



August, 2019

Dear Maugham School Parents,

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your wonderful children on **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, just a few short weeks away. Summer always seems to go by in a blink of an eye. It is my hope that this letter finds everyone relaxed and rejuvenated after an enjoyable summer filled with exploration and adventure. My family and I got to explore Baltimore and DC this summer, making our way through incredible museums, monuments and aquariums.

Whether you are returning parents or new parents, please accept my warmest welcome to Maugham School. When the 2019-2020 school year begins, there will be 20 classrooms and approximately 400 students at Maugham School. On Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> you will be able to log onto the Genesis Parent Portal to get your child's class placement. **Remember class placements are final.** If you have any questions or concerns, I would encourage you to set up a meeting with your child's teacher early on to share your thoughts. **It is very important to note that you will not be able to see the homeroom teacher information unless you have completed the online parent permission forms; there are 11 permissions to sign off on for each child.** You must complete these forms first before Genesis will give you access to the name of the homeroom teacher. When you log onto Genesis, you most likely will have to reset your password – you can always press forgot my password link for help. Genesis will send out an automated email with information about logging on sometime next week.

When you arrive you'll notice that we have been busy preparing the school building to accommodate our students in September. The Building and Grounds Department as well as our own custodians have worked hard cleaning spaces, refinishing floors, assembling furniture, and generally refurbishing the space to serve the students and adults in the building in the best possible manner. We thank Mr. Roman Gorelov, Mr. Chris McDonnell, Mr. Raul Cuello and our summer help, as well as Mrs. Walsh, our School Secretary for their hard work during this summer to bring all our summer projects to completion.

Those among you who are familiar with Maugham school know that Maugham educators care a great deal about students' social/ emotional development, and their various cultural backgrounds, as much as they do about academic success. Teachers make every effort to help students gain a sense of belonging, significance, and fun in their classroom and school community. This year we aim not only to achieve high academic standards through each individual's strong sense of ownership in the community, but also to actively pursue the idea that community is important and each student's positive participation in that community is essential.

We will continue with the philosophy based on the three simple rules coined by Margaret Wheatley that serve as overarching themes for all behaviors and decisions at the school:

**Take care of yourself  
Take care of each other  
Take care of this place**

We recognize that our greatest asset is our student body. Our hope is that your children will develop and maintain confidence in themselves as learners and valued participants in this community. We anticipate that they will grow to be happy and productive citizens who are able to work with others and look beyond themselves. Most of all, we are optimistic that we can accomplish this by continuing to establish an environment for learning that promotes cooperation, caring and communication.

**Staffing Updates:**

- **Mrs. Zodda has joined our 1<sup>st</sup> grade team – she began her work at Maugham School as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and is thrilled to be coming on board with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Cimler.**
- **Ms. Jillian Lyons will be joining our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team this year. She just finished up a maternity leave at Stillman School where she had a very positive impact on her students - we are lucky to have her on board with us here.**
- **Ms. Melissa Lawson joins our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team. She is not a stranger to Maugham School having done her student teaching with us as well as a maternity leave with us a few years back. We are excited to have her positive presence back with us.**
- **Ms. Lauren Barlotta has taken over the teacher position in our PAWS classroom. Having years of experience with this program as a paraprofessional has prepared her well.**
- **Mrs. Anny Tellez joins us as our K-5 Spanish teacher. We are thrilled to have Ms. Tellez's experience and expertise join our Maugham team.**

**Kindergarten Parents – Very Important**

**Kindergarten Classes will have half-day sessions from Tuesday, September 3rd, 8:30-12:10 PM through Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. First full day for kindergarteners will be Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*\*\* Just a reminder that will be using Pomptonian to service our school lunches this year. There will be very specific information about menu, ordering, etc. sent out at the end of August so you can have everything set for the first day of school. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing the lunch buffet for the first few weeks of school as we have done in the past. Look for information from our HSA.**

**With Best Wishes for a Rewarding School Year,**

**Dr. Jennifer Ferrara  
Principal**