FLAGSTAFF JUNIOR ACADEMY

A Montessori-Inspired, Experiential Charter School ● Ages 3 through 8th Grade

Elementary Campus
306 W. Cedar Avenue, Flagstaff AZ 86001

Middle School Campus
1800 N. Gemini Drive, Flagstaff AZ 86001

www.fjacademy.com 928.774.6007

Dear FJA Families,

We hope this summer has given you time to slow down, rest, and create meaningful memories with the people who matter most to you. **As we look ahead to the coming school year, we're filled with excitement and gratitude.**

Over the past year, our school began the important work of developing FJA's three-year strategic plan based on the values that have guided us since our founding and focused on the future we envision creating together. Throughout those conversations, one idea surfaced again and again: the importance of stewardship—not simply as something we teach, but as a way of living and learning together.

Because of that work, our guiding theme this year is "Stewardship Starts with Us." Stewardship begins with caring for our own wellness and for one another. From there, it extends to caring for our school, our Flagstaff community, and the wider world around us.

In a world that seems to be moving quicker and quicker and often values the end product over the journey, **stewardship reminds us that we are each connected to something larger. The way we care for one another and our community shapes the type of world our children will inherit.** It is through the small, everyday choices we make that we cultivate compassion, responsibility, and a sense of belonging—qualities we hope every FJA student carries with them long after they leave our classrooms.

We're excited to begin our second year at the Gemini Campus and to have our 5th graders continue to their leadership roles at the Cedar Campus. We're also grateful to be able to offer several new opportunities this year, including:

- A new Kindergarten through 8th grade math curriculum, Eureka Squared
- A reading intervention program for our struggling K-3rd grade readers
- A third school van to support middle school athletics, service-learning, project-based learning, and field trips
- An expansion of our 6th grade CREW leadership program to include all middle school students
- Continued growth of our elementary extracurricular offerings during lunch, recess, and after school
- Expanded hot lunch options for a fee—4 days per week at Gemini and on Thursdays at Cedar

Whether your family is new to FJA or has been with us for multiple generations, we want you to know that you belong here and we are grateful for your partnership. We encourage you to be an active part of school life—volunteer in classrooms, chaperone a field trip, join the Parent Teacher Group, attend school events, or simply linger a bit at drop-off/pick-up to chat. Our community is strongest when we learn, celebrate, and grow together.

We also hope to see you at some of our upcoming schoolwide events:

Thursday, August 6 – FJA Community Meet and Greet

Cedar (Pre-K–5th Campus): 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. **Gemini (6th–8th Campus): 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Monday, August 10 – First (Half) Day of School, Cedar releases 12:15-12:35 p.m. / Gemini releases 12:20-12:40 p.m.

Tue., August 25 – Cedar Campus Parent Info Night **Thur., August 27 – Gemini Campus Parent Info Night**

Thank you for entrusting us with your wonderful children. We look forward to an outstanding year.

Carissa Morrison, Ed.D.
FJA Executive Director

Kristin Patterson
FJA Assistant Director