

Dear Parents,

My name is Jeff Lamson and I will be teaching the Readak Advanced Learning Skills course at The Prairie School this November and December, which will be offered to all students between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I know that you have received several notices about Readak already, but I would like to briefly introduce myself and give some personal insight about the Readak program.

I graduated with a B.A. in History from Colby College, where I played four years of varsity football, led trips with the outing club and mentored local middle school students. I spent my junior spring abroad in Chile and my senior year writing a yearlong honors thesis about the national police force there. Liken to your children at The Prairie School, I juggled an array of activities in high school including three seasons of varsity athletics, community outreach and a full schedule of classes. I understand the challenges of balancing activities such as these with a rigorous course load and can attest to the Readak course's ability to help with these challenges.

The first half of the Readak course will teach students to better manage their time and get the most out of their study sessions, to become more actively engaged learners in class and to recognize which study strategies best benefit their unique learning styles. The second half of the course will focus primarily on increasing reading rate while improving reading comprehension, vocabulary development and critical reading. **Readak is *not* a remedial course**, but will equally benefit students of all learning abilities and all ages find success in their remaining years at The Prairie School, in college, and beyond into the professional world.

I invite you to join me for a brief overview of the course strategies during a parent information session on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, in the Upper School Commons. Additionally, please feel free to reach out to me with any individual questions by email ([jlamson@readak.com](mailto:jlamson@readak.com)), or by phone (978-457-0134), although I am currently in Mexico City teaching the course and will not have access until my phone until November 9<sup>th</sup>, but feel free to leave me a voicemail!

The skills taught in the Readak course will help students of any age or academic ability to succeed by teaching them the most effective ways to learn and addressing which learning strategies best suit them. Thank you very much for your time, I look forward to meeting many of you on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lamson  
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