

Middle School families:

I hope this email finds everyone well and looking forward to the start of the school year.

We regret to announce that **Mrs. Pendery**, our Middle School math teacher for the past five years, has resigned her position with the school, effective immediately. We wish her the very best of luck in her future pursuits. Over the past fifteen years she has served the school effectively as an elementary and middle school teacher, in addition to various administrative duties.

We are pleased to announce that **Mrs. Meghan Benson** will serve as our new math teacher (please see her introduction below). Although she had already agreed to become our Middle School English teacher (which she did very effectively as a long-term substitute teacher at VPS towards the end of the 2018-19 school year), she has an extensive background in math, allowing her to easily move into the math position, on such short-notice. Many thanks to Mrs. Benson for her flexibility!

Throughout the Spring & Summer, Mr. Schutz and I received numerous resumes from teachers interested in joining Valley Prep. One of these applicants, **Mrs. Heather Auger**, immediately stood-out. Today, she agreed to serve as our long-term substitute teacher for English while Mr. Schutz and I continue to review resumes and conduct interviews (we will certainly consider Mrs. Auger for the permanent position).

Mrs. Auger earned her Master's degree in English Composition & Literature from CSU San Bernardino in 2009, and also earned an Online Teaching Certification in 2010. In addition to substitute teaching in the Redlands and Colton school districts, Mrs. Auger has also been an instructor at San Jacinto College and Ashford College. In the coming days, she will be sharing a short bio, further detailing her background.

Obviously, last-minute staffing changes are far from ideal, particularly with so much uncertainty already surrounding the start of the school year. However, we are extremely fortunate to have been able to quickly develop a staffing plan, with the help and support of Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Auger. In the coming days, Mr. Schutz will make a few minor changes to the **Middle School Distance Learning Schedule**. The most updated schedule will always be posted on our website.

We are also extremely fortunate to have **Mr. Schutz** continuing at the helm of our Middle School Program. For more than fifteen years he has served our school with great dedication, and I am fully confident that he will effectively lead the program through this staffing transition. Additionally, **Mrs. Wolf** is an outstanding Science teacher who immediately made such a positive impact on our program last year. Mrs. Benson is a proven math teacher with strong ties to the school ... and she has already started planning her math lessons. And Mr. Schutz and I are very confident that Mrs. Auger will do a wonderful job with the English program. She, too, has already started planning her lessons! In short, everyone will work together to make this a great year in Valley Prep's Middle School.

Be sure to join Mr. Schutz on Wednesday August 12 @ 11am for a virtual orientation for Middle School parents.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best regards

John Black, Head of School

Introduction from Mrs. Benson

Hello Valley Prep! This will be my seventh year teaching math. Previously I have taught every course from Pre-Algebra through AP Calculus at both public and private schools. I received my B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Redlands and my M.A. in Educational Technology from Azusa Pacific University. I am very

8/7/2020

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passionate about teaching math and infusing technology into my curriculum. I look forward to working with students this year whether we are on campus or in our virtual classroom!