

July 2024

Dear Pine Island Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying countless moments of fun with your family and friends. Those moments that bring a lifetime of memories! Planning for the 24 – 25 school year has been exciting as we continue to welcome new staff and many new families to the Dolphin family.

Be sure to read through the entire letter as it includes all the important information needed to prepare families for the start of the 24 – 25 school year!

As we prepare for our new year of “Discovering Strengths & Pursuing Dreams,” we have new leaders of excellence that will join our team and some that have moved into a different position. As the year begins, it is my hope that we will welcome all our new Dolphin team members as well as our new families love and support.

As we know, Pine Island is built on strong values and beliefs – **The PIA WAVE** - **We** are Respectful, **A**lways Responsible & Safe, we **V**alue ourselves and each other, where **E**VERYONE achieves! These core values drive the work we do, in addition to our interactions with each other daily.

It is an honor to lead a learning organization that identifies with the mission and vision created by our community the summer before we opened in 2021.

Mission(why we exist) – Discovering Strengths and Pursuing Dreams

As we enter our 4th year of learning together, I look forward to the growth we will experience this year in bringing our vision to life...

Vision(what we must become) – One Pod, Making Waves, FINS UP! –

Focused on building an Inspiring, Nurturing, Safe environment - Unlocking, Unlimited Potential in EVERY student.

Our students continue to exceed the academic expectations in SJCS. We are very proud of their successes and believe in celebrating these successes throughout the school year. Priding ourselves on celebrating ALL learners is a unique quality that embraces one of our core values LEARNING FOR ALL!

What we know is that you cannot capture a child’s mind until you capture their heart. For these reasons, our greatest success at PIA is the relationships that we create with our students. Getting to know our learners individually and ensuring that all students are known by name, places value on individual learners – EVERY STUDENT, EVERY NEED, EVERY DAY!

Each year, I ask our team to use the first few weeks of school to get to know students personally as human beings and as learners. When students feel valued, in return students learn to value themselves and their learning environment. It is the very most important thing to me that our students and staff feel valued!

Dolphin Families – we are excited to welcome you to the 24 – 25 school year and look forward to continuing our traditions of excellence in learning TOGETHER!

The remainder of the letter is VERY IMPORTANT information that may be helpful in the upcoming weeks

I. **REGISTRATION (going on NOW):**

Please make sure you are encouraging those around you to complete registration ASAP. We know students are more successful when they are ready to start school the first day. To serve our families at the highest levels, making sure we are staffed is a priority and completing the registration is the only way to ensure we are fully staffed.

II. **NEW FAMILY ORIENTATIONS – Presented by your Admin Team**

We have prepared three(3) orientation opportunities for our new families at PIA this year.

I want to give our new families an opportunity where we share important information about Pine Island.

All orientations will be virtual for easy access to all families. **A TEAMS(a different link will be sent for each orientation) link will be sent to all families registered at Pine Island closer to the date of each orientation.** Orientations dates and times are listed below:

- **Kindergarten – Tuesday, July 23 – 5:30PM**
- **Middle School New Family Orientation – Wednesday, July 24 at 5:30PM**
- **1st – 5th grade New Family Orientation – Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30PM**

III. **KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION –**

- a. **Kindergarten Placement** - ALL Kindergarten students will receive an email from their teacher by **Friday, August 2**.
 - i. **Staggered Start** – Teachers will include a sign-up for parents to use to choose their preferred staggered start day in their placement email. Please plan ahead!
 - ii. **Staggered start dates will be August 12, 13, & 14.**
 - iii. **ALL KINDERGARTEN Students will start their first full day together on Thursday, August 15.**
- b. **Pictures:** Pictures will be taken during **Meet and Greet** of our Kinder friends to upload into our system to ensure the safety of all students.
 - i. **We will replace these pictures once we take fall pictures in September!**
- c. **Transportation** - During **Meet and Greet** our bus drivers will be available to answer questions and meet our newest Dolphins.

IV. **K – 8 MEET and GREET**

Students and families are invited to visit their student’s classroom, meet the teacher, and drop off school supplies. **This time will not be dedicated to discovering classroom expectations**, but simply becoming acquainted with the classroom and meeting the teacher. Learning routines and schedules will be discussed during Curriculum Chat Night in September (please see PTO calendar).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for K-5 MEET AND GREET:

- Teachers will send placement emails to families on **Tuesday, August 6 at 3:00PM, except kindergarten – please see above for placement details.**
- Meet and Greet times have been scheduled alphabetically by last name to ensure families have parking available.
- **Kindergarten students ONLY are invited to come 30 minutes early** to avoid the large crowds during their scheduled time. **This is optional!**

▪ **Friday, August 9 – A – L (LAST NAME)**

- **A – L (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 8:30AM – 9:00AM
- **A – L (Last Name)** – 9:00AM – 10:00AM

▪ **Friday, August 9 – M – Z (LAST NAME)**

- **M – Z (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 11:00 – 11:30
- **M – Z (Last Name)** – 11:30AM – 12:30PM

V. **MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATES**

- **August 8 – Middle School schedule walk – 6th, 7th, & 8th grade – 8:30AM – 11:00AM**
 - Please use the sign-up genius below to schedule a time to pick-up and walk schedule.
 - [Middle School Schedule-Walk Sign Up](#)

Please join us to walk your schedule, receive locker information, & drop off your school supplies if you choose. I have found that this gives our students a way to move around the campus without pressure and even visit with friends while walking their schedules.

Middle school teachers **WILL NOT** be available on this day. This day is solely to give our students an “additional” opportunity to spend time walking their schedules and becoming acquainted with their locker.

- **LOCKER UPDATES – Academic lockers will be OPTIONAL** again this year at PIA. We understand not all students want to use a locker. **For this reason,**
 - **The deadline to request an academic locker to be issued on Schedule-Walk Day is Friday, August 2.**
 - For students that **do not request prior to August 2**, they will have an opportunity to request an academic locker beginning August 9.
 - These lockers will be issued at the start of school.
 - **Locker sign-up is located on the Schedule Walk sign-up genius**

VI. **MIDDLE SCHOOL MEET & GREET** – Should students want to meet their teachers, they can visit teachers during the scheduled times below (these days/times are the same as K – 5)

i. Friday, August 9 – A – L (LAST NAME)

1. A – L (Last Name) – 9:00AM – 10:00AM

ii. Friday, August 9 – M – Z (LAST NAME)

M – Z (Last Name) – 11:30AM – 12:30PM

VII. **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**

- **Monday, August 12 – School Hours (8:00 AM – 2:20 PM)**

We are currently working on class placement and are super excited about sharing this information with you soon. Should you not have access to email or do not receive an email by Tuesday, August 6 or for **Kindergarten ONLY** Friday, August 2, please call the front office for assistance – (904)547 – 4300.

Although the next few weeks may become extremely busy, we are never too busy to answer your questions or listen to your concerns. Please contact the front office if we can be of any assistance.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I cannot wait to see you real soon!

*******Please make sure you have joined the PIA PTO facebook page for current information from the PIA PTO! You don't want to miss what they have planned for our families as we kick off the 24 - 25 school year!**

Sincerely,

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader