

September 11, 2020

Dear Lower School Families,

Congratulations! We have successfully completed our first three days of the 2020-2021 school year. After a quiet spring and summer here on campus, the Lower School building has been brought back to life with sounds of your children's laughter and excited chatter. Whether on Zoom or in the classrooms, new friendships are being formed and old friendships are being strengthened.

I would like to thank you all for your support and partnership as this unprecedented 2020-2021 school year begins. As we continue through the year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, your classroom teacher, or your PA reps with any questions or ideas. I will continue to send communications out on Fridays. I ask that you read them carefully, as they will contain information about upcoming events, procedures and/or items that need your attention.

We had our first Lower School Assembly this morning! I invite you to view it here.

Masks

Students should wear masks that are recommended by CDC. Neck gaiters and valve masks are not as effective and safe as others according to the CDC, and are not allowed.

Soft Opening/Staggered Start Continued

September 14-16: Grades PreK, 2, 4 on Campus Grades K, 1, 3 Remote

***Beginning September 17: All LS grades on campus (unless registered as a remote learner)

Connecting to Zoom from Home

If your child is having difficulty logging into a Zoom session, please **follow these instructions**.

Arrival and Dismissal Reminder

The Lower School doors will be open to students at 7:45am. Parents and caregivers may drop their children off in the car line or they can park and walk their children to the LS Amphitheater crosswalk. Please do not congregate there and please maintain appropriate social distance. PDS faculty and staff members will be at both locations to greet and usher younger children to their classrooms, after checking for the MAGNUS health screen "Go" display on the parent/caregiver's device.

Dismissal

A reminder that dismissal times are staggered.

- Grades PreK, K, and 1 will dismiss at 2:45pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and at 2:15pm on Wednesdays.
- Grades 2, 3, and 4 will dismiss at 3:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and at 2:30pm on Wednesdays. Students in these grades who have siblings in Grades PreK-1 will be dismissed at the earlier time.

As with arrival, parents and caregivers can pick up their children in the car line or they can park and pick up their children from the LS Amphitheater. Please do not congregate there and please maintain appropriate social distance.

Back to School Night Reimagined

This year, we will be providing you with opportunities to meet your teachers and learn about Lower School curriculum and programs in an **asynchronous** format. Therefore, Back to School Night will not be held on Thursday evening as previously planned. More information about Back to School "Night" reimagined, will be forthcoming in future communications!

As we head into the weekend, I ask that you continue to provide opportunities for your children to practice wearing their masks. The students have been doing so well with keeping their masks on their faces and using our touchless hand sanitizers when they enter the building. More reinforcement at home with making sure your child's mask fits **securely** over

their nose and mouth would be a big help to us!

Sincerely,

Sandy Wang Head of Lower School