



## PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

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Dear Families and Caregivers of the Class of 2022,

My introduction to the Class of 2022 came in the autumn of their first year in the Upper School, when I had the distinct pleasure of teaching a small, yet representative cohort of the grade in English IX. As I got to know these students and their classmates, I came to appreciate them for their creativity, independence, warmth, intelligence, and love of community. I am honored to become their Class Dean.

For those of you whom I have yet to meet, let me introduce myself in writing here; I hope that we will have a chance to meet in person in the not too distant future. The 2020-21 school year will be my sixth at Princeton Day School where I have been teaching in the English department. In addition to English IX, I teach the Shakespeare elective, a Poetry elective, and this year, a course on Playwriting and the Living Newspaper. I have been a Class Dean since 2017, having just recently graduated the Class of 2020. I look forward to working closely with your juniors in this important and truly unprecedented year!

Carlos Cara shared with me that the Class of 2022's "greatest ambition last year was how to bring the class together and which kind of events they could create to do so." I am eager to build on this enthusiasm and energy, and will work to support their efforts to grow their connections to one another and the larger PDS community.

My role as Class Dean is first and foremost that of support and encouragement. Along with our class advisors, Dave Freedholm and Seraphine Hamilton, I will be actively involved in guiding your children as they work to navigate the complexities of junior year. We have intentionally expanded the role of class advisors this year, and both Mr. Freedholm and Ms. Hamilton will play an important part in meeting regularly with the class to support each student through the increased academic, extracurricular, and social expectations of junior year. In addition, we are fortunate to have the

support of our class parents, Marielle Ringblom and Wendel Thomas, who will partner with us for the coming year.

The Class of 2022 has emerged as a group with strong leadership skills. I will look to them for ideas and plans that ensure a productive and lively junior year, and also promote a sense of belonging in these uncertain times. There is much to anticipate and to be thinking about as we move forward! I look to partner with you, as well, and ask that we keep the lines of communication open. Please feel free to be in touch via email ([mmanzulli@pds.org](mailto:mmanzulli@pds.org)) or phone (609-924-6700, ext. 1750) if you have any questions, including questions regarding any of the expectations and policies addressed in our updated US Handbook, which will soon be published online for all to read.

I hope that you and your families are able to savor the warmth of these final weeks of a most unusual summer. Before we know it, the school year will be upon us, and in the words of Alexander Posey, the air will be “ filled with / Scarlet leaves, that dropping, / Rise again, as ever, / With a useless sigh for / Rest--and it is Autumn.”

Be well.

Warm regards,

Mia Manzulli, Ph.D.

Dean of the Class of 2022US English Department