

October 23, 2019

Dear Upper School Families,

It was great to see so many of you at Conferences last week. Though the time runs quickly at these meetings, we consider them to be especially valuable opportunities to connect with parents and unify around the vision of our students' success. Thank you for taking time to join us.

As you may know, we conducted our new building's first Tornado Drill yesterday—though it had initially been planned for a bit later in the quarter, this past weekend's destructive weather caused us to reconsider the timeline. We were pleased with the result—the whole school fit well into the storm shelter, and students were very receptive to this important exercise.

This week marks the second of our school's Acculturation Weeks. As we did earlier in the year, we come together as a school to reflect on one of the four Cardinal Virtues, enjoying the company of our fellows on the path to goodness through discussion, reading, and seminar. This quarter's focus is on the virtue of Temperance, and our study of this virtue is supplemented by a school-wide reading of [a chapter](#) from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We hope that parents will take time to reflect on the reading with your students in the coming days. As we did before, we'll conclude the week with a school-wide celebration, with students of the [Six Houses](#) competing to unseat the previous victor, House Darius. Students are encouraged to wear House shirts or Spirit shirts.

Finally, we're excited for the upcoming field trip for students in seventh and ninth grade Music this semester, enjoying a performance by the Irving Symphony and concluding with a picnic. More such trips are on the horizon, so please keep an eye out for this information to come home with your scholars or to show up in the newsletter.

Sincerely,



Philip Althage  
Headmaster, Upper School  
Great Hearts Irving