

Dear Families,

Friday marked the conclusion of our first full week of the 2019-20 school year. I want to share my singular gratitude and appreciation our families for carefully attending to our Pick-up/Drop-off operations. Because you kept a close eye on our communications and remained alert behind the wheel, we were able to progressively lower our times. We expect to see continued improvement this week. On that note, please recall that the **left lane** is available to **all families** upon entering the campus from Carbon Rd for Pick-up/Drop-off.

Curriculum Nights are just around the corner, and we have an important update to communicate to families. We ask that parents of students in **Grades 6 and 7** join us from **5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on September 18**, and parents of students in **Grades 8-11** join us at the same time on **September 19**. Note that 8<sup>th</sup> Grade has changed from one night to the other in an effort to better plan for your presence on campus.

As some may know, the TEA recently released Accountability Ratings for all Texas Public Schools. These ratings score schools according to objective criteria related to student performance, demographics, attendance, and other factors. For our second year since the TEA employed this approach to rating two years ago, Great Hearts Irving has received an “A Rating” overall, placing us within a group of only 300 of Texas’s nearly 9,000 campuses statewide.

We were especially pleased by our success in the areas of “Closing the Gaps” (differentials among different demographic groups) and “Student Achievement” (overall performance across all subjects for all students) in the report and aim to strengthen supports and outcomes for our economically disadvantaged student population this year. We have already begun the work of assessing this area for growth, and are developing a strategy for improvement with the District. For an overview of the criteria and a summary of the evaluation, click [here](#). For a closer look at our school’s data in particular, click [here](#).

As you know, the week was set aside as the first of three Acculturation Weeks, which saw students engaged with one another across grades for discussions about virtue and, on Friday, a school-wide House competition outside.

Taking third place on the field of play was House Vercingetorix. In second place came the competitors of House Pericles. Ahead of these two by a strong margin were the students of House Darius—the victors of the day. To help your scholars connect with our House culture, I recommend that families review the descriptions of the lives of the [House Exemplars](#) and help your students to learn the [House Motto](#). To see pictures from the day, click [here](#).

We are excited to share that club descriptions will be distributed to students at Lycaenum tomorrow. Students will be given opportunities on Thursday and Friday to sign up for the

club(s) of their choice. Be sure to look over the club description document [here](#) and help your scholars prioritize their choices by the end of the week.

Finally, please be sure to look at the accumulation of events listed in the weekly Newsletter. We are excited about the wide array of opportunities for students and parents to come closer into the life of our school community, from deep investigations of our Classical identity to evenings of levity and games for our students.

Thank you,

Philip Althage  
Headmaster, Upper School  
Great Hearts Irving