



August 5, 2022

Dear Great Valley Academy Community,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year!

I hope you had a chance to relax, recharge and refresh over summer break. My name is Tom Anderson and I am your new Superintendent/CEO. It is hard to contain my excitement about being part of the GVA community and about the possibilities that lie ahead for the organization. This includes staff, students, families, community partners and those that have yet to realize that this is where they want to be. I, for one, know that this is definitely where I want to be. After nearly 28 years in education, mostly in the Central Valley (Stockton, Manteca, Sacramento), I count myself very fortunate to join GVA; bringing value from my diverse experience, belief in charter schools, and commitment to student wellness and growth. I follow in some considerable footsteps, but with the support of the GVA Executive Team and blessing of former CEO, Leah Silvestre, I am confident that nothing but good things lie ahead. As Superintendent, there is no better feeling than the start of a new school year.

GVA staff will be focused, this year, on the concept of **renewal**. Why renewal? Renewal honors the past while focusing on a vision for the future. Renewal is about embracing change, such as a new Superintendent, a departure from Covid-19 concerns as a primary focus, new staff members, students and families. Renewal is about maintaining good things, such as commitment, dedication, innovation and perseverance. It is about reinvigorating, reenergizing, restoring, revitalizing, and reimagining the GVA way. It is about reaffirming our core beliefs and values - our pillars, our priorities. GVA **Pillars** help organize our work and support students, staff and families in creating a joyful, safe, loved, learning environment with tenacious learners preparing to positively impact the world around them. These pillars include: Great Valley Smart (GVS), Character Development, School Culture, Mastery Learning and Highly Qualified and Dedicated Staff. More info on these pillars and all things GVA can be found on our website at <https://www.greatvalleyacademy.com/home/Homepage-en.html>.

I want to thank you for entrusting your child's education to our dedicated team of educators. We are very aware of the importance of clear, concise, communication and will be continuing to update our website regularly and use ParentSquare as a key way for you to keep connected to everything happening in our schools. In the interest of transparency, you will find attached our updated Covid-19 protocols for the 2022-23 school year. As we return this year without the same level of restrictions around Covid-19, we all know that while no single action can completely eliminate the risk of Covid-19 transmission, our continued implementation of layers of safety protocols reduce the likelihood of spread. We follow the California Department of Public Health guidance and have documented these efforts in the included attachment.

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As a final note, as Superintendent of Great Valley Academy, I've chosen to focus my work around a theme this year. That theme is **Happiness**. All GVA staff participated in a review of the research around intentional activities that promote happiness in people. We then discussed all the things we already do to foster happiness at school and concluded that many, if not all of these healthy exercises, proven to increase and/or help sustain physical and emotional well-being were in perfect alignment with the GVA way. So, please keep an eye out for more information on the Superintendent's Happiness Campaign this year as I highlight the good work going on at school and at home. Again, I will be communicating through ParentSquare and the GVA website as updates become available. Thank you and see you for the first day of school Tuesday, August 9th.

Looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Tom Anderson
Superintendent/CEO
Great Valley Academy