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Letter from the Principal  
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Davis Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! It's real now...Mr. Bambrola is writing to us. I say it every summer, every letter – there is certainly a part of summer that appreciates some time to sit back, reflect, plan, and well, re-charge. But, we also miss the pitter-patter of feet in the hallways. We miss seeing 700+ faces and can't wait to see who has grown a few inches, lost a few teeth, and hear the stories that they've had in the parking lot for the last seventy days, or so.

The Bambrola family had a relaxing and enjoyable summer – some light travel and local adventures. My ambitious and stubborn nature (at times) put me head-to-head with a large section of brush in the yard, full of wonderful things like poison ivy (note: Poison Ivy – 1, Mr. Bambrola – 0). So, that was fun.

At the same time, a unique summer for our family because, for the first time, we had our first “before kindergarten” summer. Getting our teacher and bus assignments in the mail was quite surreal.

I joined the Davis family in 2015, right before our oldest son, Sebastian, turned one. Now, he's getting ready for kindergarten. I really can't believe it. It doesn't matter what I do for a living, I'm just like you – excited, nervous, curious, and proud. It's always us parents that get more worked up. At this point, Sebastian is like, “Dad, seriously. You've asked me if I'm excited for kindergarten like 800 times. Chill out.” In all seriousness, I'm psyched. My family is excited to be in New Rochelle for this full year and back-to-school. The Davis team is ready for an awesome year, here. We've got some exciting things in store for the year!

Of course, I'll dig deeper at our Back-to-School Night gatherings in September, but it's always so exciting to welcome new faces to our Davis team. You'll see them all soon, but we welcome **Katharine Fosina** (kindergarten) and **David Bournas-Ney** (first grade) as new classroom teachers. **Ms. Curry** (kindergarten), **Mr. Seiden** (second grade), and **Ms. Galland** (second grade) all have new grade homes this year. We welcome **Danielle Grandazzo** to lead our new 1/2/3 special class, along with her TA **Rachel Williams**. **Karen Kayser** and **Susan Guerra** come on board as new special education team members. **Danielle Brudner** will be splitting time with Davis and Ward as a Special Education Facilitator, of whom can provide another layer of support for our clinical team, Ms. Cayanan and Dr. Dunning.

We welcome **Kelly Neault** (pronounced like “salt”), our new literacy coach, of whom adds a powerful dimension to our professional development and classroom support offerings, as well as being someone that will help enrich parents and families with our literacy work. Last, but certainly not least, we also welcome back **Maira Sanchez**, who will be our full-time 8-4 nurse, replacing retired Ms. Pritz, as well as **Janice Holderman**, of whom will be at Davis each day from 9-3. I can't wait for you to meet all of these new dynamic, wonderful individuals of whom will continue to enrich our community.

I think what makes me most excited about so many of these new community members is that they not only reflect values that we are trying to nurture at Davis, but so many of their skills and roles are supporting needs that we have sought to address in offering the best for every child, every day. I am greatly appreciate of our district's support in listening to our needs and allocating resources to help us enrich our staff.

Now, you've heard me say it – and write it - countless times, but in preparing our students over six years to head to middle school, so much also lies in nurturing our students' social and emotional development. Yes – our kids are going to graduate strong readers, writers, and mathematicians of whom love to wonder, explore, problem-solve, and play. Anyone who has been in the Davis family over the past few years knows that we haven't been short on talking about our curricular enhancements and more personalized approach to learning in our classrooms. But, those social and emotional components are so critical. We see it as parents and as educators. When I think about what I want for Sebastian over the next six years – even more so than

wanting him to love reading, to skillfully write in different genres, to be curious and to persevere through academic problems – are those social/emotional qualities. I want him to be kind to everyone. I want him to have empathy for others – to see things from another’s perspective. I want him to be that upstander who acts when he knows it is the right thing to do, not just a bystander. And you know what? I’ll do my best, as a parent to support all of these things. I mean, it’s starts with me (and us) as parents. We’ve got to model it. We’ve got to make it visible and name it out loud when see it or experience it. And, of course, we’ve also got to count on his teachers and school staff to nurture those same qualities.

The energy that we’re putting into our social and emotional development work is significant. It’s *the* work. I’ll talk more at Back-to-School Night, but our PBIS teams did some great work at the end of last year to put new activities and initiatives in place for September. Our partnership with *ReThink* will add another dimension to the social/emotional curriculum work that we launched last year.

You’re counting on us at Davis to support this work. To support their growth in so many ways – academic, social, emotional, and beyond. We get your little ones more waking hours in a weekday than you do. **You’re counting on us** for the best and it’s important to me, in this welcome letter, to remind you that myself, Ms. Marinaro, and our team will never forget that.

And, we’re also counting on you, too. Your class placement letter had some important dates and events on there (yes, there’s more on there after the teacher assignment). Come to Back-to-School Night. We’re going to have a lot of fun that night. For those of you new to Davis – try to come by for our annual New Parent Coffee on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Our PTA has more wonderful events planned for this year, as well as our monthly PTA meetings starting in October. Try to be present, if you can. We need your voices and support. Our teachers are counting on you, too! :) )

And don’t forget to follow us on Twitter - @DavisNewRo. We’ll try to give you things to smile about every day.

Thank you for your partnership, your support for our work, your appreciation for our incredibly hard-working teachers and staff, and for your energy towards another great year.

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