NEWTON SACRED HEART

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

July 2026

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Students,

I hope this finds you savoring the summer. I've been enjoying time with friends and family and diving into some wonderful books, including *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. It's a heartfelt story of what it means to act with love in the world through listening, noticing, and showing up for those around us. I highly recommend picking up a copy. The book's main character inspires everyone around him through his constant, dependable presence, devoting his life, even in old age, to answering the call of Jesus; to build a little more heaven on earth. He is a quiet example of what it looks like to live with courage to love.

This book came to me through our faculty and staff summer reading exchange, and it could not have arrived at a better time. Aligned with our special focus on Goal V of the Sacred Heart Goals & Criteria: *personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom*, we have chosen the theme *Courage to Love* for the 2026-27 school year.

Wise freedom invites us to recognize the gifts we've been given and to use them in service of the greater good. For our students, it is a concept tested daily as they discern how to use their time, words, and actions to build community.

This fall, we will welcome author and Episcopal priest Rev. Becca Stevens to campus. Founder of Thistle Farms, an advocate for women, and a thought leader on justice and wholehearted living, she will speak following our Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 1. Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend both the Mass and speaker event. I hope to see you there.

Looking Ahead: Newton Sacred Heart

Over the past year, our community has engaged in a season of reflection through the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals process, strategic planning, and a brand refresh. This fall, we are excited to unveil our Strategic Plan, which will guide our work through 2031. The plan and brand refresh were shaped by more than 1,800 voices from across our community: students, parents, alumnae, faculty, staff, and friends of the school.

One message rang out clearly: our identity as a Sacred Heart school should be more visible and central to how we present ourselves. While our official name remains Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, you may notice our concerted effort to own our identity as ***Newton Sacred Heart***.

This is more than a name. Through participation in student leadership conferences, service projects across the network and around the globe, travel, and athletic competitions in recent years, our students have come to appreciate more than ever their connection to one another as members of a global Sacred Heart family. I hear time and again from our young alumnae that they found their Sacred Heart sisters within days of arriving on their university campuses. Whether it's the ring they are wearing or the Courage and Confidence they carry with them, it is easy to spot a Sacred Heart woman anywhere in the world.

What's New on Campus This Fall

Students will return to a campus that has grown alongside them. Our library has been refreshed with new furnishings, creating a warmer and more inviting space to read, gather, and study. An expanded, state-of-the-art Student Success Center will offer new resources to support every student's growth. And for the first time, we'll open the doors to a new Media Production Studio, giving our students a dynamic platform to elevate their voices, both within our community and out into the greater Boston area. Our turf project continues to progress. I thank all the generous donors who have made these projects possible.

We're also delighted to welcome Ms. Rose Bailey as our new Director of the Middle School, along with a number of other wonderful additions to our faculty and staff, whom you'll meet in the August Newton Notes newsletter.

Wishing you a summer filled with rest, joy, and the courage to love in all you do. I can't wait to welcome you back to campus.

With gratitude,

Jessica Hooper

JESSICA HOOPER P '28

Head of School

P.S. If you'd like some leisurely reading recommendations from our renowned faculty and staff, scan the QR code!