



# Darrow School

A Coed, College-Preparatory, Boarding and Day School for Grades 9–12

July 13, 2016

Dear Darrow Families,

Greetings from the Mountainside! As it was last summer, the campus is unusually busy as we work on a complete renovation of the Health Center- moving it to Wickersham first floor, Brethren's house bathrooms, and a transition of our new Academic Mentorship and College Counseling Offices to the Library. We are also renovating a few classrooms on the third floor of Wickersham into a new Language Lab. It is gratifying to see these projects progress knowing how much they will positively impact our students this year and in the years to come.

As the returning faculty prepare for the upcoming academic year and new faculty arrive on campus we are again focusing on programmatic progress in areas of highest impact for students. One of those areas is getting more and more validation from educational research: active curriculum and project based learning. Increasingly, colleges, universities and employers are looking for students who know how to problem solve, how to be a team member and how to manage projects and timelines. For Darrow this is a natural fit for our program, our local area and what our students tell us makes learning meaningful and memorable (after all, if you don't remember what you learned it doesn't really qualify as learning). This past year we noticed more student initiative and also achievement gains as we offered more active curriculum in classes. When students feel their learning is relevant they actually spend time, outside of class and homework, learning- what more could one hope for?

Enclosed you will find your child's course registration and schedule for the fall. Please visit the Darrow website, Admission section for all medical, business and academic forms needed prior to registration. **All forms are due by August 15, 2016.**

Now that you have received your student's schedule, you can begin to order textbooks. Along with the business and medical forms, the textbook ordering form is also available on <http://www.darrowschool.org/Admissions/Registration-Forms-Information>

When making travel plans, please double check the 2016-2017 Darrow School calendar so that your child/children arrives on the correct day. I also encourage you to make travel arrangements for the fall semester vacations, along with securing early hotel or inn reservations for Fall Family Weekend at the end of September. Autumn is a popular time to visit this area, and many places will reach their capacity months in advance.

One thing I have learned over the course of two decades in education is that life is a team sport. The Darrow community is a signal source of inspiration and strength and it's a joy to come to work each day and support the learning of our students. I see my time with your family similarly—we are a team in support of your child/children.

Enjoy the summer as it flies by. I hope each student will arrive at Darrow full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to take advantage of all that is offered here, and eager to build strong relationships and friendships that will last a lifetime. What you learn at Darrow will lay a foundation for the rest of your life.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Holzapfel  
Head of School