

Dear St. X Students, Parents, and Friends,

What a pleasure it is to welcome each of you to the 2019-2020 school year! I hope this message finds you and your family well and making the most of the final weeks of the summer break. Although in many ways, it feels like we just settled in to summer, we are only a few weeks away from the beginning of the new school year. I hope you are looking forward to a strong start and are excited about all the meaningful experiences that await as we return to school.

Indeed, the beginning of a new school year is always a very exciting time, and whether you are young or old, it elicits many emotions. When we adults think about the start of a new school year, I am certain we all experience flashes of nostalgia and, if only for a moment, find ourselves reminiscing about those special times in our lives. Knowing how fleeting these years and experiences are may cause us to anticipate what is ahead for students even more than they do. It is certain that for school-aged children, the unknown can weigh much more heavily on their minds. Hopefully, that is when the adults in their lives can help students to give more credence to the known and familiar that brings them greater comfort and enjoyment rather than hyper-focusing on the things out of their control. I often caution our students not to give too much energy to the stress and anxiety of a new school year; there are many wonderful people at St. X who are willing to help them find their way.

One way to make sure that the school year starts smoothly for everyone is through planning and preparation. A good strategy for allaying any fears is to be informed. I encourage families to read and review all the latest information you receive from the school. It will serve as a great resource, but if you have a question, please feel free to call the school. We are available to answer your questions. Parents, you may also experience some stress at the beginning of the school year, particularly as your son takes on the challenge of more rigorous subject material or looks toward the choice of a college. I encourage you to have faith that all will be fine and that your son is up to the challenges that await him. The St. X experience is a process, and we must trust the process and be partners in our work. A positive and enduring partnership will only make your son's experience more meaningful for all.

As for our students, this is a very important time, and your primary role is to be a student in good standing; it is my hope that you understand and take that role seriously. Self-advocacy is a life skill we hope to encourage at St. X. It is important to be able to seek assistance when needed. You will have access to teachers, counselors, and administrators, but it is essential that you be willing to do your part to utilize these resources. Working in collaboration with the faculty and staff at school is not only an expectation of you as a serious student, but is also essential to your success.

This expectation to be a community working together for excellence is summed up in our focus for the 2019-2020 school year. This year, our theme is "**A Band of Brothers: Men of faith. Men of excellence. Men for others.**" This embodies our approach to accomplishing greatness in what we do as a Xaverian school, and as members of a Catholic school community. It is our deep faith and conviction, our pursuit of excellence in all endeavors, and our commitment to service that allows us to be men for others. We stand on the shoulders of many giants who came before us, and it is our time to be those pillars for others, continuing the legacy entrusted to us.

I wish you all the best for an excellent school year! I know that together we will ensure its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco M. Espinosa, Jr." followed by a stylized "F".

Francisco M. Espinosa, Jr.
Principal