

Hello Lower School Families,

In just a few quick weeks we will be welcoming your son(s) back to school! While it is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end so soon, we are looking forward to the school year ahead and all it has in store for your son(s). There is a lot of information packed into this letter, and I apologize for its length; however, I wanted to share it in a consolidated place so you and your son(s) know what to expect the first few days/weeks of school and so you are aware of some of the changes that will be taking place this year.

Throughout the spring of 2019, the Lower School faculty began to engage in conversations and professional development as we prepare for the implementation of a comprehensive literacy model in the Lower School. A comprehensive literacy model connects language development intentionally to the development of both reading and writing skills and, therefore, integrates reading, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and composition skills together while following a developmental scope and sequence. While these skills have always been present in the reading and writing instruction in the Lower School, the use of various programs and instructional methodologies to teach these skills as individual pieces of the literacy program led to inconsistencies in skill development within and across grade levels. With the implementation of a comprehensive literacy program, the individual components of both reading and writing are intentionally woven together while incorporating research-based instructional methodologies. To address this, the Lower School faculty and administration first needed to develop a common understanding regarding how the brain learns to read and write, and how classroom instruction impacts the development of those skills. Over the course of the 2018-2019 school year the faculty engaged in dialogue and professional development, culminating with a session during the June inservice week entitled: Traveling the Neural Superhighway.

Over the summer, the Lower School faculty was assigned two summer reading books. The first, *Different Schools for a Different World* by Scott McLeod and Dean Shareski, was assigned to the entire Haverford faculty and staff. In this book, McLeod and Shareski challenge today's educators to question traditional and irrelevant teaching methods that do not align with the demands of the 21st century in an effort to build a model of education that will prepare students to compete in an increasingly global workforce. Additionally the Lower School faculty was tasked with reading *The Vocabulary Book* by Michael Graves. Vocabulary is pivotal in language development, reading comprehension and writing, and Graves' book presents teachers with updated and relevant research on vocabulary learning and instruction. Both reading selections for this summer will be focal points throughout this year as we continue to define the critical foundational skills that students will need to develop in their pre-k through fifth grade years that provide them with the building blocks for developing essential 21st century competencies. Additionally, both books join a growing compilation of literature that will continue to push the Lower School forward in our alignment of classroom instruction with research and evidence-based best practice.

In that vein, I'm thrilled to announce that our pre-kindergarten through second grade classrooms will be implementing a comprehensive, research-based literacy program developed by Roland Reading, called Superkids. Simultaneously, our third through fifth grade classrooms will be implementing a new framework for comprehension instruction with a focus on vocabulary development, supplementing Writer's Workshop with Nancy Fetzer's writing curriculum, and utilizing Louisa Moats and Bruce Rosow's *Spellography* for spelling instruction. While what we teach is extremely important, we also feel strongly in the development of our teachers' knowledge of research-based and evidence-informed practices. To this measure, the teachers have already begun the deep dive into understanding how the neural networks of our brains work to help students become the strongest readers and writers they can be. Our carefully thought out implementation plan also includes intensive professional development and coaching for our faculty and administration to support the implementation of the new curriculum initiatives.

In addition to the shift in our approach to literacy, the Lower School schedule has been adapted to create space for additional small group, differentiated instruction. This was accomplished by being creative in how students were grouped for music and art classes, thus allowing for increased small group differentiated instruction in literacy and math for all students without diminishing time spent in specials. Finally, as we continue to engage in strategic planning as a whole school, the Lower School will engage in a review of additional areas of the curriculum including math and foreign language.

While there are changes afoot in the Lower School, you can continue to expect your son to experience many of the wonderful traditions and units of study in social studies, music, art, and science that build our boys' background knowledge, vocabulary, critical thinking skills, empathy, compassion, cultural competence, problem solving, and communication skills. Our students from kindergarten through fifth grade will continue to engage in design thinking, our third through fifth grade students will learn coding through both direct coding lessons, designed by BSD Education, and interdisciplinary projects and activities tied to the classroom curriculum, and our fifth graders will continue to engage in student-driven elective/clubs and the capstone fifth grade leadership project.

As we begin the 2019-2020 school year, we will also welcome a few new faculty members to the Lower School: Ms. Maureen Finlan (Director of Student Life), Mrs. Michelle Burns (Librarian), Ms. Eve Schwartz (K - fourth grade Science). We will also welcome Ms. Deb Gavin, previously a third grade teacher, to the second grade team. Ms. Gavin is replacing Mrs. Liz Evangelous, who opted to pursue a Reading Specialist opportunity outside of Haverford. Additionally, we have a few name changes for teachers who have or will soon be married. Congratulations to our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Chelsea Hessels (formerly Ramsey) on her marriage, and pre-kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Tejal Patel (formerly Desai), on her upcoming wedding. Please read below to learn more about each of these wonderful additions to the Haverford Community.

Social media is certainly one of the more easily accessible options, so if you are not yet following The Haverford School on Facebook, you may want to consider it. Additionally, please feel free to follow my Twitter account (@pamgreenblatt), as I will be posting pictures of life in the Lower School on a regular basis. You can also look forward to updates via the Lower School newsletter which will land in your email twice a month. To follow along with the happenings at Haverford, you can also follow the School's Smugmug account at haverfordschool.smugmug.com. If you have changed email accounts since enrolling your son in The Haverford School, please update your [My Backpack](#) account to reflect your current email address. We will use the contact in My Backpack to communicate with you, as well as to create parent accounts for various communication/instructional tools.

Speaking of My Backpack, thanks to the hard work of our Lower School faculty, Courtney Sanchez, Dr. Carol Ann Luongo, and Mrs. Teresa Touey, you can now [log in and view the class assignment](#) for your son. The faculty and administration worked to build healthy, heterogeneous classrooms through thoughtful consideration of your son's personality, learning profile, and friendships. Written parent input provided to me via email was also taken into consideration, your insights proved to be informative and helpful in the discussions around class placement. Our goal each year is to rearrange and regroup the boys so that they will have the opportunity to connect with boys in their entire grade level at some point before they leave the Lower School. Each boy is different, and having the opportunity for them to build new relationships and learn from each other enriches their Lower School experience. Our fifth grade boys are assigned to both an advisory group and a travel group. Your son's advisor will serve as his homeroom teacher, and he will report to the advisor's classroom on the morning of Sept. 4. Fifth grade boys will receive their travel group assignment on the first day of school. The travel group is the group of boys that he will be in classes with throughout the day.

The 2019-20 school year is going to be an exciting year and I look forward to discussing what this year has in store for your son at the Lower School Parents Night on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. beginning in Centennial Hall. Additionally, to help our Lower School families learn more about the comprehensive literacy model, including Happily Ever After (pre-k), SuperKids (K-second) and the changes to the third through fifth grade literacy curriculum, we will be hosting a Literacy Education Night on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. (details to follow).

I know this letter has a lot of information, and I thank you for reading it. Below, you will find information about our teaching faculty, including short introductions to our three new faculty members, as well as general information about the day to day operation of the Lower School. Please read it as we have modified certain aspects of how things are run. The Lower School faculty and I look forward to sharing an exciting year with your son(s) and you. I hope that you are able to enjoy the remaining time with your family before Labor Day!

Sincerely,
Dr. Pam Greenblatt
Head of Lower School

2019-20 School Year: Lower School Faculty and Staff

Pre - K:	Mrs. Tejal Patel, Mrs. Cassie Popky & Ms. Zaidee Harrison
Kindergarten:	Mrs. Erin Helfrich & Mrs. Tasneem Drera and Mrs. Erin Berrodin & Mrs. Katie Jones
Grade 1:	Mrs. Jen Higgins and Ms. Mary Lou Gallagher
Grade 2:	Ms. Deb Gavin and Mrs. Cheryl Saunders
Grade 3:	Mrs. Trish Heavey, and Mrs. Kate Thorburn
Grade 4:	Mr. Michael Kearney, Ms. Meghan Lenahan and Mrs. Rebecca Henrich
Grade 5:	Mrs. Chelsea Hessels (Math/Fifth Grade Advisor), Mr. Rob Allman (Social Studies/Fifth Grade Advisor), Mr. Joseph Lignore (English Language Arts/Fifth Grade Advisor), and Mrs. Cheryl Joloza (Science/Fifth Grade Advisor)
Art:	Mrs. Jenny Waring and Mr. Antonio Fink
Music:	Mrs. Valerie Case and Mr. Duane Case
Science:	Mrs. Cheryl Joloza and Mrs. Eve Schwartz
Instructional Specialist:	Ms. Sue Laird (K-2) and Ms. Maia Campbell (grades 3-5)
Library:	Mrs. Michelle Burns
School Counselor:	Mrs. Joy Barrett
Dean of Students:	Mr. Jay Brown
Director of Learning Support:	Dr. Carol Ann Luongo (Fifth Grade Advisor)
Director of Student Life:	Ms. Maureen Finlan

