



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year! I would like to extend a warm welcome back to school. The staff and I are eagerly awaiting this new adventure with your student, and, while everyone enjoys a good summer vacation, it is quickly becoming time for us to put our focus back on academics. This forthcoming year will be full of changes for your student, ranging from new teachers, to new classes, to new activities. There is no doubt that the beginning of any new school year can be challenging. Nonetheless, your student will be meeting all of their academic challenges with a professional staff, that cares deeply and works diligently to meet all the needs of those you have entrusted to them.

By the time many our students arrive on their first day of school, many have already had several days of extra-curricular activities of different varieties. There is plenty of research demonstrating the importance of extra-curricular activities towards the building of successful lifelong learners. If your student is not actively involved in any programs, I would encourage you to have them seek out new experiences. They will only grow from it. Next, as the supply lists get communicated and the back to school shopping begins in earnest, I would also like to communicate on a matter that often gets overlooked. Students spend hours at school, at extra-curricular activities, studying, doing homework, etc. Students are often pulled in more directions than we were when we were their age. It becomes very easy for them to forget to sleep, eat, and exercise appropriately. To be honest, it becomes easy for them to become so involved that they forget to live. I would encourage you to have them slow down and breathe.

Finally, I would like to share one last thought as we begin this year. Schools are designed to be safe environments for our kids to grow into adulthood. Every one of our students will grow academically, emotionally, and socially. Further, I think we could all attest to adulthood entailing a considerable amount more than what we can learn between four walls no matter how exceptional the teaching. And, much of this is taught at home by you. To this point, as the expression goes, it takes a village. So, I would ask if there is anything we can do as a school, to support you in helping your student find success, then please let us know. This school and this community care deeply for all their kids, and we want to ensure that each one of our students has every opportunity to reach their fullest.

Bests,
Paul Cloudwright