

September 13, 2023

Dear La Academia Community,

I am excited and honored to be joining you in just a few short weeks. Your commitment to nurturing community, engaging scholars in 21<sup>st</sup> century skill building, and learning by doing were just a few of the things that drew me to La Academia.

I have been engaged in the field of education for more than twenty years as a violence and bullying prevention coordinator, a secondary English teacher, and elementary, middle, and high school principal. One of my greatest career achievements was transforming a traditional middle school into a project-based learning environment. I remain passionate about PBL and its ability to engage even the most reluctant student. My most recent tenure at Columbia High and Middle schools afforded me the opportunity to work closely with a diverse population of students in a school that required some internal rebuilding to better serve all its stakeholders. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to strengthen student, teacher, and community capacity, and look forward to partnering with you to do the same.

As a principal, I am committed to creating an educational environment that is positive, safe, supportive, innovative, and academically rigorous. I am eager for the opportunity to continue this work, partnering with you, to foster a culture of learning and achievement, celebrated for its project-based approach and inclusive, relationship-based community.

Part of my beginning steps will be to meet with each of you individually and as departments to listen, gather your perspective on La Academia's strengths, areas of growth, and ongoing needs, and to plan for next steps. I look forward to meeting you and working together to create a secure and engaging environment—one that supports staff and students and promotes high levels of achievement for all scholars.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Jandis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Liz