



ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

At the core of the Lion Term philosophy, and indeed so much of the exciting teaching and learning that takes place each day here at St. Mark's, is a belief in the power of experience to animate student understanding. We are excited for the addition of this program as a meaningful summation of the year -- a space for students and faculty to weave together the various threads of learning and skill building that they have undertaken during the course of the past months in the service of new ideas, capacities, and understandings.

In order for students to get the most of these experiences, it is important for them to be fully present and engaged throughout the program. Not only will they be discovering new content, but they will also be participating in programming that cultivates key educational outcomes of the St. Mark's learning community: the capacity for collaborative problem-solving; leadership by example; resilience and adaptability, to name a few.

In order to underscore this important message about participation, I wanted to reiterate some of the engagement and assessment parameters we have put in place for our programming, as articulated in the [Student Handbook](#):

Students are expected to be present for the duration of the programming in Lion Term, and to participate meaningfully in the work. Students should expect to engage in dialogue with their Lion Term leaders around goals and progress, including self-reflection on their growth in line with the learning outcomes for each Form-based experience. This narrative feedback loop is an essential component of Lion Term as an experiential learning program

Lion Term will be evaluated on a scale of Pass, or Fail. These grades will appear on each student's transcript, though they will not be included in aggregate calculations of student grades or Honors designations. Students who do not meet the learning outcomes of the Lion Term programming at their Form level due to poor engagement or absence may fail the course, and be required to complete makeup work. Course failures will be determined by the Lion Term faculty leadership and the Director of Lion Term, in consultation with the Dean of Academics.

We appreciate your support of this important component of our academic programming, and ask for your understanding of the importance of student attendance and participation. Simply put, if students are not fully present for the work that they will undertake in Lion Term, everyone's experience -- both their own, and that of their peers and collaborators -- will be diminished. In the event that a student is displaying a pattern of insufficient engagement, Lion Term Form leaders will communicate concerns to the student and their advisor, in addition to the Director of Lion Term, along with constructive feedback for improvement.

Students will also be reminded that our normal attendance parameters around late arrivals and unexcused absences will continue in Lion Term, including the accountability structures of Saturday detention and work detail.

We also ask for your cooperation in scheduling doctor's appointments and other activities for times when your student will not be engaged with Lion Term programming. Of course, there will be circumstances like illness or significant family milestones that mean a student cannot be present to participate in programming. Please continue to communicate with Health Services and the Dean's Office in these cases just as you have all year.

We look forward to sharing all of the great work emerging from Lion Term over the course of the three-week program, and invite all parents to a wonderful culminating celebration -- the Lion Term Demonstration of Learning on Thursday, June 8th.

Nat Waters

Dean of Academics

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