



August 2015

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! I hope that your summer months were restful and relaxing. The great thing about working in education is that every August offers us a new opportunity to begin again. A new school year brings with it a fresh start, a new beginning, another try, and a starting point from which anything you can dream of and work for, is truly possible. We have been busy working all summer and have many new and exciting things to share with you regarding the upcoming school year.

- ❖ First of all, we want to thank everyone for being so patient and understanding with the many construction projects that commenced this summer. Although these projects have presented some challenges for driving to Resurrection and parking while here, these projects will improve infrastructure of our school now and for many years to come.
- ❖ Resurrection College Prep High School is pleased to announce the creation of an honors program for our most gifted and motivated students. It is called the ***Mother Celine Scholars Program*** and commences with the class of 2019. *The Mother Celine Scholars Program* provides challenging academic experiences in combination with cultural enrichment and service opportunities to prepare young women to lead extraordinary Christian lives. Freshman students from the class of 2019 will be eligible to apply in the second semester of this school year and the program will begin their sophomore year.
- ❖ Our former Learning Support Program has been updated and also renamed. It is now known as ***The Rankin Academic Support Program*** in honor of Sr. Joyce Marie Rankin, C.R., who was a special education teacher at Resurrection most of her religious life. The naming of this program is a tribute to both her passion and tireless efforts to assist students with special learning needs. We have maintained the integrity of the previous program and have also expanded the services that students will now receive to meet current educational trends.
- ❖ We welcome to our school the following **new Faculty/Staff members**:
  - ❖ **Ms. Briana O'Donnell '09** - Director of The Rankin Academic Support Program  
Briana O'Donnell is a Special Education Teacher who is Resurrection alumna and a graduate of Carthage College with a BA in Education. She comes to us from Queen of All Saints where she served as a Jr. High English teacher and Special Education Consultant.
  - ❖ **Ms. Samantha Toomey '11** - Rankin Academic Support Teacher  
Samantha Toomey is a Resurrection alumna who recently graduated from Lewis University with a BA in Secondary Education/History and is also endorsed in Special Education.
  - ❖ **Ms. Nicole McGrath** - English Teacher  
Nicole McGrath has earned a BA in Secondary English from Wartburg College, and an MA from Northeastern in Special Education. She has much Catholic school experience and has taught as Archbishop Weber High School, Loyola Academy and St Tarcissus.

- ❖ **Ms. Rebecca Milos** - English Teacher  
Rebecca Milos has earned a BA in English Literature from Washington University, an MA in English and American Literature from New York University and an MEd from Northwestern University. She has recently taught English at West Leyden High School and has served as a consultant for the University of Chicago Graham School.
- ❖ **Ms. Elise Rubenstein** - Latin Teacher  
Elise Rubenstein has earned a BA in Classics from University of San Diego and a MA in Classics from Tufts University. She has taught all levels of Latin at the high school level.
- ❖ **Ms. Vanessa Wheatman '07** - Guidance Department Assistant  
Vanessa Wheatman is a Resurrection alumna who worked in the Resurrection library during the previous school year. She earned a BA from DePaul University in English/Art History and a Masters in Library and Information Science from Dominican University. She worked as a Librarian for the City Colleges of Chicago before joining the staff at Resurrection.
- ❖ **Ms. Kathleen O'Neill '01** - Substitute Guidance Counselor  
Kathleen O'Neill will be filling in for Ms. Bridich who will be on maternity leave sometime in September until the second week of December. She is a Resurrection alumna who has earned a BA and an MA in School Counseling both from Northeastern University.
- ❖ **Innovation Lab** - We have repurposed the former Computer Lab (Room 121) into what is known as a *makerspace* for next year. It looks nothing like a traditional classroom! Our Innovation Lab is a high tech place where students can collaboratively design, prototype and create items using a 3-D printers and CAD (computer-aided design) software. There are also robotics, e-textiles, and movie making equipment available. The Innovation Lab is a place for Res students to brainstorm, invent and teach each other all sorts of new things! A big thank you to Mr. Lascon, Mr. Czernik, and Mr. Sutter for all their work designing and preparing the Innovation Lab.
- ❖ **Parent Teacher Conferences** - As you may have already heard, we are going to offer **two** parent teacher conferences (one each semester) this year. This is in response to comments from many parents on a customer service survey that we administered, requesting opportunities to meet their daughter's teachers and discuss her academic progress. The dates are as follows:
  - **October 15** 1st Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 am - 8:30 pm
  - **February 24** 2nd Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- ❖ **Bell Schedule** - We have updated the bell schedule for next year to allow more time in Seminar for students to take care of any business they might have including meeting with teachers, meeting with guidance counselors, working together in group projects, starting on homework, or re-taking tests. The extended Seminar period will also allow our various clubs and organizations more time to meet on Activity Days.
  - Seminar will now be 45 min. (previously 35 min.)
  - Passing periods have been reduced to 4 min. (previously 5 min.)
  - Lunch will be 30 min. (previously 35 min.)
 These minor changes allow us to maintain our starting time of 8:20 am and dismissal of 3:00 pm. You can find the complete bell schedule [here](#).
- ❖ **Uniform Guidelines** for the 2015-2016 School Year have been updated. Ms. Bernardin and I met with a group of student leaders at the end of last year and sought their input regarding our uniform policy. We hope our students are pleased with the changes we made. The complete

