Dear Class of 2021 and parents/guardians of incoming freshmen:

Welcome to the Upper School! We are busy preparing for and eagerly awaiting your arrival. We are your Freshman Class Advisors. Every Upper School class has class advisors, whose role is to support students in their various roles and activities. (Please note that we are not necessarily your primary advisor). Krystal teaches English, and Cliff teaches social studies. We are really excited to get to know you! In addition to being a resource for you, we will help plan community-oriented activities, supervise your Freshman Class elections, and organize your Freshman class trip.

This year, the trip will take place from **Wednesday, September 6,** after classes conclude until **Friday, September 8,** around 3:00 – in time for those that need to catch a school bus or participate in a sport.

The class trip is an essential part of the Catlin Gabel experience and facilitates the transition into the Upper School. We will get to know each other, build consensus around the kind of community you'd like to create with your peers, and set goals as individuals and as upper school members. You will also spend time with the faculty and a few seniors, learn about the Catlin Gabel community, do service work together, and have non-stop fun!

During our time away, we will stay at Camp Collins and work with the City of Portland on a service project. The packing list is below. **Please take special note that you will need a flashlight and a sleeping bag. If you need either of these items, please let us know.**

Parents/guardians must sign the permission slips in our Magnus Health portal for this trip by August 4.

In terms of the sleeping arrangements, even though overnight groupings tend to be split into gender binary groups, we welcome all genders at Catlin Gabel School and want you to know there will be a more inclusive option if you'd prefer it. If you have questions or would like to share your preference ahead of time, please contact Cliff or Krystal, Jasmine Love (Director of Inclusion) at lovej@catlin.edu, Brandon Woods (Dean of Students) at woodsb@catlin.edu, or Aline Garcia-Rubio (Upper School Head) at garcia-rubioa@catlin.edu.

We require that you attend the trip without your electronic devices in order to make the most of our time together. You may keep these at home or in your locker. All adults on the trip will have phones for emergencies.

All meals will be provided during the trip, so please ensure you post on Magnus **any dietary restrictions** for which we need to plan. If you have **other special dietary needs or requests**, please let Cliff or Krystal know.

Please don't hesitate to contact either of us with questions regarding the trip or the start of the year. Parents/guardians, we will be communicating directly with the students during the first weeks of school with more details.

Sincerely,

Krystal Wu
wuk@catlin.edu

Cliff Mason II
masonc@catlin.edu

Packing List:

We will be spending most of our time outside, playing games, wandering in the woods, and doing some service work in Portland – accordingly, don't bring anything that you would be sad about getting wet/dirty/dusty/stained, etc. Camp Collins has wonderful sleeping facilities (check out their website here), so you don't need to worry about getting wet or cold at night, as long as you have a sleeping bag. See below for more details on what to bring!

- Sleeping bag & pillow
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Towel and toiletries
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- Long pants for service that you don't mind getting dirty
- 1 pair of comfortable pants or shorts (think playing games, walking in the woods, sitting on the ground, etc.)
- 2 shirts
- 1 warm layer
- 1 rain jacket (if the forecast looks drizzly – check the night before)
- 2 pair of socks
- Closed-toe, athletic shoes (no flips-flops during the day)
- Shoes for showers (optional)
- Work gloves (if you have them – otherwise Catlin will provide pairs)
- Hat
- Water bottle
- Nut-free snacks (if you want them)
- Games/books for cabin time (optional)

Remember to leave all electronics and valuables, including phones at home or in your school locker. Staff will have phones for emergencies. You should lock your school books and laptop up at Catlin Gabel before departing on the trip – there won't be any time to do school work anyway!