



## PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Kimberly Diorio  
*Principal*

August 1, 2013

Dear Paly Students and Families,

As your new principal, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013-2014 school year! It is an honor and privilege to serve the Paly community in this dynamic role. Having spent the past six years as an assistant principal at Paly, I've come to truly appreciate and love the culture, history, traditions, and most importantly, the people, that make the Paly community so special and unique. I look forward to working collaboratively with our parent and student body as we embark upon this exciting school year.

For those of you who are interested in learning more about me... I was born and raised in New Fairfield, Connecticut, the oldest of three siblings. Education is in my blood. My father, a retired school administrator and former Marine Corps Captain, spent 33 years in public education. In addition, my uncle was my high school principal (which made for a unique high school experience, to say the least). I attended college and graduate school at Villanova University, while also working as a social worker with a foster care agency in inner city Philadelphia. I knew from an early age that I wanted to work in a "helping profession," which is why I chose to become a school counselor. I cherished the opportunity to work directly with adolescents to support their learning and their social-emotional well-being in the classroom.

After completing my master's degree, I moved back to Connecticut and spent the next 7 years working as a school counselor in the town of Weston (which, like Palo Alto, is well regarded as a high performing school district). Then in 2005, my husband and I permanently relocated to the Bay Area so he could pursue a new position with Google. We currently live in Mountain View with our two young daughters, Katie and Jane (whom you will undoubtedly see at most Paly home football games). I'm proud of "my little Vikes!"

As a parent, I appreciate how we all want the best for our children. This is why I'd like to assure you that, as your new principal, I will continue Paly's long tradition of always putting our students first. Among other things, this means ensuring that every child feels the "Three C's": *Connected, Capable*, and that they *Count*.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you better over this next school year. The good wishes and warm welcomes that I've received from our community thus far have been heartening and inspirational. For that, I am extremely grateful and will do my utmost to successfully lead Palo Alto High School for many years to come.

In the meantime, if you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to send me an email at [kdiorio@pausd.org](mailto:kdiorio@pausd.org). I will do my best to respond within 24-48 hours. If you would like to make an appointment to talk in person, please contact my administrative assistant, Carolyn Benfield (650-329-3831 or [cbenfield@pausd.org](mailto:cbenfield@pausd.org)), who can help us coordinate calendars. Or if you simply want a glimpse into the inner workings at Paly, follow me on Twitter ([@KimberlyDiorio](https://twitter.com/KimberlyDiorio)).

Thank you again Palo Alto High School for this opportunity. And most importantly, welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. Go Vikings!

Fondly,

Kim Diorio  
Principal