



Dear Friends,

I hope you are having a beautiful fall and are managing to find your way in this strange new world. Oliverian is off to a great start. We are finding that there is a lot to learn from the constraints of COVID. This year's staggered start, two-week orientation, and family groupings (aka "cohorts") are all things we plan to carry forward post pandemic because they have proven to be such potent culture generators.

While masks are decidedly *not* one of the things we hope to carry forward post COVID, it has been amazing to see our students diligently and uncomplainingly wear them at school, motivated by a communal care for their peers and teachers.

So this is a time of rapid learning and growth for us at Oliverian, as I'm sure it is for many of you. In that spirit, **I am writing to ask you to help us reflect on our admissions process and profile by responding to the very brief [attached survey](#).** This survey was created and will be processed--along with parent, student, and staff interviews, and other metrics--by someone many of you know well: Carrie Weatherhead. I have engaged Carrie, who is an experienced clinician, non-profit leader, and admissions professional, to help us refine our student profile, our admissions process, and our onboarding of students and families.

This effort will help us better respond to the evolving needs of our shared clients while making the admissions process itself a robust first step in their journeys toward wellness, learning, and independence. It will also help us stay true to our sweet spot so that we can consistently do our very best work.

In addition to these systemic improvements, we are beginning a patient search for a new admissions director. This person will not only carry these improvements forward, but will also allow our beloved Barclay Mackinnon--the first head of Oliverian and our longtime admissions director--to transition more fully into his demanding life as a new husband and the world's greatest grandfather! Barclay will stay on as our admissions director until we find his successor, transitioning at that point to an alumni-relations role where he can nurture our incredibly devoted community of graduates and their families.

Please let me know if you have any excellent admissions director candidates to recommend! Meanwhile, thank you in advance for helping us make this unique and wonderful little school even better.

Warmly and hopefully,

*Will*

Will Laughlin, Head of School/CEO

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