

Principal's Report

October 18, 2018

Keeping Track of the Days

We missed three days of school with Hurricane Florence:
September 13th, 14th, and 17th.

We missed a day and part of a day with Hurricane Michael:
October 11th (previously scheduled—and calculated—as a half day of school to allow for parent/teacher conferences)
October 12th – two-hour delay

We made up one day on September 19th (previously scheduled as a school holiday – but changed to a make-up day at the September 12th emergency board meeting.)

According to SL 2018-135 (SB2):

For schools outside of the disaster area of Florence (Chatham County is outside the disaster area), “for days missed in excess of two days” board may “deem as completed any number of the instructional days or equivalent hours.”

So, we potentially have just over two days of “credit” in the bank. If we need additional time, we could eliminate the MS/HS mid-morning break as we did last spring and add that to instructional time. If we still need time beyond that, we could use February 18th, March 8th, April 19th, June 6th, and June 7th.

The parent/teacher conferences that were scheduled for October 11th will now take place October 23rd and 30th.

Project Marigold

Our faculty meets after school each Tuesday (in divisions, in departments, all together, or by grade level). This year's after-school meeting schedule also includes a few days designated as Marigold days. On these days we will have a variety of battery-recharging/saw-sharpening/self-care offerings for faculty ranging from yoga to vision boards, writing circles to hiking groups. These groups are mostly led by faculty but we have (and are looking for more) parent volunteers assisting. The goal of Marigolds is to be explicit about the need for taking care of ourselves and to enjoy different ways of being together as a faculty community.

On September 25th we held our first round of Marigolds, and the offerings included 1) hiking, 2) trail running, 3) yoga, 4) BYOB (book), and 5) a writing circle.

Faculty Flu Clinic

As we have for many years, we offered a faculty flu clinic (for faculty and their families) on September 26th.

The Social Institute

Sean Kelly, a lead coach with The Social Institute, came to Woods on October 1st-2nd (rescheduled from September 17th-18th) to work with parents, students, student leaders, faculty, and admin. Each of the sessions started with a presentation of their "Standards" (attached to this report) then proceeded with discussions around scenarios and strategies. The Social Institute approach is a positive and creative one, and the presentations were very well received. MS and HS advisors have continued discussions in advisory.

Faculty Off-Site Retreat

Recognizing that there's a different kind of thinking that takes place when you are . . .

- 1) not rushed, and
- 2) away from your normal routine and space.

we once again held an off-campus fall retreat for the whole faculty as we have for the past six years.

This year we were lucky enough to hold the retreat for the second year in a row at Kara and Chris Brewer's (a school family) farm and event space that is in the country about fifteen minutes from Chapel Hill. They have beautifully restored a 19th century hand-hewn timber frame barn that the faculty found both comfortable and inspiring. Note: The Barn will be the site of this year's Benefit Auction in April.

In the weeks prior to the retreat, teachers gathered to identify priorities and leading edges for the retreat workshops. Then the admin team devised a schedule to reflect what teachers hoped to study and discuss. Attached to this report you can find our **schedule** and some of our **discussion prompts** from the retreat.

Annual Fund Drive

We sure are having a lot of fun in our attempts to get participation numbers up with this year's annual fund! We've sent letters home, posted several playful videos, and had parents and students cheerleading at the curb during drop-off and pick-up.

Board members are asked to be sure to donate or pledge before they leave tonight, so that we can show solid 100% support from the school's governing body.

Admissions

Registration for our admissions lottery opened this past Monday – and will remain open until January 15th.

Our first admissions tour of the year was this Wednesday. We had 46 visitors in attendance. Other tours on the schedule:

Wednesday, November 14th at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9th at 9:15 a.m. (for prospective Kindergarten families only.)

Wednesday, January 16th at 9:15 a.m.

(These dates/times are all posted on the school website under admissions.)

In late September we mailed outreach letters to various civic groups and churches to make sure we are attracting diverse families to the tours. We also posted flyers in select places around town with the same goal. If any board/community members would like to take a flyer to post, please see me or Roz. Additionally, we like to have parents on the tours to answer questions and speak to their experience at Woods. If that sounds interesting, please talk to Roz.

Principal's Goals

Please see attached. Presented at the last meeting (since the board retreat was canceled for weather). Awaiting board approval.

Capital Expenditure Plan Update.

Please see attached.

Calendar Notes

October 19	Grandparents/Special Friends Day
October 25-26	Senior Retreat
October 30	Representative from Senator Burr's office visits Woods
November 3	Into the Woods 5-K Woods Birthday Celebration
November 9	Café Night
November 15	November Board Meeting

The Social Institute's recommended social standards

Standards are a little different than rules. They're ways of living and expectations of ongoing behavior that a group of people agree to and expect of each other. Standards are not easier to follow than rules. In fact, they may be harder to follow because standards take practice. The great thing about standards is that when a group of people agrees to follow the same ones, they can help each other meet them. Think of standards as a way to live, not just a way to behave.

