

A Year Better Than the Last

09/08/2021

And just like that—summer is over! While faculty, staff and students love their summers, with the new school year comes new things to be excited about.

This year there are many things to look forward to. In the 2021-2022 school year, we have increased enrollment, something that excites students and administrators alike. Not only do new students bring new energy and the chance for new friends, but also increased opportunities budget-wise. The more students we have, the more financial freedom we have to put back into our program.

PSAA was happy to welcome Stan and Sami Nelson to the PSAA community. Stan is the new math teacher and is wonderfully qualified with his M.S. in mathematics education from Boise State University. Sami is working as the new administrative assistant and has handled this transition wonderfully, with grace and organization.

Francisca Dominguez, who works as the PFE Coordinator at KSDA, has stepped in to teach Spanish at PSAA. High school students are happy to have such a talented bilingual teacher for an instructor.

PSAA is also in the process receiving approval to offer dual credit for both college and high school, for music appreciation, calculus and pre-calculus through Northwest University.

One exciting new opportunity added to this year's PSAA roster is videography, a class brand new to the academy. This class was made possible by the Don Keele Award from the NPUC when Mr. Boko and Mr. Jacaban won \$3,000. They decided to put the money towards this new and exciting class; we can't wait to see what our students will create!

With COVID still at large, the state has mandated the continued use of face masks. While we were hoping things would be different at this point, we are thankful for the ability to teach and learn in-person and for staff and students who are willing to roll with the punches.

Mr. Jacaban has made it a personal goal of his to increase the opportunities available for students in the safest ways possible, including some of the extracurricular things cut last year, such as a mission trip, sports and tournaments, music tours and the student favorite event—Connect. Mr. Jacaban said, "I am looking forward to giving our students as many opportunities as possible in the context of safety. Is it harder than usual work? Yes! But hearing our students laugh and play will be our ultimate reward."

Despite the challenges that this year will inevitably bring, we are feeling optimistic with such a wonderful team of professionals and a great group of students. We ask for your prayers for this year, that God may work in our program and touch the hearts of our students—we can't wait to see what God will do!