

FRIENDS SELECT

February 15, 2018

Dear friends,

This year at Friends Select has been a year of innovation, creativity, exploration of the city, and deepening of our practices around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Advance 2021 has provided a structure for the Excellence in Teaching and Learning committee to examine what, why, and how we teach. It's clear that the school has made some good movement in terms of incorporating STEAM in more intentional ways in recent years, and additionally, our teachers are continually seeking new methods for engaging students. In our strategic plan, we are taking things even further and ensuring that our work in and of the city is robust, complex, and connected to our mission. Similarly, our families have been asking for more courses that address current issues in the world, as well as various identities in our community. As such, the history department has revamped the 10th grade history course to consider Modern World History, and next year, the department will offer an African American History elective. Two positions will also take us to the next level in terms of our curricular work: a new position, the Director of City Curriculum, and an expanded role, the Director of Equity and Inclusion. By investing in these positions in the school, we will be able to coordinate our efforts around service learning, social justice and anti-bias education, and living our Quaker roots in a deep and authentic way.

When asked who Friends Select is as a school, I have been talking up our three main features:

1. **We are a city school**, with a city-based curriculum, a city feel, and a student body that reflects a lot of the city.
2. **We are a diverse community** in terms of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomics, cognition, politics, and more.
3. **We are creative** in how we shape curricula, work with students, to “do school,” and live our mission.

In summary, we are a school on the move, and we are grounded in strong values and a solid mission. As we keep our approach focused on the city, diversity, and creativity, we will only continue to grow as a school.

In peace,



Chris Singler  
Upper School Director

CS/dy