

I hope this note finds you well. In an effort to introduce myself and share some important information regarding the Dean of Students role and your son, I am happy to share the following information.

The 2021 school year will mark my 9<sup>th</sup> year at St. Paul's School. My career started as a history intern and has developed over the years as I became the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader and Outward-Bound Coordinator all the while being an assistant coach on the Varsity Lacrosse team. I am extremely eager to get started as the newly appointed Dean of Students for the Upper School.

The Dean of Students role is more than punishment and discipline. Yes, upholding the standards of the school and the community are an important part of this role, but creating a culture of growth, spirit, and excitement are important characteristics that I am most excited about. There are many different aspects of Student Life while in the US, and I am looking forward to helping your son as he navigates the highs and lows of the next four years. I encourage him to take advantage of all the offerings in the US and to share his interests with everyone. I challenge your son to try something new, expand his social circle, and to be an important part of this special community. The experience in the US is guided by the faculty but is fueled by the students.

Your son's experience in the Upper School will start during freshman orientation. This day will start a long journey the class of 2024 will navigate together. For the first time this class will be brought together as they start to develop their own class culture. Orientation will allow for fun initiatives, conversation, as well as informative sessions. This day serves as an opportunity for the class of 2024 to be together with no other US students around, creating a feeling of unity as a class before a larger sense of unity as a school.

An important part of the St. Paul's School community occurs outside of the classrooms. We offer many different opportunities in Athletics and the Arts for your son to join. At St. Paul's School being more than just a student in the classroom is an important characteristic as we develop young men. Your son will have to meet specific activity credits throughout his four years. Athletics and the Arts are split into three seasons: fall, winter, and spring. During your son's freshman year, he must participate in two seasons. In his sophomore year, he will need to participate in two seasons as well. Once he is a junior, this requirement drops to one season. And during his senior year he will have to participate in one season as well. The wide variety of opportunities allows your son to pursue areas of interest as well as try new adventures.

One area that encourages community is our dress code. Since the primary purpose of St. Paul's School is education, the dress code exists to create a sense of community that ensures students can concentrate on their academic growth in an environment that reflects professionalism and not trends in fashion. School Dress is dress slacks (khakis or corduroys), dress shirt and tie, and closed, non-athletic shoes. There is also Special Dress which your son will need to wear a blue blazer.

The faculty and staff at St. Paul's are looking forward to your son's arrival next fall! Student Life is an important part of the St. Paul's experience, and I take pride in shaping a culture of exploration, compassion, and growth.

Kevin Benzing