



June 21, 2019

Dear Friends of Aug Prep,

I am writing to share Dr. Alfonso Carmona, superintendent, has decided to leave St. Augustine Prep in order to return Chicago to be closer to his family. His last day will be June 30. This was truly his decision, and one our team and my family supports. As you know, one of our core pillars is family. And while his time with Aug Prep was truly transformative, his commitment to his family must come first. He has our deepest gratitude and respect, and both he and his family will always be special to us.

We have announced this news to our families and staff and issued a press release today. We will be also releasing some tremendous news. In just two years, enrollment at Aug Prep has grown from 560 students to 1,300 students expected for the 2019-20 school year. To support this growth, we continue to hire highly qualified teachers and are proud that 95 percent of our students and 90 percent of our staff are returning next year.

Moreover, the academic growth of our students is already leading national averages. As just one example, Aug Prep's middle school students grew 91 percent faster than the average national academic growth during both 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, and the elementary school students grew 24 percent faster than their peers across the country in both reading and math. High school students continue to perform at exceptional levels as well, with 9th grade students growing their composite scores by a rate of 3.1 points compared to the national norm of 1.0 point per year. Further, our 10th grade students improved composite ACT scores by 4.2 points in two years compared to a national average of two points.

These results would not have been possible without the incredible leadership of Dr. Carmona and our experienced team of academic and administrative leaders. Nor would they have been possible without the tremendous engagement of our students' families and the continued support of friends like you.

As we move forward, Abby Ramirez Andrietsch has agreed to serve as interim president of Aug Prep. As you may know, Abby has extensive experience in education and led the merger of Schools that Can Milwaukee with Partners Advancing Values in Education (PAVE) before stepping away to spend more time with her family. While she has chosen to not be a candidate for the permanent position, Abby will lead the school and the national search for its next leader. Given the incredible growth and success over just the past two years, we will be elevating the role from superintendent to school president. This is in recognition of the increasing responsibilities that come with leading a growing, high impact, K-12 school community.

Best,

Gus Ramirez

