



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Tonight, as we celebrate at The Studio School's 48th Annual Gala, we especially highlight and appreciate the qualities of our school that make us one in a million. Studio embodies the gift and strength of relationships, valuing the spirit, creativity, and collaboration of all the members of our community. With grace and generosity, our founders and Board of Trustees, parents and grandparents, alumni, family and friends, teachers and students, administrators and staff, continually energize and further our mission, and the sustainability of our school. Our philosophy is founded on deep respect for oneself and others, inclusion, diversity, tolerance and compassion, with a sense of joy in learning and life.

Every number, like every person, has identity and properties that have value. Mathematics is a symbolic language that can seem magical, yet brings together patterns, properties, sequences, and is a method for how to think about quantities of relationships and how values relate. However, a numeral, by itself, has no real value until you relate it to other numbers. For example, the quality of a number remains unknown until it is part of an equation that is designed for pondering. In solving an equation, rather than just finding the right answer, it takes curiosity, an open mind, and freedom to see things in new ways.

It All Adds Up—we are indeed one in a million, and there are millions of ideas, thoughts, feelings, materials, and communications that become part of the process of learning through The Studio School Approach. Our How-To-Learn curriculum and Uniquely Studio classes are specifically designed to facilitate this learning process, whereby students bring their experiences and knowledge to produce meaningful work. The growth of our students is often more than we can predict or quantify. Beginning with our Toddlers and through the Middle School, until the day of graduation, each student is seen and taught with the utmost care and thought. Guided masterfully by their teachers, students integrate their studies into transformative experiences that are creative and profound. Simultaneously, our students learn to explore who they are, their role as a member of a group, knowing what effect they have on each other, and the power of the group as a whole.

Studio graduates are prepared for the next step in their academic life, owning their education with a strong sense of who they are, a mastery of how to learn, and a keen awareness of what it means to be constructive, and collaborate in a group. To continue Adding It Up, with the exponential growth of their learning, they move on ready to actively contribute to their school community and the world at large. One graduate, describing a struggle with math, said, "The moment where all of the hard work came together and everything I knew integrated, was a miraculous feeling—each number and concept, like singers with individually tuned voices, coming together to create a symphony."

It All Adds Up, and moreover we are more than the sum of our parts, more than what we study, more than who we are, more than how we learn—each of us and all of us, together and apart, working to manifest what is kind good, and positive. Whether one, or one in a million, we embrace our common bonds to come together with determination, courage, and hope, inspiring a flowering of humanity—a beacon for education.

Counting on us...with warmest wishes,

Janet C. Rotter