nearly 90% of the net tuition increase revenue is devoted to treating our teachers and staff personnel fairly for their exceptional work. The revenue goes to the core function of the school.

Next I offer a few comments about the value of the service we are inviting you to renew. Admittedly, I see the school through a partisan lens. However, my advocacy is predicated on a long independent school career with 33 years as a school head. My unequivocal conclusion is: it doesn’t get any better than CCES. No day passes that I don’t marvel at the quality of people with whom I have lived the last fourteen years. The special recipe that gives us the edge is our Episcopal DNA. No matter our cultural, political, or religious disposition, we come together in a community of respect, equity, and inclusion through the auspices of our Episcopal values and practices. Most good schools offer a menu of academic, arts, and athletics. We enrich this fare with a broad range of service experiences and opportunities to grow spiritually. These domains are interwoven and complementary: the lessons on the playing field and on stage gain meaning and resonance from our common worship, our spirit of service, and the discipline and depth of academic preparation. In all of these learning zones, dedicated and talented mentors inspire students to be all that they can be.

You will see the results of the CCES experience in the daily behavior and temperament of your child. The return on investment is inestimable yet palpable day in and day out—in the happiness of your child and his/her enthusiasm about every day at CCES. There is no more persuasive measure of the quality of the school than the desire of
students to start a new day. This spirit persists through all grade levels. CCES feeds students’ intellectual curiosity and the social bonds that last a lifetime. Most alumni will testify that many of their closest friends were their CCES classmates. That principle holds true for successive generations of CCES students. Our students own this school. It is their school; they nurture and protect it.

CCES is also your school. We strive to be a community in which everyone belongs and all have a stake in its prosperity and its promise. Our collective care sustains the school and strengthens the good that it does for every student.

I have been privileged to serve this loving community. My successor, David Padilla, deeply appreciates the ties that bind us. The community will thrive under his leadership.

God bless you all,

Leonard Kupersmith
Head of School