Dear Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to address some important feedback and recent confusion regarding our uniform policy.

Several years ago, in response to the financial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we paused our requirement for a single-source uniform vendor for school bottoms, allowing families to purchase pants, shorts, and skirts from various retailers. Earlier this year, we made the decision to return to our original policy of requiring all items to be purchased through Lands' End. However, we recognize that this shift was not communicated as clearly or as early as it should have been, leading to understandable frustration and confusion.

Over the past few weeks, we have heard clearly from many of our families. You shared valid concerns regarding the increased financial burden of exclusive Lands' End pricing for uniform bottoms and related embroidery fee, especially for rapidly growing teenagers. Additionally, we understand that the lack of a local brick-and-mortar store to try on sizes and Lands' End's significant delivery timelines have made the ordering process challenging.

We hear you, and we want to make this right. Our goal is to maintain a neat, cohesive campus appearance without placing an undue burden on your time or finances.

Uniform Policy Clarification for 2026–2027

To provide flexibility where it is needed most, we are clarifying our requirements for the upcoming school year. In short, our policy remains the same from last year:

- **Flexibility for Bottoms Only:** For the 2026–2027 school year, families are permitted to purchase daily uniform pants, shorts, and skirts from alternative vendors, provided they strictly match our school color and style guidelines. In Lower School (PK3 - 4th grade), pants, shorts, and skirts/skorts should be dark navy blue in the standard uniform style. In Middle (5th-8th) and High (9th-12th) School, pants, shorts, and skirts/skorts should be khaki colored chino material in the standard uniform style. If you have questions about your selection meeting our uniform requirements, please contact your principal.
- **Shirts & Formal Attire:** Uniform shirts--both the polo and Oxford dress shirt--must be purchased through Lands' End to ensure logo and color consistency. Additionally, the formal uniform plaid jumper and Peter Pan collar blouse required for Lower School girls must continue to be purchased exclusively through Lands' End.
- **Honoring Lands' End Purchases:** We know some families have already purchased bottoms from Lands' End to comply with the earlier directive. Please rest assured that these pieces are fully within dress code and excellent for daily wear.

*For families looking to purchase their required uniform shirts, Lower School jumpers, or preferred Lands' End bottoms, Lands' End is currently running a **35% off sale through Friday, July 3**. We encourage you to take advantage of this discount to help mitigate costs and avoid late-summer shipping delays.*

Looking Ahead: Evaluating Our Vendor Partnerships

Your feedback has also highlighted systemic issues with our current vendor's service model, specifically regarding the lack of physical fitting locations and long delivery timelines. We will be reviewing our uniform vendor options for the 2027–2028 school year to prioritize affordability, reliable shipping, and better accessibility.

Should we transition to a new partner for the 2027–2028 school year, any apparel purchased from Lands' End will remain within dress code during a generous transition period. No family will be forced to discard recently purchased, wearable uniforms due to a future vendor change.

Thank you for your candor, your patience, and your partnership as we work through this transition together. Our community is strongest when we listen to one another, and I am grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Nathan Wagner

Head of School