



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Postoak Campus
Grades 3 through 12
8804 Postoak Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301.983.5200

Potomac Village Campus
Preschool through Grade 2
10033 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301.983.5200

August 2016

Dear St. Andrew's Students and Parents,

I hope you are all enjoying a restful, rejuvenating summer. We have been working hard at St. Andrew's to prepare for the 2016-2017 school year and ensure that our students enjoy even better facilities and instruction next year.

Campus Improvements and Growth

On Postoak, the Student Center and new quadrangle are nearing completion. Our basketball and volleyball teams have loved practicing in the beautiful and spacious new gym, which opened in June. Holden Court, the dance studio and fitness center, the Commons, the CTTL offices and Crimsonbridge Research Center, and our new locker rooms and athletic training center will all be ready within a few weeks. We look forward to welcoming you to this spectacular new space when school begins in September!

Inspired by the success of the Village Campus Design Lab and the growth of our design thinking curriculum, this summer we have created a new Design Lab in the lower level of Postoak's main building. Led by science teachers Chuck James and Kim O'Shaughnessy, a team of faculty and staff have planned a project-based learning space, known as the D!Lab, that will combine elements of a traditional "shop" with high-tech design machinery. To better understand St. Andrew's purpose and leadership in design thinking, I encourage you to read Chuck James' "A Compass for Change in High School Curricula" in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* (<http://bit.ly/29CInB>).

Our Village Campus will appreciate its first full school year with an expanded playground and outdoor classroom and garden. The St. Francis church nave (where our Lower School students gather for their weekly chapel) is being renovated and will be ready for use later this fall.

I am also pleased to share that we will open school with record school-wide enrollment, marking our fourth straight year of growth and demonstrating the strength of St. Andrew's reputation, faculty and staff, and community spirit.

Teaching Excellence at St. Andrew's

Summer brings our faculty more time and opportunities for professional growth. Each year dozens of St. Andrew's teachers benefit from our powerful summer grant program, which funds summer study, research, and curriculum development.

Our Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning (CTTL) continues to conduct and disseminate cutting-edge research to promote teaching excellence at St. Andrew's and beyond. Our entire Preschool through 12th grade faculty spent two days in June studying research and

pedagogy with Dr. Christina Hinton, a faculty member at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and co-founder of Research Schools International. The CTTL then hosted classes and workshops in educational neuroscience, research-based math curricula, and diversity leadership. CTTL has now trained faculty from more than 250 local and international private and public schools. In addition to helping our current teachers continually improve their pedagogy, the CTTL has become a powerful recruitment tool: Over the past three years every newly hired teacher and administrator has cited the CTTL's work and St. Andrew's reputation as a research-based school as a compelling reason to come to St. Andrew's.

Finally, if you still have space on your summer reading list, I recommend the new book, *Neuroteach: Brain Science and the Future of Education*, co-authored by the Director of the CTTL, Glenn Whitman, and the Head of Research for the CTTL, Dr. Ian Kelleher. *Neuroteach* captures the story of St. Andrew's transformation into a research-informed school and provides a pathway for other public and private schools to use the St. Andrew's model to begin their own research-informed journey.

I could not be more proud of our teachers' commitment to professional growth and educational leadership.

Handbook and Directory

Enclosed with this letter is your family's printed copy of the 2016-2017 Directory. The newly revised Student Handbook is available online by logging in to the school's website (www.saes.org) and selecting the Resources tab. Please read the student handbook carefully and discuss St. Andrew's philosophy, values, and expectations with your child in an age-appropriate way. Please note that the school expects students, as part of their membership in this community, to uphold the rules, reputation, and spirit of St. Andrew's at all times and in all places.

Each student's parent(s) must digitally sign a Handbook Acknowledgment Form before the first day of school. Later in August, parents will receive an e-mail containing a link to both the Handbook and the form to acknowledge receipt of the Handbook. Intermediate, Middle, and Upper School students must digitally "sign" the acknowledgment form with a parent. Digital signatures will be required before classes begin.

Keeping Current about Life at St. Andrew's

I strongly encourage every parent to login to the school's website throughout the year. By doing so, you will access OnCampus, with essential information about school news and events, calendars, and student information. Postoak parents should also familiarize themselves with Schoology, our online learning management software and the faculty's primary means of posting homework and other assignments. For the most current updates on the school, we encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Links to all of our social media can be found at the bottom of every page of the St. Andrew's website.

You should receive your first "What's Going on at St. Andrew's" electronic newsletter on September 2. Please read each electronic newsletter carefully to keep current on school life and upcoming events. Please let our communications office know if you do not receive your first newsletter by the beginning of September (communications@saes.org).

Please Join Us for Our Opening Chapel Service and the Student Center dedication

On Friday, September 9, St. Andrew's annual Opening Chapel service will be held at the Washington National Cathedral at 8:45 a.m. Students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 will

attend this one-hour service, and I invite parents to join us as we rededicate ourselves to the school and honor its founders. This is a perfect way for new and veteran families alike to begin the school year. Parents may park in the Cathedral garage that morning.

On Wednesday, September 14 the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and good friend of St. Andrew's, will join us on the Postoak Campus to dedicate the new Student Center. The brief service will begin at approximately 8:45 a.m. Parents are welcome to join us for this festive event.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school during the summer with any questions about the upcoming school year. Best wishes for a healthy and restful summer and a great start to 2016-17!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Kosasky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "K".

Robert Kosasky
Head of School