



## Will Carleton Academy

2001 W. Hallett Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-437-2000 • WillCarletonAcademy.com • Tuition-Free K-12

August 2021

Dear Will Carleton Academy Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the lazy days of summer! Summer is a perfect time to read a book, play outside, weed your garden and maybe swim in the lakes in our county. All of these are my favorite!

Another favorite for me is talking about the beginning of a new school year; the 24<sup>th</sup> for WCA to be exact! I can't believe it! What an amazing journey it has been! We are so blessed to have such a strong school family that makes even the tough times manageable. Thank you for that!

Our Back to School Mailer is filled with important information from classroom teachers, the office and Parent Forum. Please take time to look at each item included as the details in the communication abound!

Included are teacher letters for each student, unless a teacher is still being secured for a specific classroom. I have been working with a WCA team of teachers to hire the best new teachers to join our team. If your child's classroom does not have a teacher yet, only a classroom supply list will be included. You can expect a separate mailing with a teacher letter in the near future to introduce our newest staff members to you! Enjoy reading the back-to-school letters from the teacher. They are so excited to be close to the first day of classes and you can tell!

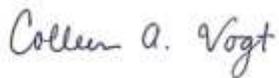
The Parent Forum is including an invitation to the annual Ice Cream Social which will be held on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. This revered event will be a time for students to see their classrooms and for parents and families to meet teachers. And, we can all share an ice cream treat together! This open house is a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! Mark your calendar as it is certainly an event not to miss!

From the office you will find a 2021-2022 academic calendar and a registration form for WCA's Before and After School Care program. If you are interested in before or after school care, please complete that application as soon as possible as those spots are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Mrs. Dryer ([chelsi.dryer@wcak12.org](mailto:chelsi.dryer@wcak12.org)) is happy to help if you have questions about these registration forms and she will collect those in person or via email or fax.

I am certain that many of you have questions about what our mitigation strategies will be this fall. Well, for me to print a list of practices would mean that I am confident in what those are and that is not my current state of understanding. I wish for all of you clarity when understanding the expectations that will be in place and so my work is on-going. I am in constant communication with area superintendents and our advisory team which includes Hillsdale Hospital administration as well as BHSJ Health Department personnel. Our conversations do include intentions to not require masks, but to make them optional for all students and staff members, regardless of vaccination status. WCA plans to maintain sanitation protocols that were put into place last year as they proved effective. The Will Carleton Academy board of directors, teachers and I will evaluate each mitigation strategy and be sure to keep the ones that ensure the day-to-day safety for all involved. I look forward to those productive conversations that will be thorough and consider all options, and will be on-going until we meet again on campus in late August. Please know that as decisions are made, or as mandates are imposed for schools, you will be informed quickly and clearly.

Thank you for your support as we all look forward to the beginning of a new school year. This year will be an opportunity for new memories and many firsts for WCA families and that makes me very happy! I am excited to work with each WCA family to be sure that the best opportunities are made available for each student every day. Enjoy the last few days of summer! I am looking forward to seeing you all on campus very soon!

Be well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen A. Vogt".

Colleen A. Vogt