



## PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Kimberly Diorio  
*Principal*

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Dear Viking Parents,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! We hope you and your family had a restful and relaxing summer. **Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** marks the start of another exciting year of learning.

While we are eager to see our returning students, we especially want to welcome our newest Vikings to our Paly family, the class of 2020! We are looking forward to celebrating their arrival during **Freshman Orientation on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-7:00 pm in the quad**. For all of our new students and families, we expect that Paly will become a second home as you settle in and take advantage of everything our incredible school has to offer. It's great to be a Viking!

On a personal note, I'm honored and excited to start my fourth year as principal of Paly. It's hard to believe this year also marks my tenth year as a Paly administrator. *Wow...where did the time go?!* I'm sure many of you are asking the same question as summer slowly winds down and you're watching your children grow.

Currently, I'm reminded in my own home that August is a time of year filled with mixed emotions for many children. My seven-year-old daughter, who loves the "play-time, down-time, and family-time (PDF)" of summer, is absolutely dreading starting second grade. (The tears started sometime around the fourth of July weekend when we made the rookie mistake of telling her summer was halfway over). Meanwhile, my four-year-old daughter is super excited to move to "the big-kid room" at her preschool. Every morning she wakes up with a bounce in her step as she gets one year closer to starting Kindergarten and going to school with her "Big Sis."

While it's my hope that all our Vikings would have the same joyful enthusiasm and positive attitude as my youngest, I've come to appreciate that transitions are not easy for all of us. And since I now understand how crucial "PDF" is for my own family, I'm making it a personal goal to find more quality time for our family to connect this year. I hope you will consider doing the same as we continue our focus on encouraging wellness and modeling self-care.

As a parent, I know it can sometimes feel difficult to stay abreast of all the events and happenings during the busy school year. Even with young children, my husband and I are always challenged in this area. Therefore, I'd like to provide you with additional tips for how you can keep up to date on your student's high school experience and all things Paly:

- Sign-up for the Paly Link at [tinyurl.com/palylinksignup](http://tinyurl.com/palylinksignup). This is our weekly PTSA sponsored e-newsletter that is published on Sunday mornings and has everything you need to know for the upcoming week or month. Thank you PTSA!
- Follow us on Twitter (@PalyVikings) for "real-time" updates.
- Set-up access to *Schoology* (our learning management system). Instructions for accessing *Schoology* can be found at [www.Paly.net](http://www.Paly.net) (look for "Parents - setting up your access to Schoology").
- Tune in to our *InFocus* daily student broadcast, which is played right after brunch at the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> period and streamed live on the web at [www.infocusnews.tv](http://www.infocusnews.tv). If you are unable to tune in live, please know episodes are archived on the *InFocus* website.

- Book mark and check daily *The Paly Voice* website (<http://palyvoice.com/#>) and then read our award winning student publications (*Campanile, C-Mag, Verde, Viking Magazine*) when they arrive in your home. You'll be impressed with what our students have to say, as I always am!

At Paly, we LOVE having parents on campus, and we always appreciate your involvement with our school (despite what your teenager may tell you!). Therefore, if you are looking for ways to get involved, volunteer or be more active on our campus, please refer to the "Volunteer Opportunities 2016-17" form included in this packet, or email our volunteer coordinator Beth Martin ([bmartin@pausd.org](mailto:bmartin@pausd.org)). She will advise you on how to engage with the PTSA, as well as numerous other volunteer activities throughout the year. (Just remember to check-in at the main office whenever you visit campus). It truly takes a village, and we value your time and service.

Finally, we appreciate the incredible generosity and ongoing support you offer our entire community of learners. For all of you who donate to Partners in Education (PiE) or our newly formed foundation, Rise Together Education, or who join our PTSA and/or contribute to one of our many booster organizations or programs... we'd like to give you a heartfelt THANK YOU. Your financial contributions make it possible for us to continue providing a high-quality education **to each and every student**.

Again, we welcome you to the new school year and wish you and your Vikings(s) a great year ahead. Until then, rest up and enjoy the remaining days of summer. We can't wait to reconnect in a few short weeks. It's going to be a great year. Go Vikings!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Dineen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".