NEW TO TOWN

MEET THE NEW HEAD OF THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

It was the chance to lead The Village School that brought Katherine Brewer back to the U.S. after more than a decade of working abroad.

"It was not on my horizon," said Brewer, who took over as head of school in July for the ages 2 through grade 12 private school. "I hadn't pictured myself back in the States."

Brewer replaced Gabriella Rowe, who is now CEO of the startup incubator Station Houston. The Village School's proximity to the Energy Corridor and a student body of about 1,700 that draws from more than 60 countries made it an appealing opportunity, Brewer said. Brewer moved to Houston with her 8-year-old twin sons, both in second grade at The Village School.

Now a few months on the job, Brewer is looking for ways to ensure the private school in west Houston is using every inch of space and every minute of the school day in the most effective way possible.

While Brewer said the school already has "great partnerships" with institutions such as MIT and The Juilliard School through its parent company Nord Anglia Education and a "cool curriculum," Brewer said she wants to focus on efficiency.

The school is doing an audit across campus with Boston-based architecture firm Flansburgh Architects to study how space is used and figure out where the need is for improvements and upgrades as part of a master plan. In January 2018, the school completed a new $33 million athletic complex with indoor pool and an on-campus dorm that boards about 200 high school students.

Tuition ranges from $19,925 a year for the pre-K classes to about $28,000 a year for grade 12. To live on campus costs about $65,000 annually, and that includes tuition, room and board, uniforms, a laptop, insurance and activities.