



Greetings, IS Parents!

We hope that you have had a fantastic summer with your kids. We can't wait to hear all about their summer adventures! We have a few changes and updates we would like to share with you prior to Orientation.

We are so grateful to be working with you and your children again this year.

IS Leadership:

We wanted to let you know how much we love USL and are thrilled to be working together as the Co-Directors. Our roles have expanded from last year. We would like to share with you the way our partnership will work.

- Jody Lemmon will be your day-to-day contact on campus. She will greet your children at drop off between 7:20-7:40 under the awning and send them off to you at the end of each day at 2:55.

- Nan Kleiner is your point person for more substantive questions & longer discussions. She will be on campus from 8:00-12:00 each day and will continue her work for USL at home. She is available in the afternoons by phone/Zoom, and she can also coordinate in-person meetings with advance notice. She may reach out to you throughout the year from her cell phone. Her number is 301-300-9590.

Communication:

- You should email both of us. We meet together every morning and stay in close communication. We also get together regularly with the IS faculty to keep abreast of all the comings-and-goings of your students and review/plan each week.

- We'll send a comprehensive weekly learning plan email on a consistent schedule. It will tie together the use of the school-provided daily assignment planners/agendas by your student and our Moodle on-line school platform. All of this is to keep everyone informed and on the same page.

- The students will help produce a regular (weekly or every 2 weeks) newsletter with pictures and insights from their learning adventures.

Academic Enhancements

We have created two enrichment classes.

I) Latin/Greek & Mythology will be taught by Frank Williams. Our MS/US Latin teacher since 2013, Mr. Williams will be coming down to the IS to share his expertise in Latin and Greek roots. He is a fantastic story teller and will share many wonderful Greek and Roman Mythology stories with your students. Historically, this program has resided in a smaller and different form in Humanities and L&L traditionally, and this is an expansion to help reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, Spanish (and other languages) learning, and more. And USL students overwhelmingly love mythology!

II) Our Middle & Upper School English teacher Sophia Shelton will join the IS students on Tuesday afternoons for enriching "read alouds" and other exciting reading and writing elements. She has experience as a CCPL youth librarian, and she'll be an asset in growing and supporting our culture of pleasure reading in our students.

Another new face on the IS team, but not to USL, is Mrs. Maria Pacas. She is one of our MS/US Spanish teachers. Pacas also has extensive experience with younger students. She guest taught the IS in the Spring and is looking forward to teaching your students full-time this year.

USL's Intermediate School Team:

Co-Director, Humanities (blend of History, English and Art) & English: Nan Kleiner

Co-Director, Math & Science, Art, LOTCs: Jody Lemmon

Leadership & Life Skills: Jason Kreutner

Reading Enrichment: Sophia Shelton

Latin & Greek Roots / Mythology: Frank Williams

Mandarin Chinese: Wei Ma

Spanish: Maria Pacas

Guidance: Winnie Chapey

PE: Jen Payes

Art: Jody Lemmon

Housekeeping Items:

- Students will bring all of the school supplies with them on Wednesday, August 14.
- There will be one Moodle page for the Intermediate School core program. Leadership & Life Skills (which includes prep for guest speakers and LOTCs) will be separate.
- We have a uniform closet. Please swap clothing as your child outgrows their USL shirts, shorts, and khakis.
- LOTC's are typically on Wednesdays. On Wednesdays we wear WHITE USL logo shirts. Formal: white collared shirt oxford OR polo style with USL logo. Traditional: white t-shirt with USL logo
- If your student will be tardy or absent, please email Nan Kleiner, Jody Lemmon, and Tasha Tirpak.
- Back to School Night is August 20th at 6:00 pm.
- We welcome informal compliments/comments about the start of the new year. We will have a formal mechanism for feedback after the first few weeks so that we can make informed adjustments for the benefit of our students.
- Our Weekly Learning Plan will be sent to parents via email by Sunday night and will be posted on Moodle.
- The zipper binder will contain everything your child will need going to and from school. All paper handouts & notes from every class, student agenda, as well as pencils, pens, etc. This one binder is being used this year to foster organizational skills.
- Using the daily student agenda/planner is critical for building executive function skills. We will teach your child how to properly keep it. Parents, please sign off on agendas nightly and teachers will sign off in the morning. If your child has nothing due in a subject they will document "NONE" in that spot.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

We are looking forward to an amazing year!

Sincerely,

Nan Kleiner & Jody Lemmon

Intermediate School Co-Directors