



Harbor Country Day School

Embracing the extraordinary in every child.

Dear Harbor Families,

I would like to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year at Harbor Country Day School! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Summer vacation is a magical time for both children and parents. Not only do we have the opportunity to recharge and relax, it is the perfect time to reflect on the past year. As upper and lower school principal, I too have used this time to reflect, reviewing accomplishments and thinking deeply about possible areas of growth. For this reason, I would like to share my vision for the upper and lower schools this year.

A school is made up of many parts that must come together in order to be complete. My vision for the upper and lower schools is one in which all parts -- teachers, staff, administrators and parents -- work toward one goal, helping children become their best selves, academically, socially and emotionally.

In order to achieve this goal we have implemented several new tools to help parents feel connected to their child's experience at Harbor.

- **Parent Portal:** Upper school parents will now be able to access their child's grades through the online portal.
- **An additional conference:** Lower school parents will be meeting one-on-one with their child's teacher before school begins to both share their hopes and dreams for the upcoming school year, and to establish an early connection with the classroom teachers.
- **Lower School SEL:** Our social and emotional program continues to grow. This year Mrs. Decker will be visiting lower school classrooms once a week. Through storytelling, discussion, and role playing, our goal is to help students navigate the complicated emotions of childhood and empower them with the tools needed to grow both socially and emotionally.
- **Upper School SEL:** The advisory program continues to serve as a social and



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emotional anchor for students. This year, students will determine their academic and social goals for the year, working with their advisors to reflect and adjust their goals when necessary. They will also continue to explore ways to help the local community through our service learning program. As always, we will continue to cultivate an environment that is nurturing, supportive, engaging, and enriching. We will continue to concentrate on the critical skills needed to succeed in both the English Language Arts and STEAM disciplines. Other Important Reminders:

- **Healthy Hawks:** In our continuous effort to promote healthy living, we are asking families and students to make healthy choices when packing snacks. We encourage families to choose fruits and veggies over processed foods. Candy should not be brought to school under any circumstances, even holidays. We strive to reduce the amount of waste produced at Harbor and encourage families to use reusable containers when possible.
- **Start Time:** It is imperative your child arrives at school on time each day.
 - Upper school advisory begins at 7:45 a.m.
 - Lower school students should also arrive no later than 8:00 a.m.
- **Summer Assignments:** Please remind your child to bring his/her summer reading assignments on the first day of school, as well as any supplies requested.
- **Schedules:** Upper school students will be receiving their schedules in advisory on the first day of school.
- **Uniforms:** Uniforms, including shoes, should remain neat and clean. Sneakers or comfortable shoes are permitted for all students. Detailed information is located in the Harbor Backpack: www.hcdsny.org/parents/harbor-backpack.
- **Mobile App:** Please take a few moments to download the Harbor mobile app from iTunes or Google app store. We will be increasingly using this app as a way to communicate with our parents, so it is important that at least one member of your family has access to the app.



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Our first day of school is Wednesday, September 4, 2019 and Back to School Night is Thursday, September 5, 2019. Additional events, including parent coffees, will be posted on the Harbor calendar and will be communicated every week in the Tuesday *Weekly Update*.

I look forward to a fantastic year of working with you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Fotis

Upper and Lower School Principal