



Dear Upper School Families,

As the start of the school year approaches, both students and faculty have begun to return to campus. Whether working on a science project, participating in a program, or getting organized, there's an energy, optimism, and enthusiasm that's palpable. We live in a community of life-long learners where pursuing passions and interests is part of the fabric. That translates into faculty, students, and parents that value students developing critical thinking skills, creativity, 21<sup>st</sup>-century digital skills & citizenship, and a global awareness. We're looking forward to another great year at LCDS!

In Upper School, we have continued to have very high faculty and student retention and have also attracted some great additions to both the student body and the faculty. We will have over twenty new students from four counties and three countries (Spain, Poland, and China). In addition, we will have three South African students joining us for approximately ten weeks during the first trimester. These students hosted LCDS students in their homes and schools in South Africa this summer. We look forward to the dynamism and diversity of perspectives new students will add to an already vibrant Upper School community.

The educational benefits and challenges of 1:1 computing have been explored in educational literature and research. As a faculty, we have been engaged in that discussion and, through our iPad pilot program with the ninth grade in 2012-2013, we explored how this tool might impact the educational experience of our students. This initiative, from a curricular, digital skill, and digital citizenship perspective, was a success and we will be expanding 1:1 computing to all Upper School students starting this fall. Special thanks go to Mr. Schmelder and Mr. Kapferer for their dedication and ability to support students and faculty in the transition to a 1:1 computing environment and for their ongoing willingness to address concerns and give assistance.

To ensure we can continue to offer the exceptional educational opportunities for which we are known as our student body increases, we have added new teachers and additional sections for classes. Before sharing information about new faces in the faculty, I would like to give a fond, partial, farewell to Susan Gottlieb. After sixteen years of wonderful work with LCDS students as a visual arts teacher, Mrs. Gottlieb has decided that she will focus on opportunities in the art world that are calling her. From lectures to exhibits to international tours to publishing new books, Mrs. Gottlieb will have her hands full. However, she loves LCDS and will continue to teach Art History and participate in the Beats trip in March. We wish her only the best in her new endeavors, and are glad that she will remain connected to LCDS.

With the high level of student interest in the visual arts we've had at LCDS, we've changed the part-time position previously held by Mrs. Gottlieb into a full-time visual arts position. This will allow for more students to take visual arts classes and for the visual art room to be open throughout the day. After a thorough national search, we have been able to add Candace Greenberg-Thompson to our faculty. Ms. Greenberg-Thompson is an excellent, experienced art teacher who earned her B.S.E. in Art Education with a minor in Psychology from Millersville University (magna cum laude), her M.F.A. in Studio Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and taught for thirteen years at Penn Manor High School. Her work has been shown in numerous exhibits ranging from Mulberry Art Studios in Lancaster to the Hope Horn Gallery in Scranton to the Decker Gallery/MICA in Baltimore. She has also been recognized by The Scholastic Art awards for having student work selected for National Honors. Ms. Greenberg-Thompson joins the LCDS community with her husband, Matthew and three sons, Levi, Milo, and Silas. Milo will be entering kindergarten at LCDS and Levi will be in Preschool.

In science, Teresa Meskey will be teaching chemistry and biology courses. Mrs. Meskey joins us with outstanding recommendations from her recent work teaching Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and Physical Science at St. Paul's School for Girls in Maryland. She earned her B.A. in Chemistry from St. Mary's College of Maryland and her M.A. in Chemistry from the University of Arizona. She worked as a teaching assistant while earning her degrees and presented her undergraduate research at an American Chemical Society national conference. Mrs. Meskey brings a background in inquiry-based learning and a demonstrated commitment to independent school education. She was married this past June and joins the LCDS community with her husband, Dr. Tom Meskey.

