## Time Capsule Letters for the 10-year Reunion 8-30-24

In 12th grade, students continue the tradition of writing letters to, and receiving letters from. each parent and grandparent. All 12<sup>th</sup> grade letters focus on goals 10 years into the future. These letters, written with earnest anticipation by parents and grandparents, and youthful optimism by the students, are sealed in self-addressed envelopes and securely stored away in a vault, to be opened at the class's 10-year reunion.

In these letters, students detail their career aspirations, personal goals, and hopes for their personal lives. Some may dream of becoming doctors, engineers, or artists, while others may envision starting families or traveling the world. Regardless of their individual dreams, the act of writing such letters since the third grade, and now doing it one final time in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, helps to crystallize their intentions. These letters over the years make a priceless and tangible record of the evolution of each student's life plans.

The Time Capsule Postmaster volunteers have been responsible for safeguarding such sealed envelopes and ensuring their safe return to the students for years. Now they will perform that priceless function again one last time at the 10-year reunion for their child's class.

When the time comes for the reunion, the Time Capsule Postmasters meticulously organize and distribute the letters to the former students. At the Class 10-year reunion, planned by the alumni, these Postmasters will be at a table with these priceless 10-year-old envelopes, checking ID's and returning the envelopes to former students named on each envelope.

This moment is often filled with nostalgia and wonder as individuals read the words, they and their parents had penned a decade earlier, reflecting on how far they have come and how their dreams have evolved.

The 10-year reunion and the retrieval of their letters offer a profound moment of self-reflection for the former students. It allows them to compare their envisioned future with their actual experiences, celebrating achievements and acknowledging the twists and turns that life has taken.

In conclusion, the tradition of writing letters to their future selves, and reading letters from loved ones about dreams for them over each of the years they were in school, is a meaningful practice that fosters reflection, goal-setting, and personal growth. These valuable envelopes are treasures of self-discovery.