



Nazareth School

August 5, 2019

Dear Parents:

Our summer is passing quickly and it won't be long before we are embracing the beginning of a new school year. I hope this letter finds you and your families enjoying a relaxing summer filled with many special activities that will create fond family memories.

Our campus is seeing a lot of activity this summer. Due to the generosity of the parent community through PTG events and that of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth, we were able to execute a major project that I think your children will notice immediately: new lighting and ceiling tiles in our classrooms and the Library – what a difference! As the teachers have checked in during the summer, they have been really happy with this enhancement to the learning environment. Additionally, we have purchased new furniture for the Library. The renovation to the Library is not yet complete as we will need to do some painting, but I am hoping that we will be able to arrange a “painting party” via the PTG during a school holiday. We are also hoping to have the installation of a drip system installed in both the Upper School and Preschool gardens completed by the beginning of school.

The 2019-20 will bring some new staff members to our community. In the Preschool, Mrs. Gabriela Mendoza will be joining Mrs. Sebring in teaching our Buzzy Bees. During the summer, Ms. Lopez decided to pursue other personal and professional opportunities; we are very grateful to Ms. Lopez for her many years of service to Nazareth Preschool and School. Mrs. Bridgette Gabbard will be joining Mrs. McDowell in introducing our youngest children, the Sunflowers, to life and school in the Preschool. In the Elementary / Middle School, Mrs. Lisa Hart will be greeting the 4th grade students as they return from vacation. Mrs. Hart subbed for Mr. Maffini and Mrs. Rose last year; so, while she is new to our teaching staff, she is already a little familiar with our Nazareth Community. During the summer Mr. Maffini decided to return to government service and has taken a position with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Mr. Erik Knight will be assuming the position of the 6th grade homeroom teacher and Middle School social studies teacher. He will also be the Athletic Director for Nazareth School. Mr. Knight attended St. Patrick's School in North Park as a child and is looking forward to returning to a Catholic school community. I know that all of you will join me and our current staff as we extend a warm Nazareth welcome to our new teachers.

During the summer, Mrs. C. and Mrs. Horning did some research on afterschool programs. This year, we can look forward to a cooking class/program and a new science program after school. This is in addition to the music program that PTG Board and I engaged last spring. Our campus always seems to be busy after school, but it seems that there will be a few more things to pique the students' interest in learning new things!

Our first weeks of school will be busy ones. Tuesday, August 13th, the PTG Board will be facilitating a New Parent Orientation meeting; this is for parents new to Nazareth School or new to the Elementary/Middle School. On Saturday, August 17th, we will have a series of parent meeting orientations. Mrs. Barragan and the Preschool teachers will meet with parents from 9:00 – 10:00. Mrs. Senter will host a Meet-and-Greet for Kindergarteners and their parents at 10:00. This will provide the

children and their parents with an opportunity to find their cubbies and their seats, and a chance to say “hello” before school starts. At 11:00, I will provide a tour of the “Big School” for parents who are unfamiliar with the elementary school facilities. On Wednesday, August 21st, our first day of school, the PTG will host a Meet-and-Greet at the Lower Field Picnic Tables. Coffee and morning treats will be provided. Back-to-School Night will be Thursday, August 22nd. Our annual introduction to the school year will allow you the opportunity to meet with your children’s teachers. The PTG will have information tables set up on the Courtyard for you to meet with parent leaders who can explain how you can become more involved in our school events.

The PTG Board will hold its first planning meeting Thursday, August 8th. If you are interested in working with the Board to help organize school events, please contact the office for more information. The success of our PTG fundraisers makes a significant contribution to the enhancement of the school’s environment and resources, please plan to participate actively in the PTG events and programs.

In preparation for our school year, please make sure that your children have completed their summer reading and math review activities, and that their uniforms, grooming (no extreme haircuts or unnatural colors, please) and supplies are in order. Regarding supplies, it is not necessary to buy all new supplies if your child has unused materials from last year. If you have questions about school preparation, please contact the school office or your child’s teacher.

As we prepare for a new year, and all of the opportunities it will bring, know that all of us at Nazareth School have made a heartfelt commitment to provide the best experiences possible for all of our students and their families. The teachers, staff members and I look forward to working in partnership with you to celebrate the gifts of Nazareth School and all of the members of its community.

Enjoy these last days of summer! Wednesday, August 21st and a new school year will soon be here; I look forward to seeing you then!

God bless each of you and your families,

Dr. Colleen Mauricio
Principal