



Dear Friends of Mason Prep,

Amazingly, it was only just over ten years ago (2007) that the world marveled when Apple introduced the first iPhone. Suddenly, we had so much more than a telephone at our fingertips! A single, palm-sized gadget could perform the functions of what only a decade earlier required multiple devices: camera, computer, navigator, video recorder, music player and more. Since then, the pace of technology has only continued to accelerate, presenting exponentially greater possibilities for advancement. In fact, a report published by Dell Technologies estimates that 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 have not even been conceived of yet. Just think back to 2007: would you have known then about today's new jobs like artificial intelligence engineer, self-driving car tester, or data scientist? Dell's report concluded that "the pace of change will be so rapid that people will learn 'in the moment'" and that "the ability to gain new knowledge will be more valuable than the knowledge itself."

As both a parent and an educator, I am reminded just how different the world will look for my children and the students that attend Mason Prep today. Given this reality, we must continue to provide an education that prepares our youth to thrive beyond their school years and tackle the challenges of tomorrow's workforce. At Mason Prep, we are evaluating how we can accomplish this through an increased focus on providing learning opportunities that incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). An interdisciplinary educational approach, STEM promotes critical thinking, deductive reasoning, real-world problem solving, teamwork, and collaboration, among other learning skills.

As part of last year's school re-accreditation process, our faculty and staff, along with our Board of Trustees, identified STEM as one of Mason Prep's strategic institutional initiatives. I'm pleased to let you know that we are already in the process of reviewing our curriculum, providing critical training for our teachers, and identifying ways to optimize the STEM learning experience across all subject areas for our students in kindergarten through 8th grade. We are also investigating ways that we can leverage the knowledge and skills of our parents and their employers to achieve authentic learning goals in a STEM-infused curriculum.

While you'll soon be hearing more about STEM from the Mason Prep Foundation, I felt it was important to share this background about what will be an important fundraising initiative for our school this year and beyond. We are excited about the direction Mason Prep is heading and the infinite possibilities that will be available to our students as they face their futures. We are so very grateful for the generosity of our Mason Prep friends and family and welcome your support as we work towards enhancing STEM learning opportunities in our classrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Erik Kreutner'.

Erik Kreutner, Head of School