


the STARGAZER

FROM THE DESK OF DEAN BOCCIA

✘ What the Road Said ... ✘



The 2021-22 school year challenged us to make strides towards returning to many familiar routines. By the end of the year, we were able to take field trips, eat with each other in the dining hall, have graduation in the theater, and most importantly, we could greet each other with a hug! Our Lower School Word for the Year was TOGETHER, and the way we persevered through each day as a sisterhood reinforced the notion of what it means to be SAA Strong! My hope is that the girls will continue to grow in their appreciation for what comes from working, playing, and praying together!

As a former English teacher, I often look to literature to reflect on the meaning of life's many complexities. So my graduation message to the Class of 2022 and my summer message to our SAA families is inspired by the book *What the Road Said* by Cleo Wade.

The story speaks to the common feelings that we all share when traveling on the ever-changing road of life.

For instance, the Class of 2022 is about to embark on the new journey of high school, our rising K-8 STARS are about to enter a new grade in the fall, and I am resetting my life after twenty-two years as your Dean.

Through a series of questions, *What the Road Said*, illustrates many of the thoughts that we have when beginning a new journey. Here are a few of the road's responses to ponder as we look to the future ... **How do I start?** I believe we can all find comfort in the road's response that we have already started on our next path. This is because all that we have learned and accomplished prior to facing a new road

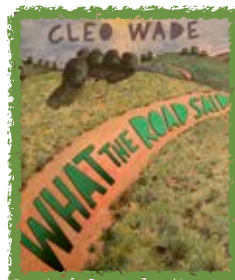
will enable us to continue on.

What if I go the wrong way? We will certainly take wrong turns along the road of life. The important thing to remember is to reflect on those times when we go off the path, and to learn the lessons that these missteps can teach us. Like the road said, "Sometimes we go the wrong way on our way to the right way."

What if I fall? Everyone falls at some point. But know that the strength that comes from God, our family, our friends, and ourselves will help us to get up. There will be times when we will get hurt when we fall. When that happens, take shelter to rest and to heal. We must allow ourselves this grace.

What if I change? Let us remember... Just like seeds and caterpillars, all things grow and change. That is the beauty of being alive. No living thing is meant to stay the same. **My wish for our SAA families**, is that with every step you take on your road, you will find strength and comfort in God's infinite love. For scripture tells us, *I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you...plans to give you hope and a future.*"

Happy travels!



In Grace & Gratitude...

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but doesn't leave us where it found us.

-Anne Lamott

Grace met my family on the first day that we arrived at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School. Lauren, Bob, Lou and I have been

gifted by the generous outpouring of love from all whom have crossed our paths. The grace that so many people - children, parents, teachers,

staff - have showered upon us has left us with hearts full of gratitude, and it will forever light our way along whatever road we take. Although this is my final summer letter as your Dean, please know that I am taking all of your amazing grace with me!

God bless you always!



Summer Spotlight & Summer Enrichment

[Click here](#) for our **Summer Spotlight** where you can access information about **Summer Enrichment**. The goal of summer enrichment is to help your daughter to retain and gain knowledge over the summer months. Each grade has a *Summer Requirements* page that will explain what is required. If you have any questions about summer work please contact our Director of Library Services, Sara Casey at scasey@saa-sds.org



Report Cards and Junior High Course Assignments

K-8 Report cards, honor ribbons, and JH course assignments were mailed on June 8. Please contact Mrs. Brooks at tbrooks@saa-sds.org or at 901-435-5800 if did not receive this mailing or if your address has changed. **Official** JH schedules will be issued on Back-to-School Night.



Congratulations to our **SAA Grade 8 Class of 2022** for their many accomplishments! Be proud of your achievements and best wishes for a future filled with growth and joy!

The graduates of the Class of 2022 who received Top Honors this year are as follows:

Valedictorian: Fallon Drzyzga

Salutatorian: Olivia Weems

Third Honors: Madelyn Nash

First Days of School for Grades K-8

K-6 Grade STARS will be assigned to one of two groups that will return to school from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on **either** Thursday, August 11 or Friday, August 12. A letter with group assignments will be sent in mid-July. SAA-SDS **Grade 7** will return to school from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, August 11**. **Grade 8** will return to school from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on **Friday, August 12**. *The first day for all K-8 students is Monday, August 15.*

Summer Hours

If you need to contact the school over the summer, our offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday. The SAA office will be closed from July 4-8. We will have access to email but will not be able to answer the phones during this time. Please email Mrs. Brooks prior to any visit to SAA during the summer break to ensure that she will be there to assist you.

iPads & Laptops for 2022-23

We will issue each STAR her device on her first day of school.



School Supplies, Books, and PE Uniforms

Your daughter's books, school supplies, and PE uniform will all be on her desk when she returns to school! This process will ensure that your child has everything that she needs on her first day of the 2022-23 school year. In addition, parents will no longer need to run the risk of dealing with back orders or worse...return orders. **The fee for these student materials will be paid through your FACTS Tuition Management. The fee for Grades K-6 is \$300, and the JH fee is \$350.**

The school is ordering a PE uniform for each student in Grades 1-8. (KinderStars will not need a PE uniform. In lieu of the PE uniform, they will receive a special drawstring bag only for them!) The uniform will consist of a PE shirt and a pair of shorts, and the cost will be bundled with your daughter's books and supplies. Parents may place orders for additional PE uniform items with the Spirit Shop at spiritshop@saa-sds.org.

We are here to serve you over the summer, so feel free to contact us if you have any questions!

- Tammy Brooks: tbrooks@saa-sds.org or 435-5800.
- School Counselor, Britney Dedmon: bdedmon@saa-sds.org
- Dean Boccia: kboccia@saa-sds.org or 435-5829
- Starting July 1: Dean Jenn Wojcik at jwojcik@saa-sds.org or 435-4829



Catch a New Rising Star!

Let's give a warm welcome to the newest members of our SAA family!



Khodee Russell (SAA1)
Sarah Evelyn Sumpter (SAA1)
Catherine Paret (SAA2)
Gianna Italiano (SAA4)
Sofia Orellana-Palma (SAA4)
Brooke Clayburn (SAA5)
Molly Daugherty (SAA5)



Avery Holton (SAA5)
Harriet Howard (SAA6)
Juliette Screws (SAA6)
Izabella Clark-Garcia (SAA7)
Julie Coker (SAA7)
Kit Garner (SAA7)
Ruthie Gilland (SAA7)
Alexia Mayorga (SAA7)



Eliza McFadden (SAA7)
Amara Touch (SAA7)
Sophie Viglietti (SAA7)
Dalyanna McSween (SAA8)
Iris Mesler (SAA8)
Lillian Murray (SAA8)
Karinsel Poblete (SAA8)



Welcome to SAA Dean Jenn Wojcik!

Please join me in welcoming Jenn Wojcik to our school community as our next SAA Dean! Ms. Wojcik comes to us from Royal Palm Academy, a PK-8 Independent Catholic School in Naples, Florida where she served as Dean for grades 4-8. She is a gifted administrator who partners with faculty, parents and students to instill a solid foundation of faith, a genuine love of learning, and a confidence to take risks.

Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire! - St. Catherine of Siena