

September 10, 2019

Dear Upper School Families,

Please note two critical points concerning **student safety and supervision**. **First**, please note that students are not monitored by school personnel until 7:30, when the window for Drop-Off begins. Families who drop students off prior to 7:30 release children into an unsupervised environment. **Secondly**, we observe many students have been released by parents to walk off campus, most to the RaceTrac across the very busy Carbon Rd. If you permit your children to cross the street and wait at RaceTrac, please instruct them to use the utmost safety when doing so. Furthermore, please remind them that they may not return to campus after leaving.

The week is off to a strong start in the Upper School. Plans for the **High School Back to School Cookout** (Friday 9/13 1:30-4:30) are coming together nicely, thanks in no small part to our parent volunteers. High School students met on Monday with a representative from **Thomas Aquinas College**, the first of many such visits in the works for the year. **Homecoming** plans are also taking shape— we look forward to sharing some helpful information with families and students soon.

Preparations for clubs are materializing well, with our first club sessions planned for this Friday. **Volleyball** and **Cross Country** have a full schedule for the week ([see calendar here](#))— we hope to see students and parents well represented at our home competitions!

I am eager especially to welcome families to join me later this month for our first **Evening with the Classics** event at **7:00 on September 26**. Our first meeting will focus upon the subject of Classical Education— the history of the paradigm, the essential principles it employs, the approach as juxtaposed against other philosophies of education, and the place of Classical Education in modern America.

We will also dedicate time to look at how the Classical vision is embodied in our curriculum, our teachers, and our cultural atmosphere, in order to offer parents a practical sense of the way our philosophy informs the daily activities at Great Hearts Irving.

Our goal is to help parents walk away with a renewed sense for the vision of our school and the broader vision to which schools like ours adhere. In our climate of conflicting educational priorities, we wish to empower parents to speak knowingly and passionately about an approach to student formation which prioritizes Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

No sign-up is necessary, but we ask that only parents and guardians attend— this talk is specifically oriented toward you. Parents should arrive slightly before 7:00 p.m. on September 26 for the "Evening with the Classics", to be directed to our place of meeting from the Reception Desk.

Sincerely,

Philip Althage  
Headmaster, Upper School  
Great Hearts Irving