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ANTHONY BAMBROLA
PRINCIPAL

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Principal's Welcome Letter – August 2017

Dear Davis Families,

To say that Ms. Marinaro and I are looking forward to September is an understatement. We are very excited for the year ahead! I recognize that, for many of you, this letter somewhat symbolically represents that summer has only a few weeks left. However, we miss our 700+ friends. Sitting in my office this summer, I miss the hallway buzz, the sound of classes going by my office...even the kindergartner who knocks on my door as he walks by, causing me to get up, finding no one there, and realizing that he probably knocked his little fist on everything down the hall. I miss him, too.

Although I won't get into the many exciting details of a principal's summer, I can say that this is a reflective and productive time each year. I am grateful for my partnership with Ms. Marinaro and our ability to push each other, reflect honestly, and pursue our school and district vision, alongside the staff. We reflect upon policies and practices – what is working and what needs to get better. We reflect on data – not just testing data, but formative data (some of the best kind), such as student work samples and teacher feedback. We assess our progress towards our goals and reflect upon our action plan and our allocation of resources. Our momentum is strong and we are very excited about our trajectory.

I'm also proud of our continued growth this past year. Davis has always enjoyed a strong academic reputation, but it's our job to continue raising the bar each year. We will complete our phase-in of the TERC Investigations mathematics program across all grades, K-5, this September. Students are engaged and active as growing independent readers, while teacher teams use data to inform next steps for targeted instruction. And, of course...we're writing...a lot! We will continue to push the envelope to cultivate a culture of experimentation, risk-taking, and collaboration in our classroom as part of authentic writer's workshops.

Our fundamental purpose – to ensure that all learners achieve at high levels – drives our work. However, it's foolish not to also address our continued commitment and vision towards nurturing the whole child, as well. I commend our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) teacher teams at Davis. They're the ones who have spent years laying the foundation for our positive engagement work and "the fins". Our continued progress has allowed a Tier II team to launch this past year, of whom is charged with developing creative ideas and initiatives for ensuring all learners are engaged – particularly those whom find challenge in navigating the school day socially and emotionally.

As leaders of the building, we want to nurture initiative and leadership in our highly-qualified staff, as well. We seek to continue to push the needle on our collaboration and innovation. We have a small team of teachers seeking to pilot a mindfulness initiative for students and adults. Multiple staff members have spoken about the desire to plan and lead parent workshops this coming year on a variety of academic and non-academic topics – get ready!

Our staff will continue to take Davis to the next level each year, in providing a rich and engaging education to *all* learners in a safe, nurturing environment. Your feedback is important and Ms. Marinaro and I consider ourselves highly reflective in practice. Please don't hesitate to connect with us this year, as we are a team, alongside you, in pursuing our goals.

In connection, your PTA presidents and board remain an important avenue for communication and feedback. Continuing president, Kristine Sharp, and incoming co-president, Daniela Rizzetta, are excited for the coming year. Visit the PTA website, www.davispta.org, for information and updates, as well as sign up for PTA e-blasts. Our first big event of the year is the Fall Carnival on Sunday, September 17th. Please consider joining the PTA – we need you!

Enclosed in the envelope, you'll find your child's class placement letter, as well as some important notes about arrival/dismissal and basic building protocols. Please visit our website at www.davis.nred.org for continued updates. We look forward to seeing you on September 6th!

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