Dr. Juliette Winterer is returning as a full-time biology teacher after stepping in as a long term substitute last year. She holds a B.A. in Biology from Pomona College and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Washington. Dr. Winterer taught at Franklin and Marshall College for seven years and then worked as the Executive Dean of Academic Affairs for the Virtual Campus at Harrisburg Area Community College. In that role, she shared administrative oversight over the College's division of Mathematics and Sciences, developed academic programs for online delivery, and assured academic integrity of online courses by building and implementing online course assessment rubrics. This past summer Dr. Winterer attended a Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning conference with LCDS science colleagues, engaged in College Board AP Biology preparation for teachers, and worked on revising the grade 9 science curriculum. Her daughters, Amelia and Linnea, will join LCDS as fifth grade students.

Catherine Haddad has also moved to a full-time faculty position teaching Chinese and ESL. A native of Beijing, China, Catherine has been living and working in the U.S. since 1996. Catherine first started language instruction in 1993 at China's Nankai University, where she taught English as a second language to undergraduate English majors. In the U.S., she began the first high school Chinese program at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, TX, and taught there for two years. While at St. Stephen's, she also served as the assistant director of international programs, working closely with international students while serving as their advisor, ESL instructor and tutor. She left St. Stephen's to complete an M.B.A. degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon completion, she spent nine years at IBM working in various positions in strategic consulting, marketing and business development, knowledge management, and teaching and training IBM consultants. In 2011, she returned to language instruction and built a Chinese language program at Penn State Harrisburg. Catherine received her bachelor's degree in English/Tourism and her master of arts degree in English Language and

Literature from Nankai University, China. She recently moved to School Lane Hills with her husband, John, and their two children, William (LCDS '22) and Elizabeth (LCDS '25).

Evelyn Lisi will join the English Department at LCDS and teach one section of American Literature. Mrs. Lisi brings a wealth of teaching experience from both the secondary and college level. She knows and understands independent school students well through her five years of teaching Upper School English at York Country Day School. In that time period, Mrs. Lisi was selected to be the graduation speaker on two occasions. She earned her M.A. in English Literature from North Carolina State University, her B.A. in English from St. Olaf College, studied at the Oxford University (England) Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the University of North Carolina Center for School Leadership and Development. She has also taught in higher education, engaged in curriculum development, and served for a number of years as a judge in the short story competition through the Raleigh Fine Arts Society. Mrs. Lisi has given various professional conference presentations and has two publications to her credit. She comes highly recommended by professional colleagues and will join her husband, Phil, on the LCDS faculty.

We have also had some changes in departmental leadership. Mr. Berner will be passed the reigns of the History Department by Ms. Quinn and Mr. Bostock will step in as the Foreign Language Chair for Mrs. Starr. Mrs. Schmalhofer has been appointed as the Director of Learning Services. The following faculty members will continue in their current roles as department chair for grades 6-12: Mrs. Trout (Science), Mr. Shepherd (Mathematics), Mrs. Munson (English), Mrs. Wilikofsky (Arts), and Mr. Mylin (Physical Education).

New and Grade 9 Family and Student Orientation: We look forward to seeing you, grade 9 or new students and families, at the Upper School Orientation on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:15-7:15 p.m. in Steinman Theatre. (Note: A light dinner of pizza and salad will be provided.) For returning grade 10-12 students, we'll see you at 8:10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> for the opening day of school.

Parents' Night: MS/US Parents' Night will be Tuesday, September 10, 2013. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Field House and run until just after 9:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's advisor and then hear about your son's or daughter's courses from each of his/her teachers. Please join us for this enjoyable and important evening. Senior Parents should arrive at 6:30 p.m. and join Linda Campbell, Director of College Guidance, in room 111.

Summer Reading: Summer reading information is posted on the LCDS webpage. Please check with your son or daughter to ensure that all of the necessary assignments will be completed by the posted due dates.

#### School Supplies:

- iPads - To start the year with all students having the supplies/equipment necessary to engage fully in their course work, students MUST participate in a one hour iPad orientation session prior to the start of school. *If your child has not yet registered for an iPad orientation session, where he/she will obtain and set up his/her iPad, please register for a specific session using the link below (paste in your browser).* Space is limited for each time slot, so sign up right away for the time that is most convenient.

