

August 30, 2018

Dear Families,

I hope that your preparations are going smoothly for your arrival at Exeter next week and that you share in the excitement I feel as we approach a new academic year. As an alumnus and parent of an alumnus, I remember well the feelings of anticipation, and perhaps apprehension, that can precede the start of school. I found as a student, and later as a parent, a welcoming and reassuring community. I trust you will find the same.

When you arrive on campus, members of the Dean of Students Office will be available to answer any questions you may have, and dorm faculty and proctors will be on hand to greet you. I also intend to be out and about on campus, and would like to connect with as many families as I can. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourselves.

Exeter's [resources to support students](#) include advisers, teachers, dorm heads, deans, counselors, coaches, club advisers and many others who live and work here. Our Lamont Health and Wellness Center, College Counseling Office, Student Listeners, Academic Support Center and Writing Center are also available when and if your child needs them. When I have visited dormitories in the past, as I have on many occasions, I have always been struck by how supportive students are of each other. All these supports, formal and informal, adult and peer, are important, as is the support your child will continue to have from you.

To help new students get acclimated and help all students form new bonds and friendships at the start of the year, we are providing each class with a special orientation program on Sunday, September 9. I had the privilege of joining the class of 2021 and some of my own classmates from '71 [for the inaugural program last year](#), and I found it to be a lot of fun. I am eager to join the classes this year and participate in more of the programming.

I intend to spend a lot of time with students over the course of the academic year. From sports practices and dress rehearsals to student club meetings and informal chats on the pathways, I look forward to getting to know our great community of Exonians, as well as their parents and guardians.

I hope that you will seek me out any time you are on campus. I hope in particular that many of you will be able to return for [Family Weekend on October 19-22](#). And while nothing takes the place of face-to-face communication, I hope that you will use the [Parent Portal](#), our social media platforms, and the parent e-newsletter to stay connected to what's happening on campus and in the classroom. We also broadcast many of our performances, assemblies and sporting events live at [www.exeter.edu/exeterlive](http://www.exeter.edu/exeterlive).

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Exeter family. It is a privilege to partner with you in the education and care of your child.

Best,

Bill Rawson '71; P'08  
Interim Principal