Faculty Additions:

Mrs. Michelle Burns Jurkiewicz: Mrs. Michelle Burns Jurkiewicz (“Mrs. Burns”) has always had a love for books. For the past 12 years she has shared her love for literature, willingness to try new digital media tools, and desire to collaborate with classroom teachers with the faculty and students at the Agnes Irwin School. Previously, Mrs. Burns was a middle school English teacher at Orchard Valley Middle School in Sewell, N.J. She holds a Masters of Science in Library Science from Clarion University and a Master of Education from Cabrini University. Mrs. Burns is looking forward to getting to know the Lower School boys and for helping to instill a love for reading and learning in our boys.

Ms. Maureen Finlan: Ms. Maureen Finlan is excited to be back in the Philadelphia area and working with elementary-aged students again. Ms. Finlan is returning to the Philadelphia region after having lived and worked in Baltimore, Md., as the Middle School Director of Student Life at Maryvale Preparatory School. Prior to being at Maryvale Prep, Ms. Finlan was a second grade teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Baltimore, Md. Ms. Finlan holds a Bachelors of Science degree in both Elementary and Special Education from St. Joseph’s

University and a Masters of Science degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Dayton. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, running and playing tennis. Ms. Finlan is looking forward to getting to know the Lower School boys and families!

Ms. Eve Schwartz: Ms. Eve Schwartz is looking forward to bringing her knowledge and love of science to the Lower School. For the past four years, Ms. Schwartz has been teaching middle school science, coaching cross country, leading the Green Club and working in the Idea Lab at her alma mater, the William Penn Charter School. Prior to Penn Charter, Ms. Schwartz was a Naturalist and Supervisor of Public Programs at the Prospect Park Audubon Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. and a kindergarten through fifth grade teacher at P.S.154. This summer, Ms. Schwartz is in Madagascar teaching English to children, completing fishing surveys, and working on her divemaster training. Ms. Schwartz holds a double Bachelors of Science degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Chicago and a Masters of Science in Childhood Science and Environmental Education from CUNY Brooklyn College. In her free time, Ms. Schwartz loves traveling, scuba diving, birding, and attending concerts.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Burns, Ms. Finlan, and Ms. Schwartz to the Lower School Faculty!

First Day of School

On Wednesday, Sept. 4 we will begin school with a full day for students in Kindergarten through fifth Grade. The Pre-K students will do a classroom visit on Sept. 4 (the Pre K teachers will be sending additional information soon), with their first full day of school on Thursday, Sept. 5. Each day, all **students should report to their homeroom no later than 8:15 a.m. Classes in each grade begin at 8:20.** Students may arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. and should report to assigned spaces where there will be teacher supervisors until all students go their classrooms at 8:00 a.m. No boy should be dropped off before 7:30 a.m. as there are no assigned faculty supervision before then.

School Supplies – provided by the school

As a service to each family, school supplies are provided by Haverford as part of your tuition. Hence, your family does not need to purchase any school supplies for your son. He will need to bring a school bag on the first day to carry the supplies that he is given in his classrooms. Boys also need to have a gym shirt to wear for PE classes (beginning in kindergarten). Please be sure to write your sons' name on the shirt.

New Boy Ice Cream Social

We will open the 2019- 20 school year with an ice cream social for all our new boys on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Pre-k and Kindergarten students will meet from 1-1:30 p.m. and students in grades one through five will meet from 2-2:30 p.m. Both groups will meet in the Dining Hall before moving to their classroom in the Lower School. At the ice cream social, your son will be able to meet other new students, meet their new homeroom teachers, and see their classrooms before starting on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Pre- Kindergarten

Boys entering pre-kindergarten will receive an invitation in the mail from Ms. Desai, Mrs. Popky and Ms. Harrison, to visit their classrooms on Sept. 4. The purpose of this visit is to have you and your son become familiar with his pre-kindergarten room, drop off a change of clothes, and meet his teachers. The visit will last approximately 30 minutes. Pre-kindergarten boys will have a full day beginning Thursday, Sept. 5.

Enrichment Programs

Enrichment classes are offered after school Monday through Friday, 3:30-4:15 p.m. The Enrichment program is operated by ESF and directed by Suzanne Stachowicz. Soon you will receive a list of available activities from Suzanne. If you have any questions about the program, please contact her at sstachowicz@esfcamps.com

Important Dates in September

Please be mindful of the following dates that are important for September. The School's website at haverford.org has all of the important dates of this year.

