



October 2, 2020

HFA: Alameda School Families:

I am writing to tell you about a change at HFA: Alameda School for Art + Design -- and our work to ensure that you and your child experience a smooth transition through that change.

Mr. Jeremiah Montez, our Superintendent/Principal, has accepted a new position outside of education and will be leaving our school. His last day will be October 9, 2020. It is a significant professional opportunity and will provide a schedule that better meets the needs of his young, active family. We will miss him, especially since he has been with us since the very beginning as a founding member of our staff.

We appreciate all of Mr. Montez's efforts on behalf of our students and our school and wish him all the best as he embarks on this new path.

At the same time, I am very pleased to share with you that we have identified our new HFA: Alameda School leader -- and she may be very familiar to many of you!

Ms. Jessica Sanchez is excited to return to our school. She was also a founding member of our school community and preceded Mr. Montez as our Superintendent/Principal. She is passionate about art, design, and developing our students to create positive change in their community, now and in the future. For the past two years, Ms. Sanchez has worked as Chief of Staff for Cultural Productions. In this role, she strengthened her connections with cultural, community and government leaders and organizations, in San Antonio and beyond -- connections that she will bring to bear as our school leader. In accordance with the mandatory TEA process and timeline, she will serve in an interim position until the school's Board of Trustees can confirm her as the permanent person for the position.

To ensure a smooth transition of school educational programming and operations, Ms. Sanchez began working closely with Mr. Montez today and will continue to do so until his departure. This dynamic duo has picked their professional working relationship back up with ease and they share a laser-like focus on making sure that our students, their teachers and you are well-supported in this leadership change.

We know you will want to say goodbye to Mr. Montez and wish him well, meet or say hello to Ms. Sanchez, and perhaps ask questions about this transition. **All of our students and families are invited to a Zoom event on Thursday, October 8 at 5:30pm CST to do just that. (The link will be provided to all families early next week.)**

Ms. Sanchez is looking forward to reconnecting with families she knows from her prior tenure and meet our new community members. She will also schedule an individual meeting with each family in the upcoming weeks.

If you have questions about our school leader transition, please contact me directly at dparizek@hfli.org.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Deborah Parizek'.

Deborah Parizek
Executive Director & Board Secretary
Henry Ford Learning Institute

