



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

A U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School

July 29, 2017

Dear Family in Christ,

Greetings from Glen Carlyn Road! I have been in and out of the school building for one month, but this has been my first week of being here consistently. For the first week of July, I was in Spain with my sister. We were there to celebrate our friend's wedding and also made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, "La Moreneta." I prayed for you all there and placed the entire Corpus Christi family in the loving hands of Our Blessed Mother.

Once I returned to the United States, I began my studies at Marymount University in Arlington. I am currently enrolled in their Catholic School Leadership Program where I will receive my Masters in Administration and Supervision. I studied at Pace University in New York, where I am originally from, for my first Masters degree in Secondary Education. I discovered my passion for educating our youth after my pastor asked me to be a CCD teacher while I was in college and then began my teaching career as a middle school teacher. I have worked in a learning center serving students with special needs, and have also worked as a dean of students, assistant campus minister and high school science teacher before moving to Virginia. I have spent just over two years in the Diocese of Arlington, serving as an assistant principal at St. Mary School. During this time, I have grown to feel at home in this Diocese and admire its commitment to Catholic education.

Upon my arrival at Corpus Christi, I have been warmly welcomed by all. I consider myself very blessed to be working with such dedicated people. The school building is looking shinier every day in preparation for the opening of school. Equally, there has been much work in preparing for the school year. I have been fortunate to meet some of our teachers and am so grateful to be working with professionals who are devoted to offering our students an authentic Catholic education, one rooted in our faith in Christ which drives us to excel in all aspects of life.

As Principal of Corpus Christi School, I offer my work, prayers and sacrifices for this faith community that I am privileged to serve. I pray that every member may have a profound experience of the Father's personal love and establish a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our conviction of Our Creator's and Redeemer's love will move us to strive for holiness in all that we do: our studies, our work, our conversations, our physical and emotional presence for one another, and determination to follow the wisdom of the Spirit's guidance. As is often the case with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, He stirs about and causes some changes. Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Thedwall have relocated. We honor their sacrifice as military families and wish them well. Mrs. Zwerneman is moving, too, but just to the first floor as part of our dynamite office staff. Ms. Kenealy has accepted a position in another school closer to the Potomac, thereby shortening her commute. We wish her the best. We're fortunate to welcome Ms. Jaklitsch as our new Middle School math teacher,

who comes to us from the Archdiocese of Baltimore where she taught math and science. Ms. Jaklitsch has her Masters degree in Teaching and four years of teaching experience. Mrs. Scott has had a successful knee surgery last month and is on the road to recovery. Should any of you feel moved to offer your talents and assist us in imaging our student computers in the lab, while Mrs. Scott continues her rehabilitation, please contact Mrs. Doak at tdoak@corpuschristischool.org.

Mrs. Miller and I are continuing our efforts to build upon our team of teachers and welcome those who share our philosophy and demonstrate their classrooms are student-centered and meet the spiritual, academic, social and emotional needs of all.

With all this change comes great opportunity. As I look ahead to the school year that lies before us, I am filled with hope and enthusiasm. This year we choose the theme of "building up the Body of Christ" from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (chapter 4 verse 12). This inspiration points to the purpose of all our actions. We are intentional and forward-thinking in the way we form our students as disciples for Christ equipped with 21st century skills, ready to transform themselves and the world. We are partners in striving towards this mission. Please know how much I value our partnership. I look forward to seeing you at our Welcome Back Night on August 23rd from 5:30-9:30 p.m. either in the cafeteria while you are gathering your info or out on the field enjoying the picnic. Below is a flyer outlining the evening, as well as a flyer for our catered picnic which requires attendees to pre-order before August 15th. Within the next week, you will be receiving another School Messenger with more information on this and the first week of school.

<https://corpuschristischool.org/wp-content/uploads/Welcome-Back-Night-2017-mtr-TMD-NB-29Jul.pdf>

<https://corpuschristischool.org/welcome-back-school-picnic/>

Should you wish to discuss anything with me sooner, please give me a call or set up an appointment for a meeting. It would be my pleasure to greet you! I will keep you posted on more to come!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Ms. Nora Buçaj

PS – Please don't be intimidated by my last name. It's pronounced "Boo-chai," not too difficult, right?