



## SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

*Let Your Lives Speak*

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians,

Over the course of the past few years, the Middle School has worked toward reducing and streamlining the books and resources our students need as part of our program. This is in recognition of the tremendous sacrifice our families make in investing in a Sandy Spring Friends School education for their child, and in keeping with our Quaker values of simplicity and environmental stewardship. As a continuation of this process, the Middle School will be piloting some additional procedural changes for the 2021-2022 school year as described below.

- **For the 2021-2022 school year, families will not be asked to make textbook purchases.** The School will provide students with a copy of any books or workbooks needed for their classes. Some books (e.g., class copies of textbooks) will be loaned to students with the expectation that they be returned in good condition at the end of the semester or school year, but many will be provided without such an expectation (e.g., workbooks and novels that students' will be annotating during learning).
- **Students new to Middle School will be provided with a PE Uniform.** Families may elect to purchase additional sets if they wish. The uniform remains the same from year-to-year and should be able to be worn throughout the student's time in the Middle School.
- **The School will provide all students with graph notebooks (which are used in all of our math classes), as well as any folders required by the teachers.** Families will be provided with school supply lists at the beginning of each summer so that they can purchase a small list of other necessary items according to their child's tastes and preferences for academic organization.

Families will no longer see line item charges added to their family accounts during the course of the school year for these items; rather, the associated costs are being rolled into our tuition structure to allow for a more predictable and up-front experience. In the interest of transparency, we have estimated the per student cost of the aforementioned items to average around \$50-55 per school year.

We hope our families will find these changes helpful and positive, and we look forward to any feedback during this pilot year. Of course, we also encourage you to reach out with any questions along the way.

In community,

David Blake  
Head of Middle School