



MOTHER MCAULEY

Liberal Arts High School

3737 W. 99th Street, Chicago, IL 60655

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This afternoon, I met with junior level students who are interested in applying to be Little School teachers for the 2016-2017 school year to inform them of revisions that will be made to the Child Psychology class and Little School program next year. I would like to share the same information with you.

For over 35 years, Little School has provided our senior students an unparalleled experiential learning opportunity where they learn critical child development concepts and master teaching skills that they immediately put into practice in the preschool classroom. In the process, our students earn college credit as they learn more about their talents and interests in the field of child development and education. Our Little School teaching alumnae have graduated to become teachers, special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, pediatric nurses, pediatric occupational or physical therapists, school counselors, and child psychologists.

Currently, Little School utilizes space in the East wing of our campus. Beginning in June of 2016, we are unable to continue use of this space. This, coupled with decreasing enrollment due to preschool programs at Catholic grammar schools in the area, has required us to carefully evaluate our current course offerings. After much consideration and in partnership with Saint Xavier University and our area Catholic grammar schools, Mother McAuley is pleased to announce an expansion and enhancement to Little School.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we will expand our Little School program by partnering with several area Catholic grammar schools, all within an approximate three-mile radius, which are thrilled to welcome our students as preservice teachers in their preschool and primary level classrooms. These schools include: Christ the King, Most Holy Redeemer, Queen of Martyrs, St. Barnabas, St. Cajetan, St. Catherine, St. Christina, St. Gerald, St. John Fisher, St. Linus, with the potential for more. In these locations, our students will provide small group instruction to students, perform classroom observations, and will act as a preservice teacher, similar to college-level requirements of student teachers.

For the schedule, the class will remain a double-period class. Our students will have "lecture" at McAuley on Mondays and Thursdays and will be in their assigned field placement on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We will align class time to our students' schedules to ensure they will have ample time to safely travel to and from their field placements without worry of being late for their next class. We recognize transportation may be a challenge for some of our students, and we will do everything we can to organize car pools and field time to allow all accepted students this opportunity. We realize this expansion may elicit more questions about logistics and scheduling. I ask for your patience as we continue to work out the details with our students, teachers, and partnering schools.

In closing, as an alumna teacher of Little School and now principal who oversees its curriculum and implementation, I remain deeply committed to the program's continuation. I am grateful for your support and partnership as we seek innovative ways to advance our young women.

Sincerely,

Ms. Eileen Boyce
Principal