



August 8th, 2017

Dear GSCS Family,

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health and enjoying the summer break. I would like to officially welcome all of you to the 2017-2018 School Year! This year our school theme will be: "Carnival." We will be celebrating learning, family, health, and most importantly, our faith. For those of you who are new to our school, I want you to know that you are coming to an absolutely wonderful place. Our faculty and staff are passionate, caring, hardworking, and always learning something new for the benefit of your children. We are a collaborative and driven school community who take learning seriously while also making personal connections that help kids succeed.

For the past six years, I have been the principal at GSCS and I am honored to continue in this role. This school is where my heart lies, and I consider it the perfect place to accomplish my most important work. There is no other place to be!

I am thrilled at the opportunity to get to know all of the new families this year and engage with everyone in the educational process together. I am a big believer in communication and honesty. If we are honest with each other and communicate with each other than we will be successful. I also believe that building strong relationships between home and school is a key factor in increasing student achievement. As your principal, you know my door is always open. I strongly believe that parental involvement is an essential component to student success.

I would like to take this opportunity and welcome back Ms. Bernie Alger who will be teaching Spanish to our Elementary and Middle school students, and Mrs. Maria Venerio-Salvo who will be part of our office staff.

As a reminder, the first day of school is Monday, August 21st, 2017 for all students. Dismissal on that day will be at 1PM and no after school care will be provided. Regular dismissal and after school care will begin on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017.

Back to School will take place on Friday, August 18th, 2017 at 10 AM and you will report directly to your child's classroom. We will have members of our faculty and staff available to guide you on that day.

When you arrive on August 18th, you will see some changes in our driveway. This summer, we installed new bollards in our field and in the circular driveway for the safety of our children. Three new speed bumps will be installed in the vicinity of our driveway most especially for the morning drop off. Bollards with safety chains will be installed to block incoming traffic and cars parking along the church side. This will allow for any emergency vehicles to have complete access to our school. In addition, new iPads were leased for the middle school students. All of the teachers will be receiving new iPads and all of the elementary classrooms will have Apple TVs to enhance their teaching strategies and their creative teaching skills. Lastly, new uniforms were purchased for our Sports Program.

On a side note, I want to extend a warm felt thank you to all of you for your prayers and concerns regarding my health. I am proud to say that on August 4th, I had my last chemotherapy treatment and I am on the road to a great recovery. I firmly believe that it was the strong support I received from my family, the faculty and staff, and all of you that gave me the strength and confidence to fight. Therefore, from the bottom of my heart, thank you!

I look forward to working with you and your child. I can't wait to see you!

Serving children and Christ,

Mrs. Cabrera

"Life is a ticket to the greatest show on earth" by Martin Fischer