

# Innovation & Resilience

Dear SGS Community,

What a year! The last 15 months tested us all like no other, and we were up to the challenges we faced. The rhythm of a typical school year was absent, but one day at a time, the weeks and months moved at a familiar pace, that has some asking, “where did the time go?” Now, we reflect on the accomplishments of 2020-21 (which there were many!), as well as consider what to change, what to continue, and what to stop for the 2021-22 school year. The upcoming school year will undoubtedly provide new challenges and unknowns. However, based on the resilience of the community this year, we will be ready.

The success of this year would not have been possible without our dedicated faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees. This was a team effort that began in March 2020 and is ongoing. The tireless effort and trust of the faculty allowed our students to learn in-person and on-line starting in September 2020 (K-8) and then safely adding classes/students throughout the fall and finally having over 80% attending in person in January. It was so exciting to have students back on campus to energize the hallways and classrooms that had fallen eerily quiet.

We were able to cover most of the content as students were “attending” classes five days per week throughout the year. Teachers re-imagined lessons and engaged students, simultaneously teaching students in the classroom and in a distance learning format in retrofitted teaching spaces that allowed for the physical distancing required by the state.

The partnership with our parents has been strengthened this year as they have been so supportive in our efforts to keep all our students safe. Parents transported their children each day, sent them in with their “Golden Ticket” or kept them home as needed. This cooperation kept SGS open and without any COVID cases spread within the community. Amazing diligence by all!

I have been so proud to be associated with the Saint George’s community and this

year only strengthened that resolve. Since September, I have started each day by welcoming our Lower School students during their morning drop-off. They were so excited to be at school, often running or skipping into the building. The 6th-12th graders were needing the social and emotional outlets of school and to get them back on campus was paramount. The students were willing, eager, and appreciative to be back on campus, but the adults were even more excited to have them here. Witnessing the innovation and resilience of all community members has reinforced our confidence in the Saint George’s way of preparing students for life after SGS.

I would like to thank all those members of our faculty and staff that will be retiring, relocating, or pursuing new positions outside of teaching next year. They have all made significant contributions during their time at SGS and the school is better for it! Please be sure to read about these terrific people in the magazine.

In fact, in the pages that follow, I invite you to take a trip down our SGS memory lane for 2021. Join me in celebrating the accomplishments, cherishing the memories, honoring the challenges, and looking forward to next year!

A great summer, and Go Dragons!  
 – Jamie Tender, Head of School



**Jamie Tender,**  
**Head of School**

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**A socially distanced 6th grade Spanish class gets a workout in the Middle School courtyard.**