Uniform Policy will be available in the 2015-16 Student Handbook.

Please make note of the following:

- **Res Wear Activity Days** - On Activity Days, club, organization, publication and athletic wear may now be worn with the school skirt or school uniform slacks. This includes crew and hooded sweatshirts, as well as T-shirts. All Res Wear tops may be worn on activity days and is not dependent on what clubs are meeting.
- **Spirit Apparel Days** - Spirit Apparel Days will be held every other Friday provided that 95% of the student body has complied with the uniform code during the previous two-weeks. Spirit Apparel Days may also be scheduled for special events or in the event of extreme weather or temperature conditions.
- **Spirit Wear** - Spirit Apparel wear now includes Resurrection College Prep sweatshirts, sweatpants, T-shirts, club/organization wear, plain sweatpants, yoga pants or capris and Resurrection College Prep athletic wear (but not school-issued athletic team uniforms and warm-ups).
- **Long sleeved T-shirts** may now be worn under the uniform shirt but must be solid white, solid grey, solid black or solid red.
- **Solid black, grey or white leggings** may now be worn under the uniform skirt.

❖ **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ➤ <b>Monday, August 17</b>      | Freshman Orientation Part 1      | 8:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| ➤ <b>Monday, August 17</b>      | Transfer Student Orientation     | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| ➤ <b>Monday, August 17</b>      | Freshman Family BBQ              | 5:30 pm           |
| ➤ <b>Monday, August 17</b>      | Freshman Parent Academy          | 7:00 pm           |
| ➤ <b>Tuesday, August 18</b>     | Freshman Orientation Part 2      | 8:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| ➤ <b>Wednesday, August 19</b>   | Classes for all levels (Red Day) | 8:15 am - 3:00 pm |
| ➤ <b>Thursday, August 27</b>    | Senior Parent Meeting            | 6:00 pm           |
| ➤ <b>Thursday, August 27</b>    | Back to School Night             | 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm |
| ➤ <b>Wednesday, September 9</b> | College Night                    | 7:00 pm           |

We are excited and optimistic that the changes we have made will serve to enhance the overall educational experience of the students at Resurrection College Prep High School. Please know that we are here to serve you and would appreciate your comments or concerns. You can reach me by email at [mhawk@reshs.org](mailto:mhawk@reshs.org) or calling 773.775.6616 Ext. 130. Enjoy the last days of summer!

In Charity and Truth,

*Maria E. Hawk*

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Principal