PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

July 31, 2020

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying this unique summer. Although many of our normal family activities were altered, I marvel at my own children's resilience and creativity. The wall-sized mural painted in one of their bedrooms will be a lasting memory of this time.

While campus is relatively quiet, faculty, staff and leadership have been working harder than ever to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. To improve upon the success of last spring's Panthers Online! learning program, faculty leaders created a summer professional development program for their colleagues, who dove in and thought creatively about providing the highest-quality experience for your children in a variety of settings. In addition, many teachers and staff donated their time to maintain and build relationships with students through the free online courses offered through the Panthers Summer Session. I am inspired by their dedication and commitment, but having worked with this faculty for the past six years, I am not surprised.

While this letter typically contains more extensive information about the coming year, I ask for your understanding that a bit more time is needed to finalize all of the details. As you know from Paul Stellato's regular communications and all of the information on the **PDS Reopens** web page, every effort is being made to ensure the safety of our community while providing the best possible learning experience. As Acting Head of Upper School, I take to heart the charge to provide a quality education while prioritizing the health and safety of all. I will write again after the School's final reopening plans are released on August 10 and explain the impact on Upper School schedules and policies.

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!

Finally, having not seen students in our classrooms, hallways, athletic fields, art studios and theaters for nearly five months, I am eager for our doors to open officially on September 9th. As you have seen from the national and local news, many states and schools are choosing to start the year remotely. Princeton Day School, however, has the ability to meet both in person and remotely because of our collective efforts and careful plans. Please talk to your children about the importance of continuing to wear masks, wash hands, maintain social distance and limit contacts with others for the safety of all. Our School's strength comes from the deep and caring relationships forged through common experiences. Let's do whatever we can to ensure that these relationships continue to be built on the Great Road.

Note: Additional US information follows, below.

All the best,

Chris Rhodes
Dean of Students and Class Deans

As the caretakers of student life, Dean of US Students Elizabeth Monroe and the four class deans have been working hard to build community and meet individual student needs. I am proud of their efforts and am confident that they are ready to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

Please note that class assignments have been altered slightly. For the 2020-21 school year, dean assignments are as follows:

9th Grade Dean: Stefanie Santangelo (ssantangelo@pds.org)
10th Grade Dean: Carlos Cara (ccara@pds.org)
11th Grade Dean: Mia Manzulli (mmanzulli@pds.org)
12th Grade Dean: Sam Hunt (sshunt@pds.org)

In the next week, you will receive an email from your child's grade level dean. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to them directly. Dean of US Students Elizabeth Monroe (emonroe@pds.org) is also a wonderful resource and is always willing to help.

Summer Reading

Please remind your child to check the Summer Reading list. While 9th and 10th graders can simply find their English and history assignments, students taking electives with summer reading will receive an email confirming their enrollment in the class.

9th Grade and New Student Orientation

While details are still being finalized, please mark your calendars for the following events:

September 2: New Student Orientation
September 3: 9th Grade Orientation

Deadline of August 7 to Pick Up Items from 2019-20

Many items, including the contents of student lockers, Lost & Found, classrooms and gym lockers will be held in the Upper Gym until August 7. At that time, all items, except locker content, will be donated or discarded. Locker items will be stored elsewhere until the final week of September. Please contact Security at 609-273-8800 to enter the building and claim your items.

Call for Geometry Textbooks

If your child has previously taken Accelerated or Honors Geometry, we can use their textbook. The book is entitled *Geometry* and is authored by Ray C, Jurgensen. If you have the book and are willing to donate it to the department, please reach out to Math Department Chair Chandra Smith at cksmith@pds.org.