

May 25, 2009

Dear Villa Academy Families,

Happy Memorial Day! I hope that your weekend and holiday provide a spectacular mix of relaxation and early summer fun. We are approaching the final countdown to the school year with three weeks remaining. These will be busy, productive weeks as the teachers and students solidify skills and content that will provide a foundation for the next grade level. As always, please continue to encourage your children to maintain their energy, focus and motivation all the way through June 12!

**Thank you!** Many thanks to our parents and employees for their cooperation with the “left-hand only turn” when leaving campus by the North gate. Additional kudos to our parent volunteers who have helped all of us “remember” to turn left by stationing themselves outside the gate. Our neighbors are most appreciative and so am I!

**Villa Academy Strategic Planning Update:** As we wind our way to the conclusion of the school year, we are also winding our way to the completion of Villa Academy’s next long-range, five-year plan. Periodically I have provided updates on the progress our Strategic Planning Committee is making with Ian Symmonds’ capable facilitation.

The process has gone very well and the Strategic Planning Committee and associated subcommittees will be completing their work before we dismiss for the summer. Many parents, former parents, staff members, and trustees have given selflessly of their time and talents to help us plan for the future. I appreciate their passion and dedication to the school and to the planning process. Villa Academy and our students have been extremely well served.

To date the Strategic Planning Committee has accomplished all of the following:

- Reviewing, understanding, analyzing, and using data gathered by Ian Symmonds from current members of our school community specific to the school’s demographics, brand attributes and differentiators, strengths and weaknesses, emotional and functional attributes, and factors influencing family decisions to enroll their children in the school.
- Reviewing, understanding, analyzing, and using data gathered by Ian Symmonds from community and neighborhood leaders about our school’s programs, people, physical plant, and product, to understand our image and reputation in the local and regional community.
- Determining the strengths that we want to build upon, as well as the areas for needed improvement as we embrace the future, to help us become more effective and make a positive difference for our students and others in the community.
- Building a “Positioning Platform” to focus our efforts over the next five years so that we can be highly intentional in developing strategic relationships and partnerships with local organizations that share similar missions and values, focusing on education, children, or the local community. This positioning concept will set the strategic direction for the school.
- Identifying priorities and outlining the foundation of the Strategic Plan. Subcommittees have developed initiatives, goals, and tactics to help us move

from the concept phase to the implementation phase, beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year.

The public launch of Villa Academy's Strategic Plan, 2009-2014, is planned for the fall, after the beginning of classes and subsequent to receiving the blessing of the Board of Trustees. In a very real sense, Villa Academy is writing the next chapter of its future with this plan. Armed with a solid decade of foundational work that has seen a successful PNAIS re-accreditation, the first major capital campaign, and the purchase of the buildings and grounds from the Sisters, Villa Academy is well poised for the future. This is an exciting moment for the school!

**Covered Play Structure Update:** We are thrilled that the new covered play area is nearing completion. If you have not been on a recent field trip to the second floor breezeway, you may want to check out the progress that has been made on the new structure. The construction is complete except for the installation of the Nova Court surface and a few other minor projects. We anticipate that it will be complete before graduation and have our fingers crossed that the eighth graders will be able to shoot hoops before they move on to high school.

Plans are in the works for an early September party to celebrate the completion of the project. Look for details in summer communiqués.

We are looking forward to a positive and smooth finish to what has been a great school year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

God Bless,

*Polly Skinner*  
Head of School