To the Pine Crest Community,

We continue to set the bar for independent schools in the state, as recently acknowledged by the visiting reaccreditation team from the Florida Council of Independent Schools. The initial report referred to Pine Crest as an “exemplary” school and commended the remarkable strength of our academic program, a reflection of our renewed commitment to initiatives that build critical thinking skills and creativity. The reaccreditation team also gave special recognition to our technology program, food services, safety and security, and human resources departments, among others, and recognized the strength we displayed as a community during the School’s transition in leadership last year. As we enter the next chapter of Pine Crest’s history, we clearly do so with an outstanding foundation.

With an educational program as rich as Pine Crest’s, it is not surprising that our students achieve at the highest levels. For instance, last week I was privileged to induct 41 seniors into our chapter of the Cum Laude Society, a national organization that honors students’ academic accomplishments and commitment to intellectual pursuits. Just days later at our Senior Investiture, 34 of our juniors were recognized by colleges with book awards for their academic achievements and success in extracurricular activities. Our Fine Arts students recently received superior recognition in choral, visual and performing arts categories, and a number of our debaters have emerged at the top of national rankings. Our students excel in a number of areas, both in and out of the classroom. In both Middle and Upper School and in a variety of our athletic programs, our students have claimed unprecedented victories, such as our Boys Varsity tennis team’s first-ever team state championship win in the history of Pine Crest School.

Equally impressive are the intangible awards and markers: the diligence and effort students put into preparing for a speech or an exam, or the excitement that young people experience when they are able to grasp and engage concepts that eluded them. Behind these special moments and achievements are talented faculty members who continue to hone their teaching to prepare students to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. At every turn, they give our students their best. I ask that you join me in thanking and commending them for all that they do.
As we look ahead, we prepare for moving up and commencement ceremonies, AP and semester exams, and an entire senior class who will continue their educational journey beyond Pine Crest’s gates. I had the pleasure of spending time with some of these seniors at a recent Advisory Council dinner meeting. The students, who were accompanied by their favorite teachers, told reflective, poignant stories of the true value of a Pine Crest education. Please enjoy highlights from the Advisory Council dinner produced by the TV, Film and Broadcast students and faculty members.

The upcoming weeks will be exciting across campuses and all grade levels; I look forward to seeing many of you during these special moments of celebration.

Dana Markham, Ed.D.
President