

August 26, 2015

Dear Forms IV and V,

I hope you are enjoying the last few weeks of your summer vacations and starting to think about the upcoming school year. I also hope that you have taken some time to reflect on the past year and to plan on how you will expand and improve this year on what you have already accomplished in the Upper School.

Finally, I hope that you have had ample time to relax so that you are well rested and ready for another school year. I imagine that you have completed all of the summer reading and that you are ready to discuss the reading in classes. Everyone in the Upper School community will have read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, and I look forward to our discussions of the book. Mr. Stevenson will be visiting and speaking at Browning on October 30.

Summer is a busy time at Browning. Construction has been non-stop. The renovation of the 52 East 62nd St. building is wrapping up and you will be amazed at the transformation. Mr. Marshall and the Browning maintenance staff have done a terrific job preparing the school for your return.

As we have done in the past, Form V will attend mandatory SAT-preparation classes that will run from the beginning of the school year into the spring. Those classes will meet for one period a week and be taught by the instructors from Veritas Tutors & Test Prep.

Additionally, Form V will be joining Form VI on the annual College Trip, which will take place from Wednesday, September 16 to Friday September 18. It is a great opportunity for you Form V students to see various types of colleges and universities without the pressure of having to apply this fall.

Form IV will make its traditional trek to Frost Valley in January (20-22) to join sophomores from Brearley, Chapin, Nightingale, Spence and Collegiate for three days of winter activities and engaging discussions with your single-sex school peers. Mr. Keany and the Peer Leaders will keep you up-to-date on the plans for that event as we get closer to the new year.

We will continue our semester schedule. There will be final exams in December and June.

Finally, please review the online *Student Handbook* before school starts to reacquaint yourselves with Browning's expectations and the community standards under which we all operate.

Enjoy the final weeks of your summer vacation. I look forward to seeing all of you at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 10.

All the best,
James E. Reynolds
Head of Upper School