



PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

July 31, 2020

Dear Middle School Families,

We hope you are well and enjoying these warm, sunny midsummer days. While several weeks remain before we reconvene on the Great Road, we write today to introduce ourselves and to provide you with several important updates about how we are preparing for your children's return in September.

In the Middle School, you and your children will frequently interact with the grade-level Deans. Deans serve as advocates for each grade's students, coordinate the advisory program, meet regularly with all advisors for each grade, and help ensure smooth daily operations throughout the Middle School. We have been working all summer to make sure that this coming school year will be successful for all middle schoolers—from new student orientations to the closing ceremony.

As you have seen from the [PDS Reopens](#) website page, all members of the faculty, staff and School leadership are fully engaged in the work of reopening Princeton Day School in a manner that is safe and welcoming for every member of our community. As Deans in the Middle School, we have been involved in every aspect of the planning process. The guiding principles have been to reopen in a way that provides our signature exceptional education and attention to the needs of each student, while placing the health and safety of our community as the highest priority.

The faculty has been undertaking professional development work throughout the summer to build upon the success of last spring's Panthers Online! learning program and to plan for a variety of learning opportunities for the 2020-21 school year. The work has been collaborative, innovative and inspiring. As Deans and members of the faculty, it has been an honor to participate in this professional development experience with the most exceptional group of Middle School educators imaginable. We are excited to deliver an outstanding program to your children beginning in September.

We understand that you have many questions about the return to school and how it will impact your child, and we are working along with our colleagues across the School to finalize the PDS Reopens plan. The final reopening plan is scheduled to be published on August 10, and will include more detailed information about student schedules, policies and logistics pertaining to the Middle School experience. Each Dean will hold a Meet-and-Greet Zoom call in mid-August with our grade to introduce ourselves and give you the opportunity to offer questions and feedback as we prepare to begin the school year. Be on the lookout for access details in the days ahead.

A reminder regarding returning and new family access to the all-new parent portal for community information, Back-to-School resources and more, and to the Magnus system for health forms and other health information: extensive database work has been ongoing throughout the summer, and the School expects data integration work to be completed and both the parent portal and Magnus synced and ready by Wednesday, August 5. To that end, there will be no access to Magnus from July 30 through August 4 while the portal and Magnus connectivity work concludes. On August 5, current and new families should expect an email with all-new portal log-in information and instructions on Magnus access through the new parent portal. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

We are excited to welcome your children back to school in September, and we hope you and your family are able to make the most of these last weeks of summer. Make sure you spend plenty of time playing outside, resting and relaxing, and doing the things that bring you the most joy. Have fun, stay safe and stay cool!

Note: Additional MS information about Summer Reading and New Student Orientation follows, below.

Yours,

Channing McCullough, 5th Grade Dean

Angharad Rebholz, 6th Grade Dean

Jonathan Martin, 7th Grade Dean

Nicole Mangino, 8th Grade Dean

Summer Reading

For students and parents looking for information regarding Summer Reading, please visit <https://pds.libguides.com/mssummerreading>.

New Student Orientation: Mark Your Calendars for 9/2

September 2: All 5th Grade students and all new 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students. Look for details to follow from the Admission Office.