



August 10, 2017

DEAR LATIN PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

I hope these past several weeks of the summer have afforded you the opportunity to relax, refresh and renew. We have been busy here at the school and it seems that time has been moving faster with each passing week. Whether you are new or returning to Latin, we are delighted that we will have the chance to work with you this upcoming year.

First, I would like to share some important personnel updates. Mr. James (Jimmy) Kelly will be our new **Assistant Principal**, succeeding Mr. Ryan Benjamin, whose last day is this Friday. For the past four years, Mr. Kelly has served as an administrator at D.C. Prep. Prior to that, he was in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was a middle school teacher and started a nonprofit organization. Our Director of Academics, Dr. Lacy Peale will be the interim **Grade 5 and 6 Director** for this coming year. Having previously worked as a principal and with a PhD in curriculum and instruction, she is more than equal to this task. She succeeds Ms. Pike who will be moving to Virginia after the birth of her first child. Long-time staff member, Khashiffa Roberts, who has run our student support program for the past few years, has agreed to take on the roles of **12th Grade Director and Upper School Dean** on an interim basis. She succeeds Mr. Jason Vanterpool who has transitioned to a non-educational position. Ms. Roberts will split some of her former responsibilities with Anna Jesseman, who will be serving as the **Co-Director of Student Support Services**. Mr. Neil Berment, who has been a physical education and digital media instructor, is the interim **Director of Athletics**, following the departure of Mr. Rich Bettencourt. We are excited by the new team that we have in place and we stand ready to serve you in any way that we can.

Please take note of some upcoming dates, which are also outlined in the pages that follow. The first is Sunday, August 20th, which is the date for the **Back-to-School Open House**, sponsored by the Parent-Faculty Association (PFA). Returning parents will note the new name for this organization, which reflects changes made to their bylaws this past year. The Open House will be held in the MCC gymnasium from 3:00-5:00 p.m. This event, which is a fun and largely social gathering, will offer you the chance to meet school personnel, secure a new planner, purchase gently used uniforms as well as Latin swag, and get advisory assignments. Our **fifth grade orientation**, for students and their family members, will take place on Monday, August 21st from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A similar orientation for ninth graders, but only for those students who are new to Latin, will be on Tuesday, August 22nd from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Note this is for students and their family members. The first day of classes, which is a full day, is Wednesday, August 23rd.

As has been our practice in the past, we will primarily communicate via email and text messages; please see an overview of our communications in this packet. Pre-recorded telephone messages will be used only in the event of emergencies. Note that each Friday (or the last day of the week before we break), we will distribute via email our *Legenda* newsletters. We strongly encourage you to read the information conveyed to you. Also, on the evening before the start of each school week, watch out for a text and e-mail digest of upcoming events, entitled *De Facto*.

We extend a special, yearlong invitation for you to join us at school activities and events whenever possible. We want and greatly value your involvement and support in the education of your children. The more you are involved, the greater the benefits. To this end, we encourage you to volunteer whenever possible.

Our revised **Student-Family Handbook** will soon be posted online. Each parent will be asked to acknowledge (in writing) that they have reviewed the updated information, including some new policies and protocols. We will send more about this soon

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, you may contact a member of our team (see below) or Mr. Edmundson in the main office.

The Washington Latin staff deem it a privilege to be able to work with you and particularly with your children. We look forward to a wonderful 2017-2018 school year.

Warmest regards,



Peter Anderson
Head of School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Principal	Dr. Diana Smith	dsmith@latinpcs.org
Assistant Principal	Mr. Bob Eleby-El	belebyel@latinpcs.org
Assistant Principal	Mr. James Kelly	jkelly@latinpcs.org
Grade Director 5-6	Dr. Lacy Peale	lpeale@latinpcs.org
Grade Director 7-8	Ms. Joelle Chall	jchall@latinpcs.org
Grade Director 9-11	Ms. Kara Brady	kbrady@latinpcs.org
Grade Director 12/Student Support Services	Ms. Khashiffa Roberts	kroberts@latinpcs.org
Operations Director	Ms. Martita Fleming	mflaming@latinpcs.org
Finance Director	Ms. Geovanna Izurieta	gizurieta@latinpcs.org
Development/Communications Director	Ms. Kate Cromwell	kcromwell@latinpcs.org