

APPLEBY COLLEGE



June 21, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you excited about your child coming to Appleby College in September. I would like to introduce myself and provide you with some information to assist your child's transition into Upper School at Appleby.

My name is Chris Patterson and I am entering my tenth year as the Upper School Director at Appleby College. I received my Bachelor Arts from Queen's University and my Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees from University of Toronto. I have been at Appleby as an English teacher for just over twelve years and in that time have been a Mutual Respect Facilitator, a senior school and middle school advisor in addition to running a number of arts, athletics and service co-curriculars and clubs. I've been playing with my band The Arrogant Worms for 30 years and it's not uncommon for my guitar to make appearances at assemblies, chapel and special events. As Upper School Director, I oversee all aspects of the Upper One and Upper Two curriculum, deal with matters surrounding discipline, and liaise with Upper School teachers, advisors, Guidance and parents. In addition, I will continue to teach English in the Upper School and facilitate a number of activities including the Upper School Council that provides leadership opportunities for students.

As a new student to Appleby, your child will be part of our advisor program. This program has been very successful in helping to facilitate our students' adaptation to high school and the Appleby culture. A faculty member will act as an advisor for your child and their co-ed advisor group of six to nine students. This group will meet regularly during the school year, and while there will be a multitude of other ways that they will interact with the rest of the grade, their advisor group will be a focal point for them, especially for the first few months at school. We make a concerted effort to create groups which are diverse and have a balance of new and returning students.

Your child will find out who their advisor is in the week before school starts in September. Your child's advisor will reach out to introduce themselves and will be there to meet you during the New Parent Evening (see below). Advisors also meet students during the New Student Orientation (below) and meet with students on the first day of classes (September 8) to help ensure they get off to a great start.

You will receive information from the school over the summer with a range of details and dates. While there may be much competition for your time, please keep the following dates in mind:

September 3: New Parent Evening, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Come meet school administration, teachers and your child's advisor. You will receive an overview of your child's program and meet other parents. We have a parent buddy program that matches new Appleby parents to a "seasoned" Appleby parent. This provides you with a parent you can talk to who understands what you are going through as a new parent to Appleby, as they have been through the experience themselves. You will receive an e-mail invitation and more details will be provided in upcoming additions of *Appleby This Week*. I hope to see you there!

September 4: Student Orientation

10:00am – 3:45pm ... All Upper One and Upper Two students (new and returning) will be on campus for orientation activities with their advisors. Students need to dress for the weather as there will be activities taking place outside. School-appropriate active wear with running shoes is recommended, as well as a refillable water bottle.

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September 7: Welcome Back Barbeque

11:30am – 1:30pm ... All Appleby community members (faculty, staff, students, families) are invited to the Welcome Back Barbeque. Come and enjoy the food, entertainment and a chance to make connections with our community.

Also, please save the dates for the grade parties in September held at McLean House (the Principal's Residence) on campus. These are for parents, guardians, advisors and teachers to meet and get to know one another in a relaxed social setting. The Upper Two/Senior One (grade 10/11) party is **September 10th from 6:30 to 9pm** and the Upper One (grade 9) party is **September 11th from 6:30 to 9pm**. More details and invitations will come this summer.

Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via email and *Appleby This Week*.

And finally, all students participate in the summer reading program for their English courses. Students can find the summer reading list using the "Resources" link at the top of the screen in BBK12.

I look forward to meeting you in September. Until then, have a wonderful summer.

Please feel free to contact me any time at cpatterson@appleby.on.ca or at 905-845-4681, ext. 147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Patterson', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Patterson
Director, Upper School