



September 3, 2021: A New Year Is Here, We Are Going to Be Friends

Dear CDS Community,

Educators think of years in terms of the academic calendar. The summer is a time to rest, reflect, and ready ourselves for the new year. Our new year's eve is the night before the first day of school. We make the pilgrimage to the stationery store for a new notebook, markers, and post-it notes, as we crack the first page for a fresh start. We have new opportunities to see ourselves and our students as learners as we think about a new year and all the potential for the future.

This year is similar at the start and the potential is huge. We are embracing new learner and educator profiles as we continue to evolve our practices to enhance student learning. We welcome new faculty and families and almost everyone has moved back to their typical places. The energy of the year is palpable as our middle school embraces the rainbow schedule and the youngest students learn to say goodbye to grown-ups and begin demonstrating their independence. There were some tears, but I also saw a lot of joy as old friends reunited and welcomed new friends. One of my favorite moments was a returning friend noticing that it might be hard to be one of the only new students with a sweet and supportive touch.

Our facilities team has been busy this summer unpacking and moving all of our materials back into those regular places. We have had a summer filled with construction as we completed the postponed seismic upgrades to our roof and since we had the scaffolding up we decided to paint the building. The biggest difference will be seen from the 16th Street side where the pinkish-colored walls have been repainted with a "Linen White" surface with the new copper gutters adding a beautiful contrast to the new lighter (in weight) tile roof. You can see the building emerge as you drop off students to our 333 campus. Our yard will be ready for us in time for our first IN-PERSON assembly of the year on Friday, September 24. I think this extra time will help us appreciate our spacious yard and beautiful building even more.

Thank you for your flexibility as we learn and then adapt our arrivals and dismissal

procedures at both 333 and 601. We are so appreciative of the new white zone on Dolores Street outside of 601, and hopefully after the growing pains are over we will have a very streamlined dismissal process with less impact on our neighbors.

As I mentioned in our virtual assembly, the biggest thank you goes to our students – they are the reason we are all here together and I am so excited to share this new year of learning with them. We are already seeing evidence of students being just and courageous, sharing kindness and joy, and being grounded in our natural world. Already they are active learners and inquirers who embrace differences and make an impact on our community and beyond. Thank you to the community for inspiring us to come together for a new school year. And once again, happy birthday to the many who celebrated your special day over the summer.

I hope you all have a restful and reflective long weekend, and you're ready to start this new year.

Warmly,
Shelly