Sept. 3	New Boy Ice Cream Social	Pre-k & k	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Sept. 3	New Boy Ice Cream Social	Gr. 1-5	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	First day of School K-5, Classroom visits for pre-k boys		
Sept. 5	First day of School for pre-kindergarten		

Sept. 11	Lower School Parents Night- Centennial Hall	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Rosh Hashanah (No School)	

General Day to Day Lower School Operations

Morning Drop Off

Boys may be dropped off at school as early as 7:30 a.m. As we do not have faculty supervision before 7:30 am boys may not arrive before that time. Students may arrive as early as 7:30 am and should report to assigned spaces where there will be teacher supervisors until all students go their classrooms at 8:00 am. Boys may not enter the dining hall in the morning unless accompanied by a parent. Please make sure your son arrives early enough to be ready at 8:20 am, when classes begin.

Because we are interested in making morning drop-off as safe and efficient as possible, we ask the following:

- When entering at the front of school, **please pull your car up as far as possible.**
- **Please do not get out of your car during drop off! If you need to get out of your car, we ask you to pull your car all the way up, near the curb or park your car in the visitor's parking lot.** Dr. Greenblatt or Mrs. Touey, will be available to assist your son out of the car if he needs help. After the first few weeks, each boy in the elementary grades should be able to independently get out of the car by himself. By the middle of the year, most kindergarteners and even pre-k boys will be able to get out by themselves. Developmentally, it is important to have our boys learn to accomplish routines independently when they are ready.
- We ask that you have your son on the *right side of the car* so he can exit at the curb. Do not allow your son to exit on the left as oncoming traffic is on the left and safety cannot be ensured.
- For the safety of all, we ask that you drive 5 MPH, do not use your cell phone when driving, use your turn signals, and be very careful when turning into and out from the curb. There is a cross walk in the center of the Lower School Drive. Please follow the directions of the Haverford personnel, to ensure the safety of all.
- **We strongly recommend that boys arrive by 8:00 am.** Because the start of the day is so important, we ask that families plan to drop their sons off with sufficient time to walk to their room, unpack their things, and settle in for the 8:20 a.m. start.

Afternoon Dismissal:

- Pick-up times are as follows:
 - Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten 2:30 p.m.
 - Grades 1&2 3:00 p.m.
 - Grades 3-5 3:15 p.m.
- On the first day of school a carpool sign will be sent home. Please be sure to place your son's grade sign on the dashboard window so we may quickly identify rides and get the boys into the proper car.
- Once all boys are outside, it takes roughly 8-10 minutes to clear all cars that have been waiting. For this reason, we ask parents to not park first, pick up their kids, and cross traffic to try to leave early. Doing so not only slows the dismissal flow, but it makes dismissal less safe. As such, every afternoon we will cone off the parking lot from the dismissal lane until all traffic has cleared.

- Because the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal depend on the ability of the teachers to supervise all children in their care, we ask that parents not seek conferences with teachers at this time. If you need to speak with a teacher, please set up a conference time outside of the dismissal period.
- Lower School boys who need to pick up a brother in the lower grades will meet their younger sibling at car-pool and take them to the older brother's grade pick-up area. Middle School boys who need to pick up a brother in the Lower School will meet them at the dismissal area where they will be released after checking in with a teacher.
- If you plan on changing the way your boy is to go home for a day, you must write a note explaining how he will be going home. This can be sent in or emailed to Teresa Touey by 12:00 pm at ttouey@haverford.org. We cannot load a boy into any car that he typically does not use unless we have permission from the boy's parent. Likewise, no boy can take any bus that he is not assigned. Please send all notes about how he goes home to the homeroom teacher and Mrs. Touey.

Busing

All new parents who would like to have their son take the bus home in the afternoon, please email Mrs. Touey ttouey@haverford.org and provide her with your school district name and the days in which your son will be taking the bus after school. Boys who used the school district busing to and from Haverford last year will automatically be enrolled on the same busing lists for this year.

Attendance: Absences and Lateness

Two healthy habits we hope to develop in every boy are being consistently on time and present. Often, to accomplish this, it takes the whole family to work in collaboration with each other. To be on time, Lower School students need to be in their homerooms no later than 8:20 a.m. Once again, We strongly recommend that boys arrive by 8:00 am.

