



VILLANOVA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FOUNDED IN 1924 BY THE  
AUGUSTINIAN FATHERS AND BROTHERS

COED RESIDENTIAL AND DAY  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

August 18, 2021

Dear Villanova Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family had a terrific summer filled with many blessings and wonderful memories! We are delighted to be able to begin our 2021-22 school year in person on our beautiful Villanova Preparatory School campus.

As we begin this year, I want to express my gratitude to you for entrusting Villanova Prep with the education of your son or daughter. Our entire faculty and staff are committed to our partnership with you in the intellectual, spiritual, moral, social, and personal formation of your child. I hope and pray that this year will be filled with many joys and blessings for your child and for our Villanova community.

I wanted to share with you a few updates as we begin the school year:

**Covid Safety Guidelines:** Dr. Mallon sent a [letter](#) and [shared an outline](#) of our school's COVID safety protocols with students and families at the beginning of August. Faculty and staff are expected to wear masks in the classroom buildings and to follow all of the guidelines established by the [State of California](#). We want to ensure our campus is safe and these COVID prevention guidelines will help us to mitigate any risks related to the transmission of this disease. If a member of our community becomes infected with COVID, we will communicate this information promptly and with as much detail as we can provide.

**New Administration, Faculty, and Staff Members:** We are delighted to welcome the following new faculty and staff members to our community:

*Director of Admission:* After sixteen years as a mathematics teacher and Director of Admission, Tyler Hart announced in June that he accepted a position to work in Admissions and Financial Aid at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts. We will miss Mr. Hart's leadership and enthusiasm for Villanova and wish him well in this new and exciting step in his career. As a result of this news, we immediately began a search for a qualified candidate to assume the role of Director of Admission at our school. After reviewing and interviewing many candidates, we were delighted to hire *Jeff Natale* as our new Director of Admission.

Mr. Natale's family moved two years ago to Santa Barbara from the East Coast and was most recently the Director of Admission for the United States Performance Academy. Prior to his move, Jeff worked in Admissions for seven years at Milton Academy, a mixed boarding and day secondary school located in southern Massachusetts.

Jeff brings a lot of knowledge and experience in Admissions and I am confident that he will be successful in the important role of actively identifying and enrolling our future Villanova



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students. In addition, with five years as a minor league baseball player for the Red Sox and Yankees, he will also bring his knowledge and experience to assist with the player-athlete development on our baseball team.

*Tony Huang, Senior English Teacher:* Mr. Huang and his family have returned to the Ojai Valley after two years teaching English at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts. Prior to Cushing, Tony taught English locally at Besant Hill, Newbury Park High School (an IB school), and Sycamore Canyon School. He also taught for two years at the Four Seasons Academy in Taiwan. He received his BA from The John Hopkins University, an MA in Teaching from Pepperdine, and holds a California Teaching Credential in English.

*Kevin Brosten, Mathematics and IB Chemistry:* Mr. Brosten most recently taught multiple subjects at Wallace Elementary School in Lake Isabella and is happy to be returning to Ventura County to continue his passion for teaching. Kevin holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

*Andrew Mihailoff, Latin and IB Theory of Knowledge:* Mr. Mihailoff joins our faculty after four years as a professor of Latin at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania and four years as a Classics teacher at Scranton Preparatory School (also in Pennsylvania). Andrew has a BA in Classics from Penn State, a Masters degree in Latin, Greek, and Classical Studies from Bryn Mawr College, and a Masters Degree in Theology from Villanova University.

*Frank Williams, Systems Engineer:* With Adrian Hanna leaving our community to pursue a position at another company, we have hired Mr. Williams to assume the duties of supporting our technology at Villanova. Frank has many years of experience in technology with Best Buy, Disneyland, Angel Stadium, and most recently at St. Paschal Baylon in Thousand Oaks. Frank also has 17 years of experience working in parish youth ministry at St. Pascal Baylon and St. Jude the Apostle in Westlake Village. Frank will also be assisting Fr. Barnaby with Campus Ministry during the year.

With Mr. Yamauch, Ms. McLaughlin, and Mr. Curry moving on from the resident life program to pursue new opportunities in their lives, we have hired three new Resident Life Assistants in our dormitory this year: Maddie Fredette, Moriah Carrigee, and George Perry. You will find a brief summary of their background in this week's *Wildcat Weekly*.

**Athletics:** Football, girls' volleyball, girls' tennis, and boys' water polo practices are all underway this season and we look forward to seeing our student-athletes representing Villanova Prep in athletic competition. Please visit our [website](#) for updated information and team schedules and I look forward to seeing you out there cheering on our Wildcats!

The logo of Villanova Preparatory School is circular, featuring a central figure holding a cross and a book, surrounded by the text "SCHOLA VILLANOVA" at the top and "OCTOBER 1924 DE OJAI" at the bottom.

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*Football Update:* In early July, we hired a head football coach that was a perfect fit for our Villanova community. He was experienced, enthusiastic, and a good Christian man who was excited to lead our program. During the middle of July, he indicated that he experienced a medical issue and eventually we realized he would no longer be able to assume the head coaching duties for this season. As we actively look for a head coach to take over the leadership of the team, assistant coaches Andy Dalto and Ryan Connell have been leading practices since early August and preparing the team for their season opener in September. We look forward to football returning to the Villanova gridiron!

**Study Hall Period During the Day:** The Villanova rotation schedule expanded from seven to eight periods last year so that we can incorporate the Project Wayfinder SEL curriculum into the day. This year, the SEL curriculum will be integrated into other areas of the student's day and we will no longer have a dedicated period titled "Seminar". Instead, we have made the decision to have a dedicated "8th period" study hall for students to complete their academic responsibilities by giving them time to complete reading and writing assignments, research and compose reports, review their notes, prepare for class presentations, and study for assessments. With students involved in athletics and other extracurricular activities, we believe that students will benefit from the extended time during the class rotation schedule to focus on completing their assignments. This study hall time will fall once during the course of a two-day block rotation. Students will receive an explanation of the expectations during their first study hall period today.

**Back to School Night:** I hope that all of you will be able to join us for our Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 31. This is a terrific opportunity to meet your son or daughter's teachers and learn more about the courses your child will be taking this year. Parents are welcome to arrive between 5:30 - 5:50 and the evening will begin at 6:00 with Period A.

Please make sure you read the Wildcat Weekly on Fridays for important Villanova news and updates. In addition, I encourage you to join us for our monthly Parent Association meetings and become involved in planning and participating in the many events Villanova will host this year.

May God bless you and our Blessed Mother watch over you and your family this school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Grisin".

Brian Grisin  
Headmaster  
Villanova Preparatory School