



THE WHEELER SCHOOL

August 2019

Dear Families,

I write from the relative quiet of Morgan Hall as we start the August work of gearing up for the return of 360+ Upper School students and approximately 50 faculty members. There's a lot to look forward to in the months to come. While I always enjoy the time with family and friends that July offers, I also eagerly anticipate the energy and excitement that come with the start of the school year, and I hope the same is true for you and your children. For those of us on a school calendar, September brings the promise of a new year and with it comes the fun of returning to the familiar routines of the school year, and the anticipation of beginning new classes and meeting new classmates. There's the enjoyment found in re-starting club activities and sports practices, there's the potential for new friendships, and the opportunities to discover new interests. In other words, there's a lot to look forward to!

This year, I am looking forward to continuing work on some of the undertakings we began last year. Over the course of the next few months, we will continue to develop and refine a new schedule that will be ready to go for the 2020-2021 school year. This schedule, once finalized, will build on the priorities faculty across divisions articulated last year. Defining those priorities reinforced our belief in the importance of having the time to dive deeply into our curriculum, to collaborate more broadly with colleagues, to dedicate to Aerie endeavors, to club activities, and even to lunch. Our new schedule will reflect many of these priorities and will mark an exciting new chapter in the Upper School, and this year will give us all the time we need to prepare for it.

I am also excited that first semester, we will launch our NuVuX seminar (designed for sophomores) and second semester we will inaugurate the NuVuX studio term. Both will provide opportunities for students to collaborate with classmates and faculty coaches on designing solutions to real world problems. Those of us who have seen NuVu in action have been struck by the palpable joy and engagement that comes when kids are fully immersed in self-directed learning, and this will give us a great chance to explore the potential of NuVu here on our own campus. The NuVuX program will be a laboratory for new ways of teaching and learning that is sure to enrich our entire community.

I am excited to get back to work on these and other endeavors. I am excited to collaborate with colleagues on projects that reflect our ongoing commitment to student-centered, joyful learning, to rigor, to exploration. These priorities will remain firmly rooted at the heart of all we do. Most of all, I'm looking forward to those days when our hallways buzz with the noise of the Upper School students and faculty members, so I'll close with a special welcome to the approximately

50 students who will be joining the Wheeler community for the first time. There's no question that our school will be enriched by your presence.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and please be in touch with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Neeltje Henneman
Head of the Upper School