

January 11, 2022

Dear Senior Parent(s),

The following information is to be kept as a **SURPRISE** from your Senior- KEEP the guidelines below safely & secretly!

The last four years have marked significant growth not only in the life of your student but in the community of the 2021-22 Senior Class, as well. Through their classes, outings, events and even just daily time together on campus they have developed vibrant and meaningful relationships that they will treasure all their lives. *Senior Bible* has been an especially meaningful way to help them prepare for the next leg of their life's journey.

One of the biggest highlights of their Senior year will be the *Senior Retreat, April 2nd – April 4th*. Our hope is that the retreat is a time of emotional, social, and spiritual growth and joy for each student. The weekend will be a time of reflection and preparation for the road that lies ahead. Your influence and guidance have been a major force in your student's life, and your support as they move forward is extremely important and valuable to them.

A major component of the weekend will be a formal **Commissioning**, giving each Senior encouragement and confidence for the months/years ahead. You, as Parents, are blessed with a role in this *Commissioning*, by writing the following 2 letters:

1. Over the course of the weekend, we will be publicly reading to them 1 **Letter of Commission**, written by you (or jointly written by both of you, where desired), to your son/daughter.
2. **Additionally**, we would like to present them with a more private letter from you that they can read and treasure while they are alone in their cabin.

*We would ask that you prepare and secretly deliver to us these **two letters** for your student by **Monday, March 7, 2022!**

PUBLIC LETTER of COMMISSIONING Guidelines (1/2-page or 400 word max):

Our hope and intention is that this letter is nostalgic, encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring without embarrassing your student in front of their peers, and without exceeding 400 words. To assist you, the best letters we've read in the past tended to share three or four of the following items:

- how thankful for and proud you are of them
- what your prayer is for them in this next phase of their life
- an impactful milestone or an emotional story from the past (once again, no embarrassment here)
- a story of growth or one that captures their personality or strengths
- meaningful moments that the parent and student or family have shared
- humor or funny story (without embarrassment)
- affirmation of their abilities and skills and passions ie. "I see how creative (or genuine, loving, generous, overcoming, hardworking, etc.) you are, and it's my hope that as you go..."

***Do not exceed 400 words due to our time constraints with all the letters that we get to read.**

PRIVATE KEEPSAKE LETTER Guidelines- (no length restriction):

This is a private letter that will become a treasure for your student in the years to come. It is an intimate letter of memories, happiness, successes and heartbreaks that you have shared in the past, as well as encouragement, love, hopes & dreams, and support for the years to come. There is no limit to the length or format of this letter.

These 2 letters will absolutely BLESS your Senior...Prayerfully consider your words as you craft them.

- **Hand-deliver or mail** all letters in separate envelopes to the Valor Front Desk **by Monday, March 7, 2022!!!**
 - Please include your student's name on your packet or envelopes.
 - **Clearly mark** which letter is the Public Letter of Commissioning, and which is the Private Keepsake Letter.

The *Retreat* is from 10:00am, Saturday, April 2nd to 3:00pm Monday, April 4th. More details will be sent out later about the retreat itself!!!

Please keep the entire weekend in prayer. We also will be praying for them! We are thankful to you for the love and guidance you have given to your student. Please feel free to call any of us with questions about this special request.

Tim Welch, Josh Hoffman, Tammy Inman – Senior Class Retreat Coordinators