



# NOURISHING THE ROOTS, TENDING THE GARDEN.

A note from Julie Bragdon, Head of School



Dear MSD Families,

This continues to be an unprecedented time in our country, and the world, as we collectively cope with this pandemic on micro and macro levels. I hope that you and your family are continuing to stay healthy and taking good care. You might remember that my goal for us last school year was to take good care and do good work and that focus continues. This year's theme of "roots" has taken on a whole new meaning with us all being homebound we are definitely rooted! Perhaps next year we should pick "health," "out and about," or "at school" since it seems our themes have sticking powers!

Our work as a school community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforces for me how important MSD's mission, curriculum, and school culture are as guideposts for each of us. As a community, we are resilient, creative, and empathic, not just during the best of times, but also in the most challenging times. Seeing every MSD employee, student, and parent come together to support each other in this difficult time has been an inspiring reminder that our community is greater than the physical boundaries of our campus. From long hours creating new distance learning programs to aiding families with food deliveries and business support to sharing resources, ideas, and even seeds, you are each rising to meet these challenges and opportunities, and in the process, you are creating a shining example of what it looks like when MSD lives its mission.

In many wonderful ways, MSD students are specially equipped for this new normal as they can be independent, self-directed, focused, empathetic, resilient, and able to practice self-care. As we look to the future, there will no doubt be a transformation in how we work, learn, and live, requiring our students to also be adaptive. As a school, we have already been studying and preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution which will require global citizens with higher cognitive abilities, strong social-emotional intelligence, innovation, creativity, interpersonal skills, and technology skills. We will have more parent education on this topic next year but in the meantime, I encourage you to take a minute to read about the expected global transformation.\* I believe you will find it looks a lot like the way we are all living in this moment. As our students put all these skills to work right now in their new normal, I have no doubt they will emerge from this experience stronger and better

prepared for the future. We are not just surviving these unprecedented times, we are preparing our students to thrive in the world that will follow.

While we continue to navigate and respond to the immediate needs of our community, we are also turning attention to next year. I realize many families are facing uncertain financial futures so I want to share some important information to help you plan. First, we have just learned that families may add Tuition Insurance to their contracts for next year until August 1, 2020. I strongly encourage you to consider adding Tuition Insurance if you have not done so already. Our partner, Dewers, has an excellent reputation and can provide some peace of mind during an uncertain time. I also want to remind you the Re-Enrollment Contract you signed has a forthcoming May 15, 2020 deadline, beyond which you are obligated to the full tuition for the 2020-2021 school year at MSD. Please reach out to [Dagmar Haberkorn](#), MSD Business Manager, if you have questions about Tuition Insurance or need information about Tuition Assistance. We want you all back, so please be in touch if you need help.

I know that our school community will emerge stronger than ever from this unprecedented spring. The whole staff at MSD, and especially me, is full of anticipation, hope, and excitement as we look forward to a new school year next fall. We will renew our connections, community values, and traditions together. We will continue to do good work. I look forward to seeing you not just virtually, but in person, back at MSD.

*\*Click [here](#) to read *Schools of the Future: Defining New Models of Education for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, World Economic Forum, January 2020*

Onward and upward.

Julie

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