KINGSWOOD
OXFORD

August 2025

Dear Upper Prep Families,

As the Upper Prep Form Dean for the 2025-2026 school year, I am excited to welcome the newest Wyverns. Today, I am writing to inform you of a few upcoming events in August and September.

Meet & Greet Ice Cream Social: The Meet and Greet on **Thursday, August 21** is the first event for new students and families. This important and exciting evening will begin at 6:30 pm in Roberts Theater and should finish by 8:00 pm. Please dress casually, as it is meant to be a relaxing evening. Our goal is to provide students and families with an opportunity to ask questions, meet their faculty advisor, and become acquainted with teachers, classmates, and the Senior Advisors. Students will take a short tour of the building and get their schedules for the first day of school.

The First Day of School: The first day of school will be **Tuesday, August 26** from 8:00 am - 3:45 pm. Tuesday will be a Day 1 in the schedule. If students want to bring supplies for their classes they can, but it is not necessary to have all books and supplies on the first day of school.

Upper Prep Orientation Days: The first few weeks will focus on familiarizing students with the routines of school, building friendships, and meeting new teachers. To build a sense of community, we have planned several off-campus trips from **Wednesday through Friday, September 10-12**.

On *Wednesday, September 10*, we will hike to Heublein Tower in Simsbury, Connecticut. While steep at times, this is a short two-and-a-half-mile round-trip hike with a wide path. When we get to the top we will have a snack and the Senior Advisors will lead us in games. We will return to KO in time for lunch on campus and other orientation activities before the 2:00 dismissal.

On *Thursday, September 11 and Friday, September 12*, Upper Prep will go to Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. Students will need to be dropped off and picked up at Winding Trails (50 Winding Trails Dr, Farmington, CT). Drop-off will be at 8:30 and pick-up will be at 3:00. At Winding Trails, students will participate in team-building activities, low and high rope challenges, and a raft-building experience. By problem-solving together, students become more likely to share their ideas, engage in new challenges, and stretch themselves beyond their comfort zones. This greater self-awareness and self-confidence directly translates into their classroom learning.

The cost for these three days will be approximately $130 per student. Here is the waiver that needs to be completed for Winding Trails. This waiver will also be printed and given to students at the start of the school year. An additional permission slip for Kingswood Oxford will be available on Blackbaud.

While there is still some time before the start of the school year, please contact me if you have questions. I look forward to getting to know you and your child during the course of the year!

Sincerely,

Alison O'Donnell
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