

August 2016

# Welcome Back Letter

## The John Crosland School

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Dear Crosland Families,

I trust you and your Crosland student had a great summer and that they are as eager to return to school as we are to welcome them back! I am more excited than ever to begin a new school year. We have revamped and retooled the Educational Management Plan (EMP), our parent communication outlets, launched the Rediker parent portal, and established a behavior plan for all grade levels. We are also set to launch Odyssey v 2.0 as soon as school opens. In partnership with the JCS Parent Council, we have made some exciting changes to our playground area. Some of the recent changes include the blacktop repainting with athletic field lines, and new benches, basketball post pole pads, and athletic equipment. I must commend the school leadership team for their tireless work this summer. I am also pleased with the rigorous professional development sessions

for our teacher in-service week. We have several experts coming to campus to discuss vital topics such as ADHD, Dyslexia, Orton-Gillingham, Lindamood Bell, Asperger's



### Upcoming Events

#### August 26

New Family Social

#### August 29

First Day of School – Half Day

#### September 5

Labor Day – No School

#### September 7

MAP Testing September 7-9

#### September 8

Technology and Curriculum Night 6:00 – 7:30

#### September 15

EMP Meetings September 15  
-16 No School Students

### Quick Links

[School Calendar](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Meet Our Teachers](#)

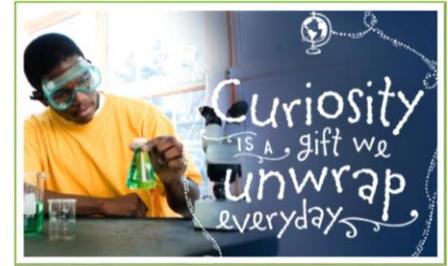
[Professional Development](#)

Syndrome, Behavior Modification, and Executive Functioning. In fact, the three academic directors and I conducted a book study this summer of Tony Attwood's *Asperger Syndrome* and have created a professional development session around it. In short, we are doing all we can to further understand how to better serve all of our wonderful students.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our "Welcome Back Day" on August 29.

Dr. Sean Preston

Head of School



## Introducing Rediker Parent Portal

We are excited to introduce you to Rediker our new School Management System (SMS). You will now be able to log-in to the Rediker Parent Portal and view your child's:

- Grades
- Attendance
- Class Schedule
- Communicate with teachers
- Assignments and homework

This new system will give you up to date information on your child's progress throughout the year.

You will be receiving an email from Ted Moore (Director of Information Technology) with a web link, user name and password to login to your portal the week of September 6, 2016.

Please join Ted Moore on September 8<sup>th</sup> during Curriculum Night, when he will be giving a brief overview of the portal.

## Welcome New Families

WELCOME! We are thrilled to have your family become a part of The John Crosland School. There are so many exciting things in store during this 2016-17 academic year. You can look forward to meeting our experienced, dedicated, caring faculty and staff and we are excited to work alongside you and your student. We hope that you will embrace the array of school offerings such as athletics, enrichment programs, tutoring, extended day program, therapeutic services and so much more. Welcome to The John Crosland School and have a wonderful school year!

## What's New:

### Lower School

Welcome to a new year in Lower School! Our first day of school is August 29<sup>th</sup>. This half day will provide a great opportunity for teachers and children to get acquainted and a time for parents to receive important information about the new year ahead. Meetings will begin promptly at 8:10 am in the Multi-purpose Room while children attend their first day of class. When we meet we will discuss some wonderful new changes:

- 90 minute Math Groups (Multi-Modal Math and Critical Areas)
- 90 minute Language Arts/Writing Groups A-Z wiring.com
- A-Z Reading/RAZ KIDS (Leveled Readers)
- Modern Digital Citizenship (basic technology, keyboarding, current events)
- Character Education/Art Therapy

- Homework Help continues M/TH 2:45-3:15
- Educational Management Plan (EMP)

A new school year is always exciting. Our focus will be on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. We look forward to working with your child and family.

### **Middle School:**

Welcome back! Together in Middle School, we will create a year filled with self-discovery and lots of learning as students acquire independence, determination, and empathy. This year we will focus on building self-awareness through monthly guidance lessons, a monthly career exploration club, and Project Learning Tree, an environmental service learning project. Executive functioning skills will be enhanced through weekly lessons focusing on time and materials management, goal setting, long term planning and more. New digital materials have been added to our blended learning curriculum to ensure student academic needs are being met and all students are challenged and engaged. Get ready for a great year!

### **Upper School:**

The Upper School welcomes you and is pleased to have a number of new people, courses, and curriculum for the 2016-2017 school year. An impressive group of rising ninth grade students will join new faculty in English, the Sciences, and Spanish. After analyzing the second pilot year of the Odyssey Project, we determined that the FuelEd course content did not meet the needs of our students and teachers as well as we had projected from the first year of the pilot. To improve on last year's course content, we have adopted McGraw-Hill e-curriculum in most Upper School history, math, and science courses. This direction will also allow students who prefer to have a physical textbook to have that option. We are also excited to offer two new courses this year: History through Film and Creative Writing. In combination with the enhanced Educational Management Plan (EMP) and a new program for managing student behavior, we are looking forward to an excellent school year in the Upper School!

## **Educational Management Plan (EMP)**

In order to meet the needs of our students, collaboration among teachers and families is a foremost priority. The Educational Management Plan (EMP) meeting will include all of the students' subject area teachers and will help to engage all members of the student's academic team. EMP meetings will take place twice a year. For the 2016-2017 school year, meetings will take place in September and February.

Prior to the first meeting each parent will be requested to fill out an EMP Parent Form. This form rates students on a scale of 1-4 on 12 key aspects related to school success as well as identifies a short-term and long-term goal for the student. This will serve as a launchpad for the initial EMP meeting. Students that join mid-year will have an EMP meeting scheduled within the first month of enrollment. Following the EMP meetings the Director will create the EMP Post-Meeting Report to

share with families and faculty. This will include items such as: student goals, classroom strategies, accommodations, and specific notes.

In addition to the two EMP Meetings families are encouraged to sign up for a Year-End Conference with the Division Head in May. Families are also encouraged to request meetings with specific teachers at any time during the school year.