Welcome & PA Leadership
Introductions: Anne Wood welcomed and introduced our new leadership. She outlined what the PA does and thanked everyone for being involved.

Opening Prayer & Remarks - Sean Murphy, Head of School
- Sean welcomed everyone and outlined what he is excited about this coming school year, including his new Curriculum Team comprised of Chief Academic Officer Dr. Josh Nelson and four Directors of Curriculum (DCI’s) who are charged with academic oversight and academic programs in grades K-12.
- Sean also explained the work he and his faculty are continuing with Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), which is consistent with St. Andrew’s mission to honor the dignity of every human being. The DEI program is intended to help continuously improve our community and allow every child to shine and he hopes this will become a 5th type Pillar at SAS. The DEI work and the DCI team are going to assist in making this happen every day. In that vein, on Jan 11th, St. Andrew’s is hosting the Pollyanna Conference on our Upper School Campus in the Dell Fine Arts Center and all parents are encouraged to sign up and participate in this conference and workshop which will focus on culturally responsive teaching practices and what defines a culturally responsive/caring community. Parents are important to this effort and he hopes for high participation. Faculty and students are joining as well.

Kate Jones - Assistant Head of Upper School
- Kate reminded us of the BTS night this Thursday at 6:30 pm. At the parent coffee last week, Todd discussed the things he is excited about for the year. 1) 2nd year of Block Schedule is off and running and is going very well. He is also very excited about the new Upper School Director of Curriculum, Mily Perez, which will allow more touch points in our classrooms.
Kate explained her position at the US as Assistant Head of School and Dean for (not of) Students. She provides support and help for the US students as well as handling community missteps and discipline.

The US has re-centered the advisories this year and they will be meeting every day. There is also a new team of advisory coordinators, who are helping advisories to connect with each other and the larger community.

She also mentioned the DEI team and how it is helping the Upper School to further clarify harassment and bullying, which will help with students when and if they have a misstep and how to handle that.

In tandem with the 31st street campus, the Upper School continues to work on safety policies and A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) procedures.

Alice Nezzer – Head of Middle School

Alice introduced herself and explained the many things that she was excited about this year. The Middle School works to build community through connection: “if they love it they will learn”. One way they build connection is through the House System (Henry, Bailey, Wilson and Nazro Houses). In honor of Tim McGhee, former 25-year Middle School Head and Academic Dean for 9 years, the Middle School renamed one of their Houses from Henry House to McGhee House, and everyone is excited about it.

The DEI and SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) teams have revamped the advisories in order to provide more guidance and focus. So far they are off to a wonderful start. Students have just signed up for Student Cabinets and student leaders have rebranded Student Council to a new name: Student Life.

Teachers are prepping for a change schedule for next school year – from a shift schedule to a block schedule, mimicking the Upper School schedule. Alice believes this will help reduce student stress. Middle School faculty members are meeting every Wed morning to help prepare for the transition next year in the Middle School.

The PA is selling tacos at the MS every Friday and calling it Taco Friday! So far it has been a huge success!

Kama Bruce - Head of Lower School

Kama introduced himself and discussed the things he was excited about this year. They have hired a K-4 learning specialist and a K-4 counselor, which will help provide more support for the whole child.

The Lower School Faculty went through a 5 month scheduling review last year which has allowed them to revamp the schedule and allow for much more learning time and still allows for flexibility for special programs and other events. They have also had very little staff turnover and in fact have only hired one new teacher this year, which has really allowed for some wonderful planning and continuity, which everyone is excited about. It allows much more PBL (Project Based Learning) and a stronger faculty.

Jeff McCrary - Director of Athletics & Physical Education
Jeff introduced himself and the members of his team from the Upper School as well as the middle school team. He mentioned that they are working on continuing to connect the two campuses through many new and existing programs but it continues to be a schedule and logistical challenge.

The US has the Athletic Council, which is chosen by staff, and the MS has the Athletic Cabinet, and both programs are meeting regularly and discussing issues.

New this year: the “Highlander Buddies Program” where Lower School and Middle School athletes can sign up to be on the sidelines at Varsity games and help. Parents can sign up their students [here](#).

This year Program (sports) shirts will be continuing. Any player 5th-12th grade will get a shirt and it’s been nice to see shirts on both campuses.

There are more varsity full time coaches than part time, which allows for better program continuity and athlete retention.

Make sure to join the Upper School at one of the Pack the House events. Each sport has one and they are very fun and a great way to get the whole school involved.

The sports teams are doing great so far this fall season and Strength & Conditioning and Fitness for Life are both in the second year and really are being enjoyed this year!

**Catherine Herter Ervin – Director of Development and Communications**

Catherine introduced herself and her new team and discussed her important role at SAS. Her team supports external and internal communications, publications, marketing, social media, special events, alumni relations, The St. Andrew’s Fund and The Gala for Financial Aid and other fundraisers to support the school. She is excited to begin another year working with everyone. She has teams on both campuses with offices on 31st street across from the Lower School Main office and in Room 1207 at the Upper School.

She reminded everyone about the St. Andrews Fund which will be kicked off at the end of this month and also Gala for Financial Aid which will be held this year on April 18 at The Fairmont Hotel. If you are interested in volunteering for the Gala, please reach out directly to Catherine. We need a big committee this year, and the work is fun and worthwhile!

**Announcements:**

**Homecoming** – Nov 1st Family picnic at 5pm: Please join this annual school wide celebration at the Upper School. This event is for the entire community K-12 with food trucks, varsity games, and fun! Each grade will be at the Upper School and it’s a wonderful time to socialize with everyone. Schedule for the night: Women’s Volleyball 3pm, Women’s Field Hockey at 4:30 Men’s Volleyball at 5pm and Football vs. John Cooper School at 7:30…Don’t miss all the fun!

**Easy Money** - Ways your shopping can enhance your school, especially Amazon Smiles and box tops that now have an app instead of clipping tops

**Sign Up to Volunteer** - on my SAS!! Especially need help with Lower School Lunch duty, please sign up!
Upcoming Community Dates:
Sunday, Oct 20 LS/MS – Fall Fest, 31st Street Campus, 2-5p
Friday, Nov 1 Homecoming Picnic, Upper School Campus
Wednesday, Nov 6 Next PA Meeting – 12:15p DFAC Lobby, Upper School Campus
November 11-15 LS/MS - Book Fair, Rollins Library, 31st Street Campus
Friday, Nov 22 St. Andrew’s Day, Upper School Campus
Friday, Dec 20 LS/MS – Lessons & Carols, 31st Street Campus
Saturday, April 18 St. Andrew’s Gala for Financial Aid