Any boy arriving to their homeroom after 8:20 a.m. will sign in at Mrs. Touey's desk and will be marked late. If your son will be significantly late, absent, or leaving early from school, we ask that you contact the school as soon as possible. The Lower School attendance number can be reached at 610-642-3020 x 1957. If you wish to pick up assignments at the end of the day we ask that you call Mrs. Teresa Touey at extension 1232 by 9:00 a.m. This will give us ample time to generate a homework request for the teachers.

After School Care

After school care is available for your son until 6:00 pm is desired. The program is fee based and available throughout the year. Please contact Susan Zickler szickler@haverford.org if you would like more information about the program and/or information on how to register.

Dress Code

The following is the dress code for the Lower School. The Haverford website at www.haverford.org has an online store available for the purchase most of these items. **Please place your sons' name in all articles of clothing so that we can return them should they be misplaced.**

School Shirt: White, yellow, maroon, or gold collared, knit polo, or turtleneck, either long sleeves or oxford button down. Shirts should be tucked in.

School Pants: Khaki or navy pants. Boys are permitted to wear dress shorts from Sept. 4- Oct. 31 and once again after Spring Break. No cargo pants or painter's pants are allowed.

School Shoes: sneakers or non-marking shoes. Please no flashing sneakers.

Physical Education Classes: All boys in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade will need a Haverford School reversible gym shirt. Only sneakers are allowed on the gym floor.

Hair and Jewelry: Hair should always be neatly groomed, natural in color, and out of the eyes of the student.

Jewelry, aside from that with medical or religious significance, is not allowed to be worn in any form.

Electronics and Cell Phone use on campus for Lower School Boys

Because we wish to minimize any distraction to our lower school boys' education, we ask that all electronic devices be left at home. Students in pre k through 2nd grade are not permitted to bring cellphones to school. Students in 3rd through 5th grade are permitted to bring cell phones, but it must be turned off and in their backpack inside their cubby during the school day. Lower School students who ride the bus may be permitted to bring a cellphone to school, however it must be turned off and put away during the school day.

Throughout the day, from drop-off until dismissal, every Lower School boy is supervised and monitored, establishing a safe environment that creates no need for a student to call or text anyone. We have found that boys who bring cell phones or electronics to campus frequently get very distracted by the device, often lose and/or damage it.

If for any reason a student needs to contact a parent, they should check with the supervising teacher. The supervising teacher will have access to a phone or will be able to send the student to the office. If for any reason you need to send your son to school with a cell phone (perhaps he is staying over a friend's house, or he will be walking after he is off campus) please make sure your son understands that the cell phone must be kept in his backpack, turned off, and not taken out of the back pack while on school grounds. Students who are seen with a cell phone on school property will have them confiscated with a phone call made to the parent, and the parent will be asked to retrieve it.

Food, Lunch, Treats and Allergies

Throughout all school divisions we have a number of students who are allergic to any number of food types. Some students in our building have severe allergies that could be life threatening. As a result, the school has a need to control the food that is served on any given day.

Students have the option of either bringing a bagged lunch to school or purchasing a meal plan for prepared lunches throughout the year. You should have received a mailing to your home from the Dining Hall explaining the various lunch plans and options. Please contact the business office at extension 1243 if you have not received this letter or need a new one.

Our Dining Hall staff and faculty are very aware of the cautions that need to be taken every day and work very hard to minimize the risks that are inherent for children with food allergies. To control the potential risks, all foods to be shared within the classes for the students must be foods prepared by our cafeteria staff who are knowledgeable in potential risks. **Please**

do not send in any treats, candies, and/or food products as we cannot serve them to our students!

You can help this endeavor by making sure that no peanut or tree nut products are sent to school in lunches or snacks or in any other form. If you would like a list of "safe foods," visit the Parent Downloads in the Parent Community Section of our website.

Birthday Parties

Birthdays are a special time for our students, and because we want to allow the students to celebrate their birthday with their classmates, we set aside a day at the end of the month to celebrate all birthdays which fall in that month. **We ask that parents do not send in treats as we cannot serve them to our students.** Each month, our Dining Hall prepares a special treat for all the students to celebrate the birthdays of that month. This allows us to celebrate each student's birthday while allowing the school to take the proper safety precautions. Celebrating in this way also keeps a balance to the frequency of interruptions to the educational program. Once again, thank you for your consideration and attention to our requests.

Health Forms

Thank you to all who have sent in their health forms to the nurses' office earlier this summer. If you have not yet sent in your health form, please do so as soon as possible. All health forms should be updated, completed and sent to the nurses office before students arrive on Sept. 4. If you have any questions, please contact the nurses at 610-642-3020 ext. 1994.