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## Unpacking The Meaning of Family Weekend

by Nora Berdeaux-Webster

Family weekend is designed to bring the day and boarding students' parents into the heart of our campus life. It was a time for families to connect, experience what their students had been up to during the first semester, and celebrate the lively community we share.

Throughout the weekend, a variety of events showcased student life and achievements. Key highlights include the Senior Nights for fall sports, such as volleyball, soccer, and football. Senior Night honors the senior athletes, recognizing their dedication and accomplishments as they walk out onto the field or court with their families, celebrating their final semester of these high school fall sports.

"They get to celebrate everything that they brought to the team, everything they contributed, and send them off to whatever's next," said Natalie Davenport, Varsity Volleyball Coach. "I think it's a reminder for them to be in the moment and cherish the experience."

One of the most exciting traditions is the family weekend concert, which features performances by the school's band and choir, along with the Inter-House Choir competition. Each of the four houses competed by singing songs to win first through fourth place, which boosted school spirit and friendly

rivalry. To add to the excitement of the concert, the teachers and faculty performed a mash-up of songs from Hamilton, the stunning performance left the rest of the crowd in silent awe as the student section cheered wildly.

For many students, the concert was a highlight, especially those involved in the music program. "It's one of the only concerts at least my parents get to come to, which is really special for me." Said Milo Broadhurst, a 10th-grade boarding student. "Especially for people that are actually like, in choir and band, showing what they've been working on for the past month or two."

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The concert night also included the much-anticipated announcement of the spring production. This year, students and families found out that the upcoming production will be Into The Woods. The announcement added to the excitement and anticipation for the months ahead.

Family weekend was equally



Concert Choir and Director Justin Moore take the stage for the concert on Family Weekend, October 11, 2025 (Photo Credit: Principia Live Stream)

meaningful for day students, who enjoyed sharing their school experiences with their families. "I feel like the families got to experience what all the students get to do and what the teachers get to do, so they got a better understanding of how the school worked," said Micheala Coles, a 10th-grade day student. She also reflected on the time her house spent preparing for the competition. "Being in my house, I feel like we all grew closer to being a family, 'cause we spent a lot of time together working on our song for Family Weekend."

The weekend ended with student-led conferences on Monday. These conferences gave a meaningful opportunity for students to meet with their parents and crew leaders to discuss their academic progress and personal growth. They highlighted their achievements, collaboration on projects, and how they embodied the school's core value LOVE.

What was very clear is that family weekend isn't just a schedule of activities; it was a heartfelt celebration of community, personal growth, and lasting connections between students, families, and the school. Whether boarding or day student, parent or teacher, everyone was reminded of the important role that connection and support play in education and life.