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September 15, 2020

Dear SVA family and friends,

Please know you continue to be in our hearts and prayers during these stressful days of Covid-19. Please contact us with special needs and prayer requests.

This pandemic has been challenging but it will not defeat us. We have a history of strong women to lean on, learn from and emulate. In 1859, Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan founded the community of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth with their first motherhouse here in Newark. With a mission of service to the underserved, the Charities opened hospitals, orphanages, and schools. In 1869, they established Saint Vincent Academy (SVA) on West Market Street.

SVA's 150-year history of Catholic education for young girls is as relevant today as ever. It is focused on women modeling, mentoring and educating young girls and nurturing them for their roles as tomorrow's leaders in our communities.

Over the summer, our talented faculty worked diligently to make remote learning the best it can be. And, our Freshman Team Teachers held multiple Zoom meetings with the Class of 2024. Psychologist and Board of Trustees member **Dr. Natasha Manning-Gibbs '99** met with them, too, reassuring them and warmly welcoming them into the SVA family.

Freshman Team Leader **Jo-Ann Caporaso '69** is joined this year by alum-sisters **Iria Landin '07** (MA degree from St. Peter's University), and **Carla Ferreira '08** (MA degrees from Cambridge University and Stanford University). Iria will teach in the Math Department. Carla has joined the English Department along with Christine Ferreri, long-term substitute teacher. And, we welcome Joseph Arrigo and Michelle Nguyen to the Science Department.

As we welcome our new faculty members, we say thanks and farewell to our retiree, science teacher extraordinaire Kathy Lim. We also send best wishes to Mr. Ikheioa, Mr. Balady and Ms. Florio in their new pursuits.

Over the summer, we worked diligently on a new and exciting Promise Scholars Program that will soon launch. This new innovation will offer full, four-year scholarships to qualified, promising students. Application forms and additional information will soon follow.

SVA's Baltusrol Golf Outing, the Don Parcels Classic is scheduled for October 20. There are still a few foursome spots available. If interested, contact Coleen Ognissanti in our development office (cognissanti@svanj.org).

In SVA's STEM Program, Dr. Harish Radhakrishna will be teaching the ever-popular bio-med class to qualified students. And, we are in the exploratory stages of adding an engineering course to the STEM Program. Updates to follow.

Alumna **Ivannah Flores '09**, producer, social media specialist, and gracious volunteer is preparing a promotional video about SVA. We look forward to sharing it with you.

I very much hope you share in my excitement about this new school year. Certainly, it is a modification on the norm, but we accept this as a challenge that we will meet and grow from.

I join with our Principal Joan Tyburczy and Student Services Director Mary Nolan in welcoming our faculty, staff and students to the Academy with our commitment to work with and for our students for a happy and successful year ahead.

Welcome to a new year at Saint Vincent's.

You are always in my prayers of hope and good wishes.

Sister June Favata  
President