



# GARDEN SCHOOL

Jackson Heights, New York

Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

August 2018

Dear Garden Families:

I am always happy to write to you in the middle of the summer in preparation of the opening of the school year 2018-19. This fall we begin our 96<sup>th</sup> year! As usual, we are busy working on the opening of school in September and we have renovated the gym by recovering our bleachers with eye-catching blue tiles and installing new safety padding on the stage. The gym certainly has a new look.

Our faculty is also busy engaging in their own professional development which adds to the quality of your child's education. As a member of NYSAIS, we participate in professional growth activities on a regular basis. Some of our faculty participated in a three-day class management workshop, others in sessions on classroom activities, still more on the teaching of ELA across the curriculum, the flipped classroom, creative thinking, individualized instruction and Google applications.

All of these activities contribute to the dynamic and professional atmosphere of our school which has resulted in some impressive college admissions over the past several years, including Princeton, UC Berkeley, Barnard/Columbia and Brown University. Our school's profile is respected nationwide as we continue to push our agenda forward toward our centennial in 2023. Join with me in celebrating and sharing the excitement of welcoming back our families in September and 100% of our faculty!

During our end-of-year meetings, the staff engaged in extended discussion on a number of topics. From these discussions emerged the idea of establishing "Respect" as the schoolwide theme to explore for the coming school year. In addressing this theme of "Respect," the Character Education Program will be reinvigorated; we will accentuate the role of sports, teamwork, and collaboration in the life of Garden and add weekly upper division Ethics classes. Teachers at all levels of the school are excited about the idea of having sessions with students to discuss ethical topics and situations. In addition, several parent information/education events are being planned that will address issues of concern for our families. These initiatives, along with topics that are current, relevant and crucial in fully preparing our students for success, will begin at the opening of school.

As we did last summer, we have posted back to school information and forms on our website under "Parents>Forms." There is also a "[Back to School](#)" link on the right of our homepage. It is of vital importance for you to advise us of any changes in contact information, including e-mail addresses and telephone numbers, and any pertinent medical and allergy information ASAP. Also to ensure your child's safety here at school, it is very important for us to have your child's emergency contact information and health form. Please make certain that we have these documents no later than the first day of class on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all your support, confidence and trust in Garden School and for joining with us to ensure your child's experience here is of the highest quality. Garden's future is secure and vibrant because of the support provided by families such as yours. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.  
Headmaster



### **Back to School Information**

- Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>:**                    **All faculty return at 9:00AM**
- Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>:**            **10:00AM-11:00AM: Orientation for all LOWER Division students**
- Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>:**            **11:00AM-12:00 Noon: Orientation for ALL returning sixth graders entering seventh grade and all NEW Upper Division students**
- Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>:**                **First day of school**  
**All students report to homerooms/classrooms by 8:20 AM**  
**Parents are invited by the PTA for coffee starting at 8:00 AM**
- Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>:**                **All parents at CURRICULUM NIGHT at 6:00PM**