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Dear Families,

First, welcome to the Great Hearts Lakeside Family! I am so excited that you have chosen to enroll your scholar and become part of our Great Hearts Community! As the 2020 school year approaches, I am excited to get to know each one of your scholars and cannot express how much we appreciate your trust in us as the best educational option for your student. I am truly delighted that we, as the inaugural staff, will have the opportunity to provide a classical, liberal arts education for your scholars.

Second, as we move forward in these uncertain times, please know that the Lakeside campus **will open** in the fall. We intend to be in our classrooms, though we are preparing for contingencies that may arise. Our academies in Texas and Arizona have done a fantastic job thus far responding to the challenges of COVID-19. In the coming months, I will be working closely with our operational team to ensure we are ready to begin school on day one. We will be monitoring all developments closely, and I will keep you updated and informed throughout the summer.

Finally, there are open spots available in select grades. Let your friends and neighbors know that there is still time to apply! See below for more information about our Referral Program.

I look forward, with this initial communication, to a series of regular opportunities to communicate with our registered families. Monitor your e-mail for regular updates, as well as information on events that will help you become more familiar with school procedures, and routines, as well as with one another.

With a Large Dose of Lion Pride,
Mandi Cannon
Headmaster



Courtney McCartney

Third Grade Team Lead Teacher

My name is Courtney McCartney and I am the Third Grade Team Lead for Great Hearts Lakeside! I graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in Child Development. A couple of years ago, I moved from California to San Antonio with my family and shortly after I earned my Teaching Certification through Texas Teachers. Teaching has always been something I knew I would pursue and I feel so lucky to have learned about Great Hearts through my father's colleague.

I started with Great Hearts Monte Vista South as a Second Grade Lead during the second half of the 2017-2018 school year. The next year, I moved up to be a Third Grade Lead and was awarded 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year. I truly believe in the philosophy here at Great Hearts. Through the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty our students are preparing for their bright future as productive citizens.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, I also love hiking in the beautiful outdoors, painting abstract acrylic art, and going to sporting events. Making the move from San Antonio to the Dallas/ Fort Worth area will be an exciting adventure!



Jensine Caranto

Kindergarten-2nd Grade Music Teacher

My name is Jensine Caranto and I am a music teacher in my fourth year with Great Hearts Academies. I earned my Master's in Vocal Performance at the University of Texas at Austin and then began teaching at Great Hearts Northern Oaks in San Antonio, where I worked for three years before moving to Great Hearts Irving. I am very excited to be part of the founding faculty of Great Hearts Lakeside as the K-2 music teacher!

I first heard about Great Hearts through a friend from college who was teaching at the Northern Oaks campus. When I learned that the school upholds the pursuit of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, I thought it was too good to be true. However, in my years of working at different Great Hearts campuses, I've seen that this is indeed the case! What I love about teaching music at Great Hearts is that, not only do we believe that students learn best by experiencing the "things" themselves - in my case, music through singing, movement, and performance - but we also have

the opportunity to teach them how to be great-hearted people with virtues such as honesty, responsibility, and integrity, just to name a few!

In my spare time, I enjoy reading, learning languages, running and playing sports, and most recently, knitting! I am also working towards certification in the Kodaly approach of teaching music.

Parent Service Organization

Mission Statement

We are a **community** of parent volunteers that provides a support system to **enrich** students' academic experience. We volunteer our time **in service**, sponsor and promote **social activities**, and provide **programs** to benefit and **support the faculty and administration** who are working to fulfill the Great Hearts mission to cultivate the hearts and minds of students in the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Purpose and Objectives

1. Support Great Hearts mission
2. Express appreciation for teachers and school administrators
3. Organize social events to unite the community
4. Organize school events
5. Develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement
6. Enhance the educational experience by supporting academic and enrichment activities

Signups for those that are interested in supporting particular events and for those that want to provide general assistance to the teachers or to the school will be available as we get closer to the beginning of the school year.

Facebook Groups

We are excited to offer a general and grade-level Facebook groups for all registered families at Great Hearts Lakeside. These groups offer a way for you to begin to build positive relationships with other parents, as well as to monitor specifics for each grade level in the coming months. These groups are geared towards families and will not be monitored by faculty, so please direct instructional questions and any specific concerns directly towards the appropriate individuals.

Although these pages are not heavily monitored, posts are subject to review and could be removed if deemed inappropriate or negative. We know that many Great Hearts families do not participate in social media and we want to assure you that this is not a means of official school communication. Our newsletters and [website](#) will be your primary source of official school information.

Use the links below to join!

Lakeside Lion Pride (All Parents
Welcome)

Future Students of Great Hearts

Second Grade at Great Hearts
Lakeside--Class of 2031

Third Grade at Great Hearts

Lakeside--Class of 2034 and
Beyond

Kindergarten at Great Hearts
Lakeside--Class of 2033

First Grade at Great Hearts
Lakeside--Class of 2032



Lakeside--Class of 2030

Fourth Grade at Great Hearts
Lakeside--Class of 2029

Fifth Grade at Great Hearts
Lakeside--Class of 2028

Orientation and Information

We know you are all anxiously awaiting further details regarding many of the logistics of preparing for the upcoming school year, and we very much appreciate your patience.

In years without COVID-19, we generally hold an in-person orientation in the weeks before the first day of school, and now, as we are unable to do so, we will provide information electronically. In the coming weeks, we will discuss one particular element of school culture each week, and provide all relevant details as well.

This information will also be posted on our website. Please look for detailed information on uniforms next week!



Referral Program

We know you value a classical liberal arts education. During this time of social distancing, we need your help sharing information about Great Hearts. Below are two easy ways you can spread the word:

1. **Sharing your favorite posts from Great Hearts Lakeside Facebook page.**
2. **Encouraging a family to apply for the 20-21 school year.**

There are available spots and our wait-list is always in motion. If you refer a family and their registration is complete by May 31st, you will be entered in a drawing for a voucher for one of our uniform vendors.

If you are the referring parent, please send an e-mail to info@greatheartslakeside.org that includes the name of the scholar and parent you referred. When the registration for the student you referred has been completed, your name will be entered into the drawing. The drawing will take place on June 2nd.

Community Investment Program



Why do we ask you to consider a donation to the Community Investment Program?

Did you know that charter schools do not receive local taxes or state funding for school facilities, resulting in a \$1,700 gap between what the state provides and what we need to ensure faculty and scholars learn and thrive.

Where will your contribution go?

100% of your contribution will stay at Great Hearts Lakeside to support the core priorities of our academic model.

What does Great Hearts ask each family to give?

Anything you can! From \$10 a month to \$1,000 a month, **every single dollar** makes a difference in the life of Great Hearts Lakeside.



Amazon
Smile

Support GH Lakeside while shopping on Amazon!

1. Click the link above.
2. Select "**Great Hearts Texas-America**" as your charitable organization.
3. Shop as normal and 0.5% of your purchases goes back to our school community.

GreatHearts[®]
Lakeside

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