

A Note From...



The Children's School

Dear Parents,

Happy August! We are thrilled to begin the school year at the very end of the month. This is our whole-school staffing update; you will also receive more information from your child's teacher very soon.

As we do every year, we are saying goodbye to some old friends and hello to some new ones. We wish communications director Emily Williamson health, happiness, and adventure as she leaves TCS. PK assistant Amber will be starting a therapy practice, and middle school teacher Charlotte is taking a year to travel the world. We wish them both luck on these new paths. Finally, Tina Brown's husband received orders taking them back to Washington DC, but we have managed to hold on to her and Evie until December (see more below).

Please join us in welcoming our new faculty and staff, and two future members of the class of 2034 this year:

Joining Makena in the development and communications office is Paris M nier. Paris' poise, initiative, and bright spirit have already won over everyone who works with her in the office. She spearheaded our communications over the last few weeks, organizing the website, creating policy for communications, and even negotiating with Instagram for a cool new filter we hope will be coming your way soon. Paris' independent school experience includes work in development and outreach, and she will continue in those capacities at TCS. We all love having her creative energy on the team.

Our new distance learning coordinator will be Amelia McCurdy. Amelia worked on the launch of online learning at the University of Utah, and has been a teacher at the elementary and middle school levels. This summer she worked to establish consistent platforms and technology to support virtual learning, and is providing training and guidance to the faculty in best practice for online education. While her command of educational technology is impressive, it is her commitment to the social and emotional well-being of her students that cemented our decision to hire Amelia for this critical position. She is, first and foremost, a child-centered educator, and has been a terrific fit for us as lead for our virtual program. Those of you who have already met her can attest to Amelia's warmth and can-do spirit. We are very lucky to have her at TCS.

TCS is growing. Eileen Neapole will be partnering with Michelle, and teaching the additional section of second grade. Eileen brings more than a decade of independent-school experience to TCS, including work at the Curtis School, and John Thomas Dye School, in Los Angeles. As part of the hiring process, Eileen did our first socially-distanced model lesson, and we were all impressed by her ability to connect to students under the challenging circumstances. From the moment she was hired, Eileen began

preparing to teach her new class at TCS, including making repeated trips down from L.A. to set up her classroom. We are looking forward to the gifts she will bring to our community and are very happy to have her with us this fall.

The TCS Class of 2034 is experiencing a growth surge as well. Rose welcomed beautiful Sadie in the spring and will be on maternity leave until December. We are so happy to tell you that our beloved Tina has agreed to delay her departure to Washington D.C. in order to cover for Rose. Tina, and later Rose, will be assisted by Keri Corn, who is moving from early childhood to help. The fifth grade will be in truly excellent hands. We are also thrilled for middle school teacher Eugenie, who is expecting her first baby later this year. We will begin hiring for her leave replacement as the time draws closer, and as with all maternity leaves, are planning a significant period of overlap to ensure a smooth transition.

Jesse has worked tirelessly through the summer to prepare the school for Covid-era instruction. Given the extraordinary logistical challenges of this year, he will continue supporting the school's facilities and technology needs. Jesse will also serve as the school's Covid-19 liaison. More information on the scope of his responsibilities as liaison can be found [HERE](#).

Barrett Kolari will take over for Tina, and will serve as Dean of the Middle School. Barry brings twenty years' experience as a middle school teacher and administrator in Canadian schools. His depth of experience and his communication skills carried fifth grade through last year: despite having taken over Rose's class only a few weeks before the shift distance learning, Barry formed strong bonds with his students and did an excellent job keeping the class engaged and working together. We are lucky to have such a talented and experienced teacher joining our middle school team. In addition to teaching math/science, Barry will help middle school students work through challenges, and will also be a resource for middle school parents when they have questions.

Finally, Jon Russo will take over for Charlotte as a seventh grade humanities teacher. Our goal in planning teaching assignments for this year was to ensure familiarity, stability, and teaching excellence, and we are grateful to Jon for stepping in to provide all of those qualities in the middle school. He and Eugenie have been working together this summer to coordinate curriculum. We are excited for Jon to be able to deepen the already strong bonds that he has with all the middle school students, and in particular for him to have the chance to work closely with our seventh grade.

As always, we are proud of our extraordinary faculty. We are very excited to see all of you at the start of the school year, and extend a special greeting to the children and families who are new to this community. Welcome to our TCS family.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

The TCS team

The 2020-2021 TCS Team

Early Childhood: DIVISION DIRECTOR – DENISE NASRAWI

Toddlers – Sarah Richen, and Samantha Izaguirre-Gomez

Ps1 – MWF – Itzel Durazo and Randee Lynch
PS2- M-F – Denise Nasrawi and Shelly Vitalis
PK – Jennifer Shafer and Valerie Simpson

Elementary: DIVISION DIRECTOR – REBECCA LINDSAY

K – Crista Vitalis Charles and Theresa Gemelli
1st – Sarah Specker and Sierra Hauser
2nd – Michelle Pecos and Eileen Neapole
3rd – Rebecca Lindsay
4th – Vanessa Smith
5th – Tina Brown/Rose Peters with Keri Corn

Art – Carrie Difini
Music – Lauren Karkenny
P E – Todd Billings and Vy Crow
Science – Kym Lohnas
Spanish – Isabel Olondriz and Sarah Heras (5thgrade)
Technology – Jon Russo

Middle School: DIVISION DEAN – Barrett Kolari

Humanities – David Lyons, Eugenie Ceconi, and Jon Russo

Math /Science – Diana Quincannon, Kym Lohnas, and Barrett Kolari

Electives – Carrie Difini and Jon Russo
P E – Todd Billings
Spanish – Sarah Heras
Technology – Jon Russo
Special projects – Viri Priest
