July 2026

Dear Lower School Parents and Students,

I hope your summer is off to a great start. I just returned from a 13-day trip to Belize with my soon-to-be college freshman, my high school senior, and my husband. We tried authentic food, snorkeled the Belize Coral Reef, and took in all the country had to offer. We also made time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. Most importantly, we were together without all the busyness of our normal day-to-day schedule. I hope each of your families can find time to enjoy each other and the slower pace that summer can offer.

For those families new to our community, welcome. We are excited to have you join our Lower School family. My name is Erika Mullins, and this summer I am transitioning into my new role as the Head of the Lower School. After 28 years of classroom teaching, I feel very fortunate for the opportunity to lead this incredible group of teachers and work with each of your children. Along with our new students and their families, we welcome two new teachers to our community as well.

Alex McAnally will be joining us as our new Physical Education teacher! Alex brings over a decade of experience teaching health and physical education, along with an extensive background in coaching and aquatics. She is passionate about helping students develop lifelong healthy habits through engaging, inclusive, and active learning experiences. Alex holds a Master of Science in Exercise Science, Sport Pedagogy from the University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Motor Behavior Emphasis from Pacific University. She is dedicated to creating a positive environment where every student can build confidence, stay active, and enjoy physical education. We are thrilled to have her join our school community!

Anna Kimminau joins our family as our new music teacher! Anna has experience as both an elementary classroom teacher and a music education teacher. She holds a Master of Education with a concentration in Early Literacy and Reading Specialist Certification from Southern Methodist University, as well as a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Music from Baylor University. Anna’s goal is to create engaging, joyful learning experiences for every student. Outside the classroom, she is looking forward to having her daughter begin kindergarten with us this fall, and her family is excited to welcome a new baby in October. Please join us in giving Anna and her family a warm welcome!

We also have a few staffing changes for the 2026-27 school year. Our faculty includes:

Kindergarten—Annika Cook
First Grade—Julianne Clark
Second Grade—Sarah Henrickson
Third Grade—Denie Inman and Amanda Hiebert (3rd grade class lists will be announced in August)
Fourth Grade—Kim Cathcart
Fifth Grade—Jana Dietrich
PE—Alex McAnally
Spanish—Pedro Tomazzelli
Library— Lynette Georgeson
Music—Anna Kimminau
Art—Jennifer Davenport
Learning Specialist—Shantel Woodland
LS Counseling and SEL—Erin Milhem

I am looking forward to the year ahead and all the growth, joy, learning, and discoveries it will bring. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's educational journey. My door is always open if you have questions, concerns, comments or compliments. It's going to be a wonderful year! To help you prepare for the first few weeks of school, please read the newsletter "Roaring Into the New Year," which contains important back-to-school information.

Go Dragons!

Warmly,
Erika Mullins
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