

**\*For 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, hard copies of student schedules will arrive in the mail next week. 9th grade schedules will be distributed by Cores during intake conferences on August 21 and August 22.**

August 2018

Dear CVU Community,

On behalf of all faculty, staff, and administration of CVU, welcome to the 2018-19 school year.

This letter contains important information broken into three questions:

*What's the same?*

*What's new?*

*What's different?*

**What's the same?** This is most easily addressed through a question by an incoming ninth grader who was anxious to attend a school that has more than 1300 students. He asked me: *What does it feel like to learn with so many other kids?*

Truth be told, including faculty and staff, there are over 1500 people in our building during any given day. This is not a number to be feared; in fact, it's a number to be celebrated. What if we choose to see this number as 1500 resources to learning? 1500 people who support and inspire us as one team pulling in the same direction: a collaboration of learners working to mutual benefit, not in individual competition.

1500 is also a powerful number because it represents 1500 individuals. I give our ninth graders one piece of advice every year: *you do you*. Okay, so maybe it's not as eloquent as Emerson or Thoreau (take American Lit!), but the people who succeed most spectacularly here are comfortable with the unique person they are. Don't get me wrong: push yourself, aspire, strive, but do so from the confidence of your strengths...and your challenges (we've all got 'em!). Plus, as Oscar Wilde famously said, "Be yourself; everybody else is already taken." We need your authentic self. After all, the most powerful learning engages, drives purpose, deepens the skills that transfer from one context to another, and starts from YOU; it is learning that the learner does in partnership with others, not something done to them.

We need two things from you to create this community of learners: one, we need you to see your classmates and teachers as your best resources--a team that both pushes you and needs you to do the same for others; and two, we need you to see your education as uniquely yours--a tremendous opportunity to engage deeply.

## What's new?

We have a talented group of new faculty joining us for the upcoming year:

### New Faculty

**Michael Abbott**, Science  
**Karen Archer**, Direction Center  
**Nellie Dawson**, Math  
**Karen Gaske**, Special Services  
**Trish Healy**, Special Services  
**Matt Meunier**, Social Worker  
**Brad Miller**, Social Studies  
**Susie Moakley**, Direction Center  
**Janelle Moynihan**, Special Services  
**Anne Muessel**, Special Services  
**Tami Munford**, World Language  
**Tica Netherwood**, World Language  
**Steven Reinemann**, Math  
**Karen Rodgers**, Special Services  
**Jenn Sutton**, Snelling House Office

1. 2018-19 will see the launch of our **RISE** (Reflective Interest-Based Student Experiences) program in late May. For the first time, all CVU students will engage in two week long structured, guided, or independent learning experiences (courses, internships, and more) that will deepen skills, explore interests and values, and engage students in personally relevant learning. Learn more, [here](#).
1. As you'll note in the section below, our weekly schedule has changed to include a **Connect Block**. Through the use of a homegrown software (thank you, senior Milo Cress!) connect block allows us to regularly, flexibly schedule students with teachers for enrichment, support, and advising.

## What's different?

1. Our **weekly schedule** is slightly different than last year. Please note that our late arrival day is on Monday instead of Wednesday. In addition, the rotating day is also on Monday instead of Wednesday. This change will allow students to more easily enroll in dual enrollment courses with colleges. See our schedule, [here](#).
2. Our **yearly schedule** is modified as well in order to accommodate our RISE program. Many will be pleased to note that the first semester ends prior to winter holidays and the final assessment week will run from approximately May 22-29.

## **Items of note for the 2018-19 school year:**

**Forms:** In line with our continuing efforts to be fiscally and environmentally responsible, we are reducing the number of items we mail to parents at the start of school. Please click this [link](#) which will take you to our web page where you can access the following documents:

Student Handbook  
Bus Routes  
CVU School Calendar  
Cafeteria Information  
Yearbook-Ordering Information  
Yearbook-Senior Photo Information  
CVSD School Calendar

Important forms you may require are:

[Athletics](#)  
[Blanket Permission Form](#)  
[Directory Letter](#)  
[Free & Reduced Lunch Form](#)  
[Friends of CVU Membership](#)  
[Media Privilege Form](#)  
[Medical Emergency & Field Trip Form](#)  
[Opt Out](#)

Paper copies of all items above can be accessed through the Main Office. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us reduce consumption.

Sincerely,

Adam Bunting  
Principal, CVU