



March 13, 2026

Dear GSA Families,

Two years ago, we began surveying students in Grades 3-8 annually about their well-being, their relationships with classmates, parents, and teachers, and their hopes and worries. We are administering the same survey this year, and once again, I am writing to ask for your assistance in our efforts by granting permission for your child to participate in that survey. The goal of the survey is for us to better understand the preoccupations and concerns of children and adolescents growing up in our community and, accordingly, to learn how best to continue promoting positive development among our students.

The survey was designed by an organization called [Authentic Connections](#), which aims to help schools improve mental health and well-being. The Authentic Connections team consists of experienced researchers, consultants, and educators, and their assessment process is recommended by the National Association of Independent Schools.

The survey for Grades 6-8 - the Student Resilience Survey - includes questions related to personal values, empathy and kindness, depression and anxiety, substance use, and relationships with family and friends. The survey includes clear and specific language that GSA students have encountered in their SEL, DEIB, and Health classes as well as in discussions in Advisory and Humanities. They will be asked to indicate the frequency with which they experience a series of statements, such as whether they feel anxious, isolated, or tired, and whether they have cheated or used illicit substances like vaping or alcohol. GSA's Student Support Team reviewed every question to ensure each one is age-appropriate. Some students might be unsure of the specifics of a given question or meaning of a specific word; in those cases, they can mark "Unsure" or "Never."

The survey is aligned with several standardized measures that ask students questions about their feelings and behaviors. Honest responses from students are essential in this endeavor, which is crucial to protecting each child's emotional vulnerability. There are, therefore, important criteria in place to engender honest responses and protect our students' privacy. **All of the information submitted will remain completely anonymous.** No identifying information – including names, birthdates, and IP addresses – will be collected. Your child's name will **not**

appear anywhere on her responses, and questionnaires are all stored securely according to random ID numbers, specially allotted for this survey. No data will be sold to third party organizations. When analyzed, anonymous and aggregated survey data will be presented to the GSA Student Support Team only in terms of trends (i.e. by grade), and responses cannot be linked to an individual respondent.

Students will take the survey online in Advisory (MS) after the Community Meeting on Friday, March 27. To ensure maximum usefulness of the data, we need the maximum participation of students in Grades 6-8. However, your child **does not have to participate**. If you **do not** want your child to participate, please fill out the enclosed sheet and return it to the Front Office by Wednesday, March 25, 2026. Also, know that if your child begins a survey but decides during the survey that she wishes to withdraw, she may do so at any time. Thank you very much for your support in this endeavor, and for all you do to keep the GSA community strong and healthy.

Sincerely,

The GSA Student Support Team

Rebecca E. Yacono
Head of School

Monica Santos
Student Support Coordinator

Dr. Lorna Torrado
Director of Futures Thinking/21st C. Skills

Malia Wagner
School Counselor





**CONSENT DENIED FOR
AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS SURVEY WITH GSA STUDENTS**

Please fill in this form and return it to the Front Office by Wednesday, March 25, 2027.

I do **not** wish for my child to participate in this survey.

Student's Name: _____
(please print)

Parent Signature: _____

Please return by Wednesday, March 25, 2026

THANK YOU!

