Message to Dallas International School Community

As the incoming President of the Board of Directors for Dallas International School, I am honored to both serve you this upcoming school year and to have the opportunity to share our unique story with the greater Dallas international communities. Many of us remember how far our school has come, from the early days of portable buildings to now two campuses with a recent addition of a high school. Twenty years ago, I transferred my oldest son from a private school across the street, followed by his two brothers, to a worldwide network of French schools with a tolerant view of the world and an active mission that is more than just words on paper. The founders of this school and their mission believed that we as good citizens have a moral obligation to ethically educate multilingual students that can engage diplomatically with all situations and put into practice a mental acuity that outperforms peers with confidence anywhere in the world. Our core values moving forward remain focused on this active mission; to instill a sense of respect for others and to foster a passion for intellectual curiosity and debate in our students, irrespective of your nationality, religion, or sexual orientation. This drive is what defines us as a school.

Recently, we added the high school grades and our mission changed to include matriculation into university. Since then, we have made measurable strides in this direction, as evidenced by our university acceptances listed in the addendum. No other school in Dallas offers a world renowned advanced curriculum accredited by the French Ministry of Education that gives parents the individual choice and freedom of living anywhere at any time while seamlessly educating their students with scholastic confidence. What a student might learn in a physical classroom in France, Canada, Mexico, China, Russia, Spain, Vietnam, Morocco, India, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Israel and many other nations, they can also do here at Dallas International School. We are the only independent private school for the international community that offers both the French Baccalaureate and the bi-lingual International Baccalaureate while accredited in Texas by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS).

And for our students where French or English is not their first language, we’ve seen their perseverance and grit in becoming critical thinkers and effective communicators at all age levels. In the higher grades our graduates almost always mention their time at Dallas International School as a core factor of who they are and as an inspiration for their individual pursuits as they enter the real world. This steadfastness throughout the years comes from you as parents who placed your trust in the same mission of our international education as the intrinsic equalizer in a successful purpose driven student that can acclimate to any environment.
While recognizing our coveted college acceptances, the changing trends in our increasingly competitive education system will call for all of us as a community to lean in and push forward with unified direction in order to continue to achieve our high standards and responsible growth within our school.

Today we officially welcome our new interim Head of School, Dr. Josep González, at the Dallas International School, and we wish him only our best as we work together to build our institution. In tandem with Dr. González, our Board of Directors will respond to emerging trends in private school education and the changing needs of our families, and in some cases pivot in new directions to better address our unique opportunities. The Board of Directors will also work to proactively align our students and their family expectations to improve the delivery of our international educational experience in the second fastest growing metroplex in the Americas.

The first step in this strategic process will be to engage a diverse membership on the Board of Directors of twenty-one individuals, the maximum allowed by our bylaws, that reflects the varied professional backgrounds of our community. This Board of Directors will develop a strategic outline with Dr. González that will allow us a school to preserve the nuanced beauty of French culture, language and curriculum while managing the business using the best practices of good governance from the U.S. based National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) implemented by all other independent private schools here in Dallas and throughout our nation.

Together, we will share the solemn responsibility of strategic planning that will communicate our core values, secure resources for growth, develop an outward focus that engages collaborations with industries, overcome resistance to change, nurture planned risks, and pursue smart experimentation. And the principles that will guide our decision making process for this board are listed below for your review and my own accountability.

Steeped in the belief of the French and American democratic tradition of collaboration, it is my pleasure to inform you the new 2021-22 Dallas International School Board of Directors will be voted on next week and announced to our community within days. Over the course of August and throughout the school year, Dr. González along with our experienced team, will communicate in more detail our Parent Orientation Information Packet and ask for your help as we build this vision together for a community based, globally inspired performative international school. And from wherever you personally joined us at Dallas International School, we are grateful to call you a friend and to include you in the work ahead on this transformational journey for your family and our school. Should you have further questions, or would like to donate your professional volunteer time or planned giving, please don’t hesitate to reach out directly to me at tammycottonhartnett@gmail.com.

Cordialement,

Tammy Cotton Hartnett
President, Board of Directors
Dallas International School
College Acceptances, Class of 2021
As of May 12, 2021

Bold indicates at least one student will matriculate at that university

Abilene Christian University
American University (2)
American University in Paris
Austin College
Babson College
Baylor University (6)
Boston College
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University (2)
Catholic University
CEU Cardenal Herrera University
Chapman University (3)
Colgate University (2)
College of William and Mary
Colorado School of Mines
Culinary Institute of America
Dartmouth College (2)
DePaul University (2)
Duke University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (2)
Emerson College
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University (5)
Franklin University – Switzerland
Georgetown University
Haverford College
High Point University
Indiana University (3) (including direct admits to the Kelley School of Business)
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
L'Université de Montréal
Lewis & Clark University

Empathy ✧ Integrity ✧ Respect ✧ Responsibility ✧ Resilience
Lipscomb University
Loyola University – Maryland
Loyola Marymount University
Louisiana State University
Macalester College
MIT
Michigan State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Pace University
Pepperdine University
Polytechnique (Canada)
Pomona College
Purdue University (2)
Reed College (2)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Seattle University
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University (6)
Southwestern University
St. John’s College
St. Louis University (Madrid Campus)
St. Olaf College

Swarthmore College
Syracuse University (2)
Texas A&M University (3)
Texas Christian University

Texas Tech University (Honors College) (2)
Trinity College – Dublin
Trinity University
United States Air Force Academy

United States Coast Guard (2)
United States Military Academy – West Point (2)
United States Naval Academy (2)
University of Alabama

Empathy  Integrity  Respect  Responsibility  Resilience
University of Arizona
**University of Arkansas** (2)
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Calgary
University of California – Berkeley
University of California – Irvine (2)
**University of California – Los Angeles** (3)
University of California – San Diego (2)
University of California – Santa Barbara (2)
University of Colorado – Boulder
University of Denver (2)
University of Edinburgh
University of Houston
University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign
University of Kansas
University of Lester
University of Manchester
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of New Mexico (Honors College)
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
**University of North Texas**
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oklahoma (2)
University of Richmond
**University of Rochester** (2)
**University of Southern California** (3)
University of Surrey
**University of Texas – Austin** (2)
**University of Texas – Dallas** (5)
University of Texas – San Antonio
**University of Toronto** (2)
University of Tulsa (4)
University of Warwick
University of Wisconsin

Empathy  Integrity  Respect  Responsibility  Resilience
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Westmont College (CA)
Wheaton College (MA)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute