



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

Message from Head of School, Crissy Cáceres

August 1, 2019

Dear Families,

I must express how excited I am for the start of Brooklyn Friends School's 152nd school year! As I've immersed myself into the official first weeks as your Head of School, I have witnessed the many rich experiences that our youngest at the Family Center and our participants at Pearl Street's summer camps, are having. From sophisticated art projects, to swimming lessons, to coding, the school has been singing with dynamism.

This has been a poignant summer for our family, as we have been acclimating and discovering Brooklyn's wonders. Many thanks to all of you for your welcoming gifts, curated lists of suggested spaces and places within Brooklyn, and overall sincere warmth. My husband, James, and I, along with our daughters, Jazzmin, Alani, and Kailyn (and I cannot forget our dog Mambo, who is acclimating to walking on sidewalks), all feel grateful to be here.

Another poignant part of our summer has been reflecting on the upcoming reality of our oldest daughter entering college. Simultaneously feeling proud and happy, while preemptively contemplating a meaningful letting go, I have put deep thought into our shared journey, yours and mine, as guardians of precious humans who will one day independently and collaboratively navigate the challenges in our world. As I do so, I want to thank you. Thank you for placing your confidence into Brooklyn Friends School. I fundamentally believe that the core Quaker values of Peace, Integrity, Simplicity, Equality, Community, and Stewardship that define our school's identity, intersected with the life-saving work embedded in Social Justice practice, and the consciousness-expanding that is Service Learning and Civic Engagement, are exactly what we stand for and what we need in all learning and growing spaces of today. I am certain that your commitment has not been made lightly, and we honor it.

Thus, as I partner with you in the coming weeks, months, and years, I commit to listening, dreaming, and doing. One of my favorite authors and thought leaders, Brené Brown, urges us to "Be as passionate about listening as you are about wanting to be heard." I commit to listening to you and all constituents in our community to learn about and further appreciate all that BFS has been and is. This is essential as I take time to dream about and act upon BFS's potential for

growth and ability to learn from and serve as a model for others within this contemporary landscape of education.

My heart is glad, for we are all part of a vibrant Friends school, which means that we believe in and make space for the Light within each human being. I consider it an honor to absorb the stories that shape our individual and collective identities. I have already thoroughly appreciated the conversations that I have had this summer with many of you, who have spoken about your love and hopes for your children and our school, and I look forward to those ahead.

As I close my opening message to you, know this. Know that at Brooklyn Friends School, your children will be seen, loved, and appreciated for who they are each day. They will be stewarded with care. Their voices will matter. Their integrity will be upheld, even as, and especially when, they navigate points of challenge. The strength of their academic experience will be balanced with a focus on their overall social and emotional health and wellness. Most importantly, learning and growing will be achieved without compromising joy.

Enjoy your remaining weeks of summer and know that all teams are hard at work and awaiting the arrival of you and your children. As I envision the first days of school, I join in that eager anticipation. I enter into the 2019-2020 school year with bursting Panther pride to lead our mighty and needed school, and I look forward to continuing to know the over nine hundred students, their families, and all in our Brooklyn Friends community in the months ahead.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us.

In partnership and friendship,
Crissy

See below for time-sensitive links and resources to help your family prepare for the new school year. On Aug. 66 families will receive an e-mail communication from the divisional heads, which will have additional details about the start of school.

[Start of School Procedures Checklist](#)

[Sept. 2019 to June 2020 Monthly Calendar as a PDF](#)

[Welcome from the Parents and Teachers Association \(PAT\)](#)

[Afterschool, Music Lessons, and Registration](#)

[Interscholastic Athletics \(Gr. 7-12\) Team Sign-Ups](#)

[Required Summer Reading \(Gr. 5-12 only\)](#)

[School Supply Lists \(Gr. 5-12 only\)](#)

Please reply to this e-mail should you have any questions about the Start of School procedure checklist or other resources.

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