



Charleston Day School

May 18, 2020

Dear Charleston Day School Families,

It is hard to believe that the 2020-21 school year is quickly coming to an end. The past eight weeks have challenged all of us in ways that we could not have imagined, and the grace with which everyone has faced these challenges is extraordinary. The Charleston Day School community is strong, resilient and supportive.

As we prepare for all of the year end ceremonies, I wanted to share several faculty updates with you:

- First grade teacher Mrs. Lisa Redden will be retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs. Redden, who joined CDS in 2009, shared, “it has been a great 11-year run.”
- Mrs. Anna Bruner, Kindergarten through Grade 4 Spanish teacher, has accepted a position at her church that will allow her to spend more time with her daughter Ruth and pursue her passion for music. Mrs. Marietta Juillard will assume Mrs. Bruner’s duties, becoming the French and Spanish teacher for Kindergarten through Grade 4. Mrs. Juillard is excited to provide a comprehensive World Language experience for our K-4 students.
- Second grade teacher Ms. Abbie Gregory will return to Nashville to be closer to family.
- Ms. Marianne Clare will become the full time Division Head for the Middle School. Ms. Clare’s strong organizational skills and keen understanding of and dedication to middle school students will be a great asset at the administrative level. While Ms. Clare will be missed in the classroom, we are fortunate to have the talented Mrs. Caitlin Tobin join the 6th grade team to teach Language Arts.
- Mr. Andy Willits has been named Director of High School Placement. Mr. Willits has worked tirelessly with families and students to find the “right fit” high school, and we are fortunate to have him focus his talents in this important area. Mr. Willits will continue in his capacity at 8th grade Language Arts and Homeroom teacher.
- Mrs. Cheryl Waddell will add Director of Financial Assistance to her current duties as Accounting Manager. Mrs. Waddell is a certified public accountant and her clear understanding of financial issues and our school community will allow her to move into this important new role with ease.

Please join me in wishing our departing faculty the best and in congratulating our faculty members who will assume new roles. Details regarding new faculty members will be shared at a later date.

Finally, I’d like to provide an update on our plans for the 2020-2021 school year and share some context for how we are assimilating information and making decisions. As you are aware, at the onset of the pandemic, Charleston Day School established a COVID-19 task force, and that group is working in consultation with health organizations such as the CDC, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Concerns (DHEC), as well as state and local officials to develop a safe, comprehensive plan for our return to campus. *Our current focus is on planning for students to return to campus in August.* We are focusing on two major areas in our planning: the health and safety of our community and the educational experience of our students. We will be in a position to communicate more formal plans once there is more clarity regarding guidance for school, state and local re-openings. Although there remain too many unknowns to state exactly what the school experience will be like in August, please rest assured that we are striving for flexibility and transparency in our process as well as in the re-opening plans we develop.

As we look to the future, we will develop plans for the following three scenarios: school reopens in August, school is disrupted temporarily due to a secondary outbreak, and campus is mandated to be closed. As part of these plans, we will continue to improve our remote learning capabilities, focusing on providing the best possible learning experience. Thank you to all the families who completed the recent Remote Learning survey. Overall, greater than 90% of our families were satisfied with the current plan; however, we will continue to refine that platform should we need to utilize a remote platform in the future. The survey yielded many great suggestions which have already been incorporated, and we will continue to seek your valuable feedback and review best practices to help inform our decisions as we move forward. As always, we will be guided by the school's mission: to foster scholarship, integrity, respect and responsibility in our students. In addition, the connections and relationships that define a Charleston Day School education will remain priorities as we plan for the future.

I miss all of you and can't wait to see you in person. I look forward to the joyful sound of students engaging and learning at 15 Archdale Street. Until then, stay connected and take care of one another.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.