



VIRGINIA BEACH
FRIENDS SCHOOL

Knowledge. Character. Community.

February 22, 2019

Dear VBFS Families,

Recently, I attended the VAIS Head of School Conference themed *Leading with Optimism*. The keynote speaker on the first night, John Lewis, Head of School at The Gunston School in Maryland, shared a story his mentor once told him. John said, "The most important thing I've ever been told as a Head of School was from my mentor, another Head of School. He said, 'John, a Head of School always has to have the most bold and optimistic vision of the school in his mind and heart at all times. If they don't, they will lose their way.'"

The Friends School Kristin and I arrived at this past June is not the same Friends School it is now, it's better. It's better not because of my bold, optimistic vision, but because of the collective boldness and optimism of our teachers, staff, School Committee, parents, and students. As you look to the future of your child's education at Virginia Beach Friends School and re-enrolling for next year, please don't forget this. Don't forget that as a community, we've accomplished more since June than most schools do in years. What have we done....

- Launched a new website that has led to increased enrollment across all levels.
- New branding and marketing initiatives have made VBFS more visible throughout Hampton Roads than ever before.
- VBFS' social media presence has exploded spreading S.P.I.C.E.S far and wide.
- Academic additions from mixed age classrooms to a new five-day rotating schedule in the Middle and Upper School are enhancing students' overall academic experience.
- Increased professional development opportunities on and off campus for all teachers are occurring leading to exciting classroom opportunities for all students.
- Unprecedented fundraising throughout our community has led to the installation of an industrial kitchen for experiential learning opportunities, along with numerous campus wide improvements.
- Campus wide technology and safety upgrades have occurred providing the best and safest academic experience.
- Coming this spring, the re-launching of the VBFS Greenhouse will foster more hands-on learning for students across all levels.
- For 2019-20, re-opening the historic Cottage and re-establishing a VBFS toddler program starting at age 2.5.

In my mind, one word describes 2018-19 academic year better than any for VBFS, "catalyst!" This school year will be remembered as the year a chain reaction occurred at Virginia Beach Friends School that forever changed the School and it's all because of you -- our incredible community.

As we look to the 2019-20 academic year, attached to this letter you will find the 2019-20 re-enrollment contract. In order to secure an enrollment spot at Friends for next year please read over the following materials then sign and return the contract with the appropriate fees by **Monday, March 25**. *I hope, as you reflect on the 2018-19 year and look to next year and re-enrolling your child at Friends, know this, next year will be even more amazing than this year!*

As you are aware, re-enrollment is a crucial process that helps the school determine which children are returning and how many spaces we will have for new students. ***In looking ahead to the 2019-2020 school year, it is imperative that current families return their re-enrollment contracts by March 25 as this will allow us to build our budget for the next fiscal year which in turn allows us to extend Employment Contracts for our teachers and staff in April.*** If families do not return re-enrollment contracts on a timely basis, it makes hiring faculty very challenging.

****As an incentive for turning in re-enrollment contracts by the March 25 deadline, families who return their re-enrollment contract by March 25 will be charged the 2018-19 tuition rate, not the 2019-20 tuition that reflects the tuition increase of 3%.***

In order to enroll for the 2019-20 academic year, all VBFS families must be current with their financial obligations to the School and/or have spoken with the VBFS Business Manager with regard to outstanding 2018-19 tuition obligations. If you plan on not continuing with VBFS, please inform Galen, Wendy, or me of your intentions as it helps us better prepare for next year.

Also, VBFS will not release transcripts for students leaving VBFS or applying to college with a delinquent financial account.

Again, please return your re-enrollment contract to VBFS by Monday, March 25.

Tuition and Fees

At VBFS, we are committed to providing the best Friends education possible. In pursuit of our commitment to you and your children, we need to support and nurture the very best in our faculty and facilities while balancing the expenses of an independent school.

In order to provide this quality education that delivers solid value for the money, we annually review the cost of tuition against the long-term fiscal plan for the school with the School Committee. We do this to balance our goal of affordability with the reality of running a school. With this being said, we will need to increase tuition and all associated fees for the 2019-20 academic year by 3%. This increase in tuition will help us to continue to provide the very best education at the best value in Hampton Roads.

****Again, as an incentive for turning in re-enrollment contracts by the March 25 deadline, families who return their re-enrollment contract by March 25 will be charged the 2018-19 tuition rate, not the 2019-20 tuition that reflects the 3% increase.***

Please take a moment to review the enclosed materials that describe the process and procedures for re-enrollment. Along with your re-enrollment material, you will find FACT tuition management information enclosed. FACT provides 24/7 access to your private accounts.

Please sign and return the completed Re-enrollment Contract along with a Tuition Deposit of \$275 on or before March 25, 2019.

As always, if questions or concerns arise, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thanks for your continued support. Your timely response will help us finalize our needs for staffing and space next year.

Sincerely,

Michael Barclay
Head of School

TUITION PROTECTION/INSURANCE PLAN

Virginia Beach Friends School, 1537 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA. 23451

Historically, VBFS has always offered families an internally structured tuition protection plan that increased in cost based on a student's academic level. For the 2019-20 academic year, these rates would range as high as \$988.00 for Upper School students. Families who enrolled in tuition protection are afforded the ability to break their enrollment contract mid-year if they had to move or for one reason or another had to withdraw from the VBFS academic program.

This year, VBFS is partnering with Dewar Insurance to utilize their Tuition Refund Plan. The Dewar Tuition Refund Plan is the most recognized tuition refund plan in the country being used by over 1200 leading independent schools and colleges.

You will find information about Dewar and The Tuition Refund Plan enclosed. Please read the information thoroughly. *As per the Plan guidelines, all families who choose Tuition Payment Plans B or C must sign up for Dewar's Tuition Refund Plan as part of their enrollment. The School highly encourages Plan A families to do so as well, but it is not a requirement of Dewar's for Plan A families to use the Plan.*

****Plan A families who do not purchase Dewar's Tuition Refund Plan and, for any reason, must break their enrollment contract during the 2019-20 academic year will not be refunded any portion of their paid tuition.***

Ultimately, the cost of the Dewar's Tuition Refund Plan is much more affordable for all VBFS families and more comprehensive in its coverage for both VBFS families and the School.

Families with multiple students attending VBFS must submit Tuition Refund Plans for each child. One plan does not cover an entire family.

Plan B and C families, please sign and date below and return this form with your re-enrollment contract.

I, _____, have read and understand that all Plan B and C tuition plans must enroll in Tuition Refund Plan. I have enclosed the required fee with my re-enrollment contract and understand my contractual obligation to the Virginia Beach Friends School as outlined in the 2019-20 re-enrollment contract.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Plan A families, please sign and date below and return this form with your re-enrollment contract.

I, _____, have read and understand that by choosing the Plan A tuition plan my family is not required to enroll in Tuition Refund Plan. However, I understand that by not enrolling in Tuition Refund Plan, I will be required to pay the entire obligated tuition to Virginia Beach Friends School if, for any reason, our child's enrollment contract with Virginia Beach Friends School must be broken.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____