WILL ROGERS LEARNING COMMUNITY

An international Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme School

2401 14th Street Santa Monica, Ca 90094 (310) 452-2364 ***Principal: Ms. Lila Daruty, M.Ed.***

August 10, 2026

Dear Will Rogers Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a brand-new school year at Will Rogers Learning Community! There is something special about the beginning of a school year; the energy of a campus coming back to life, the excitement of new beginnings, familiar faces returning, and the opportunity to imagine what is possible for our students in the year ahead.

I hope your summer brought your family time to recharge, reconnect, explore, and enjoy one another. As we prepare to welcome our students back, our staff is filled with excitement and anticipation. We are ready for another year of learning, discovery, laughter, and growth and we are so grateful to have your family as part of the Rogers community.

As an **International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme School**, we believe that education is about far more than what students know. We want our students to become curious thinkers, compassionate community members, confident communicators, and people who understand that they have the ability and responsibility to make a positive difference in the world around them. This year, we will continue to build on the strengths of our school community while sharpening our focus on the instructional practices that make the greatest difference for students.

Beginning this school year, we are moving from **Friday late-start mornings to Wednesday early-release afternoons**. Rather than beginning school later on Fridays, students will now begin at **8:25 a.m. every school day**, Monday through Friday, with staff professional learning and collaboration taking place Wednesday afternoons. We are excited about what this change makes possible for students. Morning is valuable instructional time. Students are often at their freshest and most ready to engage in focused learning during the morning hours. Maintaining a consistent 8:25 a.m. start time five days a week allows us to protect that time for instruction and create greater continuity in student learning. We believe this change will help us make the most of our instructional day while giving our educators meaningful time to work together on behalf of students.

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School begins at 8:25 a.m. Monday–Friday for all grades. See below for dismissal times by grade level.

Grade	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	Wednesday	Minimum Day
TK/K	1:45 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	12:15 p.m.
Grades 1–3	2:55 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.
Grades 4–5	3:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.

Our school is strongest when families and educators work together. There are many ways to become involved in the life of Will Rogers, from volunteering and participating in school events to supporting the programs that enrich our students' experiences. Please visit the **Will Rogers PTA website** to learn more about membership and volunteer opportunities. We also encourage families to consider supporting both the **Santa Monica Education Foundation** and **PTA**. These contributions help fund experiences and programs such as music, visual arts, our Regenerative Farm, and our school-wide composting program. Every contribution makes a difference.

Please make the Will Rogers Roundup part of your Sunday evening routine. The Roundup is our weekly source for important information from the school, PTA, SMEF, and community partners. Links and additional information will also be available through our school website.

The school office will reopen to the public on Thursday, August 13 between 8:30 -4:00 p.m. Our office staff will be available to answer questions and assist families who need support completing the registration process.

Please complete your Aeries online registration and data confirmation by August 17. https://santamonicamalibu.aeries.net/Student/LoginParent.aspx Teacher assignments will be available in Aeries by the end of the day on August 18. When accessing Aeries, please be sure to use your parent account and parent email address, rather than your student's account. If you have forgotten your password, select "Forgot Password" and follow the prompts using the parent email address we have on file.Please also complete all required electronic first-day forms and annual data confirmation.

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Families planning to use after-school care can review the **Will Rogers Learning Community After School Options for 2026–2027** and begin making arrangements before the school year begins.

Important Dates

- **August 14** – TK/Kinder Playdate, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. on the old TK/K Yard
- **August 17** – Aeries Confirmation and Online Registration
- **August 18** – Teacher Assignments Available in Aeries (before the end of the day)
- **August 19** – TK/Kinder Meet & Greet, 10:30 a.m., TK/K Yard
- **August 20** – **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL & MINIMUM DAY**
  - TK/K dismissal: 12:15 p.m.
  - Grades 1–5 dismissal: 1:15 p.m.
- **August 20** – Boohoo/Yahoo! Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Library
- **August 21** – **SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL & MINIMUM DAY**
  - TK/K dismissal: 12:15 p.m.
  - Grades 1–5 dismissal: 1:15 p.m.
- **August 21** – Welcome Back Picnic, 1:15–3:00 p.m., Soccer Field

There is so much to look forward to this year. New questions to explore. New friendships to build. New challenges to tackle. New ideas to share. And countless opportunities for our students to discover what they are capable of becoming. I am incredibly proud of our students, our educators, and the community we have built together at Will Rogers. Thank you for entrusting us with your children and for being such an important part of their educational journey.

Let's make it a wonderful year—**together.**

In partnership,

Lila Daruty

Ms. Lila Daruty

Principal, Will Rogers Learning Community