Spring 2015

Dear Incoming Students and Parents:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you in advance to the High School at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The energy and creativity of the students, staff, and faculty make UNCSA a wonderful place to work, learn, and live. Though I am currently serving as the Dean of the High School Academic Program, there will be a new Dean here by the time you arrive. I will be continuing at this marvelous place, just as a classroom teacher.

It's now time to begin your academic course planning for the 2015-16 school year. Enclosed you will find instructions for accessing course planning information, including directions for accessing an academic course schedule that we have selected for you. Your arts course registration will be handled for you by your arts school. Please review the academic course listing and contact Director of High School Guidance and Learning Support, Brock Snyder (snyderb@uncsa.edu/336-770-1320) if you have questions or would like to make course changes. If you do not wish to make changes to your schedule, please select “I approve” using the online system. All changes to your academic course selections should be made within 3 weeks of your receiving this mailing. It is important that you approach course selection thoughtfully. Obviously, you want to be mindful of the UNCSA high school graduation requirements, but we also advise students to plan beyond these to meet the admission requirements of many colleges and universities across the country. As a guide, we use the minimum course requirements of the University of North Carolina system. You may find links to graduation requirements, UNC Minimum Course Requirements, and academic course descriptions online at http://www.uncsa.edu/hscourseplanning. Note that textbooks for high school courses are provided free of charge.

Note on course credit and GPA: Credit for courses is awarded on a semester basis. In order to receive a full unit of credit for a course, students must pass both semesters of the course. Each semester course grade and the corresponding portion of credit will appear on the student's transcript. We will not average term grades for a year grade. Both arts and academic course grades are included in a student’s grade point average.

Looking for some information on “what it’s really like” at UNCSA? Our Parent Support Organization welcomes your questions and involvement. More information on joining the PSO Yahoo! Group is included in this mailing as well.

Now, on to other matters. Enclosed in this mailing you will also find the following items:

- A magnet listing important contacts, their roles, and contact information. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.
- The High School Academic Program attendance policy along with the attendance policy acknowledgment form which your parent/guardian must sign and return to us. Note on the attendance policy: Seniors and parents of seniors should pay particular attention to the procedures on page 3 for being excused for college visits and off-campus auditions. All students and parents should take note of the procedures for being excused for planned absences and the consequences of unexcused absences.
• Information for parents of students with disabilities
• A request for parent email addresses. My office uses email as our primary communication method, and we will be contacting students and parents by email over the summer. We want to be sure you get the messages!
• A letter of welcome and other information from your arts school
• Information from campus services including One Card, Mail Center, and Student Health
• Information from High School Residence Life
• A checklist of items to return

Look for additional information delivered via email from my office over the summer. You may also follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/PickleParents. In the meantime, please contact me or any of the staff if we can be of assistance. We’re all anticipating your arrival in the fall.

Sincerely,

Jill Lane
Headmaster and Dean of the High School Academic Program

P. S.—Don’t forget! Submit any course change requests to Mr. Snyder within 3 weeks.