



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF AMARILLO

April 26, 2018

Greetings! I hope this finds you well. As would be expected in a vibrant learning community like ours, the last month of school is full of learning opportunities, hallmark events, and celebrations. Be sure to stay on top of all that is happening by following the school's calendar on the website. It's going to be a great end to the school year!

As the year as progressed, we have continued to make progress on key initiatives, and I wanted to share some details of what you and your children can look forward to next year. When next school year opens, we will have the following place.

- **The Connie Wootton Fine Arts and Athletics Building (FAAB)** - We are on target to open the FAAB on Meet the Teacher Day in August. This new facility will allow us to...
 - *Elevate all Fine Arts programs*, including our new Drama program, on our new Fine Arts Stage.
 - *Enhance our PE/Athletic programs* with new programs in our new Strength and Conditioning Room.
 - *Showcase our Volleyball and Basketball programs* and host area tournaments in the new Gym.
 - *Provide an improved experience* with the new Concession Stand.
- **An Overhauled Technology Experience** - With new partnerships and donor support, we will be taking a gigantic leap forward in our capacity to provide experiences consistent with 21st century education. This will include...
 - *An Upgraded wireless network* - Connectivity will no longer be an issue for our students, faculty, or guests.
 - *A 1:1 Learning Environment* - A device will be available for every student when we want them to have access to a device. In 3rd-8th grade, students will use new Lenovo 100E Chromebooks. In 1st-2nd grade, students will use new iPads. In Primer-Kindergarten, we will use existing iPads with an eye towards upgrading them in the near future.
 - *Updated iMac computer lab* - Updating the lab will allow more capacity for teaching audio and video production/editing and video conferencing.
 - *Sunsetting RenWeb* - We're implementing a new interface for students, parents and faculty called Rediker. More information and parent trainings will be made available in August.
- **Additional New Programs Next Year**
 - *Student Support* - We have an ongoing commitment to provide time and space in the school day for outside professionals to support our students. We will also introduce the following:

- Full-time Counselor - This individual will not only support students and parents, she will develop social-emotional learning (SEL) programming.
- Academic Support Coordinator - This individual will implement a Learning Lab to support students individually and in small-groups so they accelerate their learning in the classroom.
- Turn Center - Our agreement with the Turn Center will increase access to on-campus intervention services for students and families and consultation services for parents and faculty.
- ***Vertically-aligned Math Curriculum*** - I am proud of the math faculty for the time and energy they have invested in this process. From Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade, we are excited to implement the Eureka Math Curriculum through Great Minds. See basic overview information at [Great Minds - Eureka Math](#). Math nights and information sessions will be provided in the Fall for parents.
- ***New Middle School Academic Schedule*** - Our new schedule will embrace brain-based learning practices and experiential learning. Highlights of the schedule include a rotating class schedule, specialized programming with extended University classes and the new Mastery Experience, and more opportunities for all students to work one-on-one and in small groups with faculty.
- ***Drama*** - We have hired our new Drama teacher who will spearhead our 3rd-8th grade program and introduce new performance opportunities for our students.

It is indeed a good day to be a Bronco. Thank you for your commitment to providing a St. Andrew's education for your child. Interest from prospective families is high. We are looking forward to welcoming many new families to the school in August. Now is a good time to refer prospective families to St. Andrew's. Please let Caylar Widick know if there's a family we can reach out to and welcome to the school for a tour.

It has been a joyful experience serving our students, parents, and faculty this year. I am excited to experience the last month of the school year as it is chock full of great experiences. Please never hesitate to let me know if there's anything I can do to support your child or family.

In service, always,



Joel R. Bicknell
Your Headmaster