Below are The Social Institute's seven social standards. Under each are ways to live up to that standard. You could say that the seven standards each have specific "rules" that, when followed, help you meet them.

Protect your privacy like you're famous

- Keep your location, email address, and phone number private. Do you know where Emma Watson lives? How about LeBron's Skype handle? No? There's a reason.
- Change your passwords every three months. That's quarterly or, for those of you who don't like counting, once a season.
- Never share your passwords with friends, even your BFF. And yeah, the code you set to unlock your phone *is a password*. Unlock it first before handing it over.
- Consider a family password sharing solution like the one offered by [LastPass](#), because it's tough to keep track of everyone's super-secret codes.
- Avoid sharing photos or videos with your location or identity info evident, such as a street sign, mailbox, front door, car's license plate, and — especially — your driver's license.

Play to your core

- Share the things you won't mind being made public, even if they're sent privately. Remember: A screenshot lasts forever.
- Turn the camera around to show what's happening in front of you once in a while, especially if you feel pressure to share only a perfect version of yourself. No one is perfect, ever. Steph Curry (maybe you've heard of him?) says that the best person you can be is the best version of yourself.
- Capture what that you love the most, not what will get the most likes and comments. Do it for yourself, not for others.

Cyberback others

- Encourage and celebrate the positive moves your friends make online and off every day.
- Back up other people with encouragement and support if you see them being bullied. When you do this online, we call it cyberbacking.
- Depending on the situation, (1) stop, (2) block whoever sent it, (3) screenshot the offense, and (4) talk to an adult about what to do next if you are being cyberbullied. It rhymes, so it's easy to remember: Stop, block, screenshot, and talk. No excuses.

Strike a balance

- Prioritize your homework, chores, and other important things before using your device for fun.
- Manage digital distractions, and look people in the eye when they talk to you. Heads up!
- Value real-life moments without needing the real-time recognition by online followers.

Build a strong team


- Surround yourself with positive role models who support you and encourage you to play to your core.
- Stay away from anonymous platforms and websites that easily connect you with strangers, like some [dating sites](#).
- Unfollow anyone who makes you doubt yourself, and block those who send you inappropriate or rude content.

Use your mic for good

- Imagine you're at a press conference with a microphone pointed at you and hundreds, no thousands of press and fans waiting for you to say something. Social media is that microphone. Your friends and followers — and potentially the world — are your audience. Use your mic to do great things.
- Know when to turn your mic on, turn it up, and drop it.
- Listen to what others from different backgrounds and cultures are saying, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning.

Huddle often

- Talk with each other regularly about your experiences online and the best moves to make so that together you can live up to high standards. This is a team effort!
- Coach down to younger people, helping them learn how to use social media positively, both through your example (#rolemodel) but also through instruction.
- Coach up to parents, teachers, and others less familiar with the apps you use and games you play, helping them understand social media and how (and why!) it's important to you.



**Principal
Goals
2018-19**

1. Support, retain, and develop our faculty.

- Provide regular and varied forms of constructive feedback for all faculty.
 - Work with the admin team to evolve how we provide feedback to teachers in a regular, authentic, and meaningful way.
 - Visit, at least, ten classes per week.
- Continue to implement Beginning Teacher Support Plan.
- Steward processes for reflective practice for all faculty. (e.g., peer-to-peer observations, school visits, teacher book groups, Mini Rounds, Grand Rounds, CONNECT board, etc.)
- Implement Project Marigold to emphasize, creatively and explicitly, the need for faculty self-care.

2. Mindful of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (things tend toward chaos unless you invest new energy into the system), strengthen and deepen the sense of community at Woods as experienced by students, faculty, and parents.

- Nurture the culture of Woods to make sure it continues to grow as a place that is community-minded, relationship-based where respect, civility, and a playful spirit have happy homes. Tend to roots before fruits.

3. Practice Leadership-by-Walking-Around.

- Be present in classrooms, hallways, and at extracurricular/athletic events.

4. Diversify our student body by increasing the diversity of our lottery pool and attracting more job applicants from teachers of color.

- Work with the Board to design and implement a process by which our community considers a diversity component in our admissions lottery.

6. Communicate regularly with Woods families using multiple forms and forums.

- Leverage traditional and digital media for articulating and reiterating our philosophy, mission, and values.
- Experiment with vlogging.

7. Continue to focus, energize, and expand our fundraising capacity.

- Raise \$300,000 through the annual fund and auction. Increase participation by Woods families beyond 85%.
- Secure 2-3 significant corporate donations/sponsorships from organizations beyond our immediate Woods family.

8. Honor the School's 20th birthday by hosting an all-alumni, all-community celebration that properly marks the occasion, is really fun, and makes possible an initial solar array for our roof.