August 3, 2016

Dear Fellow Explorers & Families, Class of 2020:

This is the month—later this month, of course! On Tuesday, August 30, the faculty and staff of La Salle will greet you for your first day of school. Our greetings that day echo the welcomes of nearly 90,000 Lasallian educators in service to 850,000 students in 80 countries, including 3,000 students at La Salle Abel in Niteroi, just across Guanabara Bay from the Olympic sites of Rio de Janeiro. We all proudly continue an educational tradition that stretches across five centuries.

The first week of school can be a rush of activity, but we try to pace the week so that you get to know your teachers, school routine, class expectations, and, equally important, your classmates. Building a strong sense of community within our Lasallian identity is primary to the promise of academic excellence, leadership and service, the hallmarks of our mission. Here’s a snapshot of your first week on campus.

**Tuesday, August 30** will include prayer, the planting of the class tree, an abbreviated class schedule, with a class meal, photo ID’s, and group exercises designed to help you get to know your classmates.

Day Two, **Wednesday, August 31**, begins with a Class Induction Ceremony at 8:00 AM to which parents are especially welcomed. At the ceremony, which will run to 8:45 AM, you will receive your class ties. At 8:45, you will take leave of your parents and begin a full-day class retreat which concludes at 2:30 PM.

For both Tuesday, August 30 and Wednesday, August 31, regular dress code is in effect, both public and private busing will be running, and La Salle will provide your lunches. You do not have to report to school on Thursday, September 1. Take the day to sleep in, ponder the activities of the two preceding days, and enjoy your home life!
Please make sure you have signed up to receive your tablet computer, intro tablet lessons and concussion testing on one of the four days designated in the June mailing and also listed on the website. Please also make sure you have completed your designated summer assignments, which also appear on the Announcements section of the website, so that you are ready to go for the first regular day of classes on Tuesday, September 6.

More complete information for your arrival in late August may be found in Mr. Whitney’s memo as well as on the Back to School Section of our website (www.lschs.org/backtoschool).

Last year, I completed a program for Lasallian teachers and administrators from seven different nations at St. Mary’s College of California. Sharing time and stories with teachers from Africa to New Zealand to Singapore, New York to California confirms in me the high quality and high character that comes from our broad geography and long tradition. We value deeply our belief that you will soon come to learn through our prayers, “Let us remember….”

Our summer service participants, faculty, students, and staff, spread the word and the La Salle talent throughout the U. S. They are our visible messengers of hope and signs of faith. You will learn more about the broad opportunities to get involved and to serve during your early weeks of school. We are eager for you to join us. Until then, enjoy your remaining days of freedom, complete your summer work, and stay safe!

In faith and hope,

Mr. Michael A. O’Toole ’68
Principal