

August 2021

Dear Lotspeich Families,

Happy August! August is always such an interesting time of year as we hold on to the vanishing days of summer while simultaneously anticipating the fresh start of a new school year. I have to admit that I couldn't be more excited for the start of this school year, my first here at Seven Hills! I have loved meeting with the talented teachers and hearing of their hopes and dreams for the coming school year. I have enjoyed seeing many children involved in summer camp. And just over a month in, I can tell you I am ready for your children to be back! I am ready to spend my days meeting our students, learning their names and celebrating their accomplishments, and I am ready to have you— our families—back as well.

Preparations are well underway for the 2021-2022 school year. When you return to campus in just a couple of weeks you will, at once, notice the refresh the Lotspeich building has undergone this summer. New paint and flooring has breathed new life into the hallways and classrooms; however, we know the best is yet to come - our students! In addition, there will be some new faces, mine included. This is a spectacular incoming class of teachers, and we are fortunate to have them. I hope that you will read their [brief biographies](#) and join me in welcoming them to campus when you see them this year.

Seven Hills' mission and core values deeply resonated with me as I was considering a move back to Cincinnati. I love that each of the seven values are an integral part of the culture here and truly drive the decisions we make about how we operate as an institution. I have already seen many of these in play in my brief tenure here. And, after this past year of spending so much time and energy ensuring the safety, health and well-being by keeping our students separated, I am excited that our value of focus this year will be "**Commitment to Community**". When speaking with teachers, parents and students about Seven Hills, the first thing often stated is the strong sense of community that characterizes our school. We are people who support, encourage and include one another, and our common experiences and the value we place on education bind us together as Stingers. As we enter into this school year, it is my hope that we continue to intentionally build upon our strong community. Ultimately, we are stronger as we both celebrate our uniquenesses and differences and choose to be united by our common vision for excellence in education.

While the beginning of the school year is often greatly anticipated, it can also cause a few butterflies for all of us - students, parents and even our faculty and staff - myself included! Below you will find key information for the start of the school year that will hopefully alleviate a bit of any nervousness that might exist:

**Class Assignments:**

On Wednesday, August 18 an email will be sent with both your child's teacher for the coming year and a SignUp Genius link to sign up for a specific time to visit the classroom during

orientation on Monday, August 23. In accordance with our school policy, all visitors must wear a mask when in the school building.

### **Programmatic Changes:**

- This year we have adopted a new math series at both Lower Schools. After a yearlong review of several top programs, we have selected [Bridges Mathematics](#) which will be implemented in grades K - 5.
- Seven Hills is pleased to announce a new partnership with [Best Point Behavioral Health](#) to provide an independently-licensed therapist to work with students. These optional and confidential services will supplement those currently offered by our own school guidance counselors.

### **Reopening Plans:**

Earlier this month you received a letter from Head of School, Chris Garten, outlining our Return to Campus Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Please see a [summary](#) of our guidelines for Lotspeich.

### **Beginning of the Year Events:**

#### **Wednesday, August 18:**

- For all grades PK2 - 5th, teacher assignments and SignUp Genius links will be sent for you to choose a window of time for your child's orientation on Monday, August 23rd.

#### **Monday, August 23:**

- PK and Kindergarten Scheduled Visits with teachers
- Grades 1-5 Classroom Visits between 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- Meet & Greet with Susan Miller, new Head of Lotspeich, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Pavillion

#### **Tuesday, August 24:**

- TSHS First Day of School

#### **Thursday, August 26:**

- Parent Night 5:45 PM; more information to come

In addition, there are a number of documents that are attached and can also be found on Stinger Central - Lotspeich for your reference; please read over them carefully and let us know if you have any questions:

- Head of School welcome back letter
- New faculty profiles
- The Seven Hills School Parent Community letter
- School supply list
- After the Bell Information and Sign Up
- Food Service Information:
  - Food Service Charging
  - Free or Reduced pricing for lunches
- Student Picture Day information, pricing and order form (to be completed and returned to classroom teacher)
- Birthday Book Club Flyer

- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Information
- Lotspeich Parent Community Welcome Letter from [Erin Snelting](#)
- Campus Map

Coming later this week will be all information regarding arrival and dismissal, including our Family Dismissal Form which will need to be completed and returned to Kitty Fischer.

I am humbled and honored to be joining the Seven Hills community as the Head of Lotspeich and look forward to welcoming both our new and returning families to the 2021-2022 school year. As always, please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any help to you. Until then, I send my wishes for a happy and relaxing end to your summer.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan Miller  
Head of Lotspeich