<http://lcdsipads.eventbrite.com>

- Students should bring a writing tablet or spiral notebook and writing implements for opening day. In the first meeting for each course, the teacher will indicate the materials necessary for that course. Upper School students will store much of their work electronically and utilize e-books\* for numerous classes.
- Ordering Textbooks - See the link on the LCDS homepage

\*Note: The e-books being utilized have been chosen by each department based on the quality of content, usability, and support materials. The reduction in weight compared to hard copy books is a substantial benefit for students as is the considerable reduction in textbook costs to families (approximately \$200 per student). That said, if a student also desires a hard copy of a text and one is available, the student may purchase that text in addition to the electronic version.

Forms: Please return any forms that you received during the summer on or before the first day of school. **Note: a parent/guardian signature on the School Contract form gives your permission for your child to go on school field trips.**

Student Course Schedules for 2013-2014: Student schedules with teacher and advisor names will be posted in CORE (The new LCDS webpage) on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. With the online textbook purchase process, students should already have been able to review the courses for which they are scheduled. However, if you have a question regarding a course being/not being on the schedule, please contact the Upper School office. Given the complexity of our schedule and our goal of meeting as many requests as possible while keeping section sizes balanced, we will not be able to accommodate requests for teacher preferences.

The Academic Day: Classes begin at 8:10 a.m. each morning and the close of the academic day is 3:00 p.m. Please assist your son or daughter in arriving before 8:10 so your child has a chance to organize his or her class materials and arrive at his or her first period class by 8:10. Starting the day with the appropriate academic focus is best for both your child and his or her classmates.

Opening Day: Upper School students are to dress in *Cougar Casual* on Opening Day.

- For girls: a reasonable length skirt (not mini-skirt) or full-length trousers of “non-jeans material” combined with a top (such as a dress shirt, polo, or sweater set). An informal dress with appropriate skirt length is also acceptable;
- For boys: a combination of collared shirt (such as a dress shirt or polo shirt), cotton trousers (such as khaki, blue, green, brown, or black trousers) with a belt, and closed-toed shoes with socks. A sport coat and/or tie is acceptable, but not required.
- Unacceptable for either gender: jeans, shorts, inappropriately revealing attire, torn or frayed clothing, non-dress shirts such as t-shirts, and flip-flops.

Unplanned Absences: For an unplanned absence or lateness to school, please call or e-mail Aimee Nelson (ext 235 or nelsona@lancastrcountryday.org) in the Upper School office before 8:30 a.m. so we know your child is safe and in your care. If we do not hear from you by 8:30 a.m., you will receive a call from the Upper School office to confirm the absence.

Planned Absences: If you know ahead of time that your Upper School student will not be in school, please have your child to complete an Absence Request form at least two days prior to the absence. This form helps your student and her/his teachers communicate about how to handle missed work. The Absence Request Form will be posted in CORE on the Resource Board and in the Upper School office.

Upcoming Dates of Note

Monday, Sept. 2: Labor Day (No School)

Tuesday, Sept. 3:

- Senior Breakfast and Trip to County Park (seniors off-campus on this day)
- Honor Convocation for US students, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- New Parent Reception at the home of the Head of School, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept 5: Rosh Hashanah (No School)

Friday, Sept. 6: All School Picnic, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 9: South African students arrive

Tuesday, Sept. 10:

- US Club Assembly, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- MS/US Parents' Night, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 17: US Service Assembly, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 20: US Field Trips (specifics to be shared soon)

We have excellent students, supportive and engaged parents, and a superb and caring faculty. It is a wonderful combination, and I'm looking forward to seeing great things this year.

If you have questions before school begins, please contact the Upper School office at 392-2916 ext. 235 and Aimee Nelson can assist you or direct your call to the person best situated to answer your questions.

Sincerely,



C. Eric Bondy  
Head of Upper School  
ext. 234

**Lancaster Country Day School Mission Statement**

The mission of Lancaster Country Day School is to encourage each student's growth within a challenging and supportive academic environment that inspires enthusiasm for learning, the joy of accomplishment, and commitment to community. LCDS fosters the individual's thinking skills, physical and emotional well-being, and creative expression with an emphasis on personal integrity, mutual respect, and social responsibility.