Dear Cannon Lower School Families,

Happy July! For those of you that have remained local to North Carolina, I hope that you have remained cool these last few weeks as it has been quite warm here. I have been missing our Lower School friends. One reason that I enjoy Camp Cannon is because I get to see a few of our friends along with hearing the joys of students each day. This week, I am participating in professional development with many of our colleagues related to our reading of Neuroteach, our faculty read from this past year and will continue this upcoming year. During our sessions, we have been walking through many different strategies for teaching and learning to support our youngest friends. While there are many takeaways, I was struck by one strategy that states, “make learning meaningful.” I am always amazed at the affirmation I receive on what happens in the classroom. There is no doubt our teachers make each day meaningful for our students. We use our core values to continue to connect with our students and help them connect with one another and the world around them. I am looking forward to continuing this professional development as we look for even more learning and growth in inspiring transformational learning in the classroom.

I am so eager and excited for this upcoming school year where I can send communications and engage with you on topics that we are all passionate about: our children. After all, they are the reason we are all here. Their never-ending joy, passion, and kindness modeled each day is inspiring and something I strive for each day.

**Lower School Theme**

As many of you know, we adopt a theme each year in our Lower School. This year’s theme is “A Community of Wholehearted Contributors: Together We GROW” These words may seem familiar as they are taken right from our Cannon School Vision. Additionally, a community of Wholehearted Contributors is our school-wide theme this year, which you will hear more about soon.

Lower School has adopted Together We GROW as our focus, and our students will be learning and diving deep into this theme throughout the year. As we have done in the past, we will continue to center this theme around our Cannon Core Values. In addition to discussing our theme in community spaces such as assemblies, Grade levels will spend time on the theme in developmentally appropriate ways in the classroom.

As always, we invite you to join in as you are certainly a contributor in this amazing community as we are all learning and growing together. We look forward to sharing more about our theme throughout the year!
Class List - Still loading…
I’m sure you’re not ready for emails with a ton of details from me just yet unless it includes the class list, of course. They are scheduled to be posted online on August 7 in coordination with our MS and US divisions. Additionally, Lower School students will receive a letter from their homeroom teachers. As a reminder, the creation of class lists is a very thoughtful and collaborative process involving our entire Lower School faculty. As I often share, you are guaranteed an amazing teacher as we consider both the best match for your child and the chemistry of classroom dynamics. Due to this thoughtful process, your class placement will be final. As a reminder, our students have time throughout the day to interact with their full grade level. Thank you for your understanding and partnership.

Student Orientation
We are looking forward to seeing everyone on August 16. Given the age of our children and our commitment to providing the best opportunity for them to explore the classroom, we are asking families to come based on the orientation schedule below. Please see the schedule below and reach out with clarifying questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, August 16</th>
<th>Student Orientation</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30</td>
<td>All Junior Kindergarten families by last name</td>
<td>30-minute visits (details coming in a separate email)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30</td>
<td>All Kindergarten families by last name</td>
<td>30-minute visits (details coming in a separate email)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Current families in 1st-4th</td>
<td>You are welcome to drop off any materials while you meet your new teacher. Please be sure to collect important information from teachers in the classroom. Please be mindful that more parking will become available as middle school families leave their orientation at 10:00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>New families- 1st-4th grade</td>
<td>You are welcome to drop off any materials while you meet your new teacher. Please be sure to collect important information from teachers in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All families</td>
<td>All families will receive an introduction video from our Lower School Leadership team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are very excited to welcome new families along with new faculty to our Lower School family. As we all experienced, it can be very daunting as one navigates the first year at Cannon. Let’s remember to extend our kindness and grace in the upcoming year.

**Lower School Liaison - Cannon Connections**

We are so excited to welcome back Marsha Cannon as our Lower School Liaison for the upcoming school year. Please contact her to serve in one of the many volunteer opportunities in Lower School. If you have one hour or several, we appreciate your service! Marsha can be reached at mdcannonsliaison@gmail.com. Thank you for ‘coming alongside’ and making a difference.

**Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Families**

Please be on the lookout for additional communication related to the details of student orientation and the first two days of school as we have modified these to best meet the needs of you and your child.

There is still plenty of summer left to enjoy. Please be sure you take a moment to do something today that brings you joy. I’m so excited to partner with you this upcoming school year.

All my best,
Dr. Nixon