



August 15, 2019

Dear AOSE Families,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! I want to inform you of some of the changes you will find come September and provide pertinent information related to the opening of school. We have been busy cleaning, painting, and revitalizing our school building in preparation for the students' arrival. We are excited to report that our gym renovation project funded through your generous contributions to our *Giving Tuesday* campaign has begun. It has been a busy and very productive summer at AOSE.

First and foremost, it is my privilege to officially announce that we add Lauren Corvo and Jeremy Mayer to our administrative team. Mrs. Corvo and Mr. Mayer are proven, dedicated educators who demonstrate true commitment to our students and our mission. In addition, we welcome, Mrs. Helen Kotoulas, Business Administrator, to the school administration. We welcome quite a few new faculty members whom I am pleased to introduce: Courtney Barnes, Mathematics (Assistant Volleyball Coach); Maureen Brady, English; Stephen Eck, Social Studies; Carlin Heinle, English; Roasanna Gage, Mathematics; Cherie Hans, part-time Spanish; Thomas Kinahan, part-time Science (Head Soccer Coach); Daniela Sepulveda, Spanish; Sara Vukas, Biology. Finally, Andrea Bopp replaces Bridget Marcato as one of our school nurses. Our young women will be motivated, engaged, and challenged by this new group of talented teachers.

After several years of intensive self-study and the development of a comprehensive school improvement plan, we emerge a newly accredited institution with endorsement by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. We have worked hard to meet new challenges and create a school that reflects the core values of all stakeholders while focused on academic excellence. Recently, we were named *#4 in the Best Private Schools in Morris County* ranking through *Niche* which is quite an achievement. Most importantly, we welcome fifty-seven spirited, bright, enthusiastic freshmen and six transfer students to our school community for the 2019-20 school year! ***We are truly vibrant, rigorous and thriving.***

We continue our partnership with Parkhurst Dining and look forward to innovations to our dining service to best meet the health and nutritional needs of our students. Parkhurst offers quality, fresh, nutritious, and delicious meal options and snacks. Please see our website for menus including a large selection of healthy breakfast items and *grab and go* options. Be assured that all items are clearly marked to indicate inclusion of nuts and/or other allergy sensitive ingredients. In addition to cash, credit/debit cards may be used for purchases. Full service for breakfast and lunch begins on Thursday, September 5. Should you have questions or concerns about anything related to our food service, you may reach the general manager, Dean Piacentini, at parkhurst@aose.info.

All of us at the Academy look forward to delving into the theme of curiosity based in our school wide *Panther Prints* summer reading initiative. The goal is to bring the Academy community together to engage in meaningful conversation in support of intellectual growth and values-based action inspiring social and moral responsibility.

Important dates/times for the opening of school, September, 2019:

Wednesday, September 4th

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Freshman/New Student Orientation
Meetings with staff/school administration and student leaders
Casual Dress (school appropriate)
Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Thursday, September 5th

8:10 am – 2:51 pm All Students Report to School in Uniform
Full Day of School – Special Schedule, All Classes Meet

Friday, September 6th

8:10 am – 2:51 pm “A” Day – Full Day of School

Please note: drop-off for all students is at the back of the school.

Important dates for September:

Thursday, September 5th Mandatory Senior Guidance Meeting, 7:00 pm, Study Hall

Thursday, September 12th **Back to School Night**
Freshman/New Parent Information Session, 6:45 pm
Returning Parents, 7:30 pm

Friday, September 13th Opening Liturgy, Holy Family Chapel, 9:10 am
Families are welcome to attend

Friday, September 20th **Panther Pride Day, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Friday, September 27th School Trip/Retreat -- Woodloch Pines Resort
7:45 am – 9:00 pm

Finally, please consider taking an active role in our AOSEPA (Academy of Saint Elizabeth Parents' Association) as it is a vital link between home and school in support of our girls. The AOSEPA enriches the school with generous financial support and enhances our school through events and activities which bring us together as a united, caring community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have questions regarding the opening of school. Enjoy the last vestiges of summer with your families, and we look forward to welcoming our students and families ***Back to School.***

Brightest Blessings,

Lynn A. Burek, Principal