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A Classical Education for the Modern World

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***Dear 2nd Street Families,***

**I write today with news of a change in the 2nd Street leadership team: Janelle Bradley, the Director of the Middle School, will leave Washington Latin at the end of 2022-23.**

In January 2021, when we were deep in the COVID pandemic and its many challenges, I wrote my first *Legenda* letter to introduce myself as the soon-to-be Principal. I also wanted to announce that my long-time colleague and friend, Janelle Bradley, would move into the role of Middle School Director. I was excited to share this news and tell our community what makes me count her as a great educator: she sees in young people the light they may not yet see in themselves, and she finds ways every day to help them feel heard and valued. In her two years as Assistant Director and two more as Director of the Middle School, she has brought tremendous partnership, leadership, and love to our students, faculty and entire community.

Janelle has written a letter to the community about her experiences at Latin and future plans. I will just add that I am grateful for her many contributions and will miss collaborating with her on a daily basis, as we have for the past four years. As we open a search for a new Director of the Middle School, I will be sure to update our families about filling this role with another educator committed to the Latin Way as Janelle has modeled throughout her tenure on our campus.

Sincerely,

**James Kelly**

Principal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Campus  
Washington Latin

## Dear Washington Latin Family,

Last semester in my Youth Empowerment Seminar class, my students spent time discovering and articulating their values. The word **family** surfaced numerous times. It was clear early on in their value expedition that the idiom, "*Home is where the heart is*" rang true for this group as it does for me. Over the last four years, I have been reminded that, independent of our physical homes, we develop families and villages as we navigate life. Washington Latin is a home to so many, and I am better because of the relationships and experiences I have had with students, families, and colleagues here.

Despite my love for my Latin Family, my heart is calling me to my original home. At the start of the summer, I will be moving back home to Evanston, Illinois. Evanston is about 30 minutes from downtown Chicago and is the home of Northwestern University. I'm passionate about the fact that Evanston (and Chicago) has some of the best food in the country and hands down the best summer experiences. Most importantly, Evanston is where four of my favorite humans are: my mother, father, brother, and grandfather.

My decision to return home was not an easy one. I have fallen in love with middle school students and all the critical work that goes into helping them evolve into their promise and potential. I have never been a part of a parent community that celebrates partnership in the way that Washington Latin families do. My favorite programming moments are always ones that allow me to spend time with families in a meaningful way.

The faculty at Washington Latin are deeply committed to creating an educational experience that prepares students for their success after high school. I believe the work of educators starts with the heart and at Latin we have teachers, support staff, administrators, and counselors that show up every day and lead with their hearts. This fact will remain true and will forever be connected to the longevity of this profound organization.

There are not enough words of gratitude for Mr. Anderson, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Kelly for inviting me to join Washington Latin in 2019 and trusting me with this incredible role. I am excited to celebrate the success of the new Middle School Director. Mr. Kelly will share more information about what is next for the Middle School soon. What is unequivocally true is the fact that Washington Latin will remain a family and school community that feels like home for me and Stax! Over the next four months, I hope to spend some special moments with the entire Latin community as I say, "see you later!"

Sincerely,

**Janelle Bradley**

Director of the Middle School

2<sup>nd</sup> Street Campus