August 2, 2019

Dear Henderson Elementary Families,

Our entire staff hopes that you had a fun, safe and restful summer with your family and friends.

I know that I am truly excited to be apart of our Henderson Elementary community! In a lot of ways, I feel like I am returning home. For those of you who may not already know, I am a Colorado native and my parents moved to Henderson from Arvada in 1984 where I attended Henderson Elementary as a 4th and 5th student myself. I grew up just down the road on Oakland Street and I attended both Vikan Middle School and Overland Trail Middle School before graduating from Brighton High School in 1992.

I worked in the transportation industry for fourteen years when at the age of 35, I decided to pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher, just like my mom who taught Art at North Junior High and Overland Trail Middle School before retiring after thirty five years. I obtained my teaching license in elementary education and my Master’s Degree in Curriculum & Instruction through an intensive alternative teaching program before being assigned to a 1st grade classroom in the Adams 12 School District. While in Adams 12, I worked as a 1st, 2nd and 5th Grade teacher at Coronado Hills Elementary before obtaining my Principal’s License and working toward a more dedicated administrative role.

Since then, I have worked with adult students as a Field Director and Clinical Professor with the Boettcher Teacher Residency and Adams State University. More recently however, I have worked as an Instructional Specialist at the District’s Educational Services Center and as the Assistant Principal at Second Creek Elementary in 27J before arriving back here at our wonderful school.
Henderson Elementary is such a special place! It has a rich and interesting history and so many of our staff members and parents, past and present have a special connection to this school. For example, my favorite 5th Grade Teacher Ms. Landers still volunteers here on a regular basis and we recently reconnected after thirty-five years! Linda loves this place and it is people like her and you who make this school special for our entire community and our students!

If you are able and interested in volunteering your time or if you have any ideas that you think would be great for our school, please contact myself, your child’s teacher, our front office or our wonderful P.T.O. President, Ms. Jen Gamble at jengamble1@gmail.com.

Our entire staff is amazing and we will continue to work on gaining the clarity that we need this year to ensure that we continue to move our school forward in a positive direction! For example this year, our teachers’ will work on using data on a regular basis to inform the way in which they differentiate their instructional delivery and planning. School-wide, we will also have a Social and Emotional goal dedicated to establishing positive relationships with our students, staff and our extended community.

If you have any questions about our school’s academic or social and emotional goals this year, or if you would like to participate in future meetings dedicated to the on-going development of our Unified Improvement Plan, please feel free to contact me or the office to arrange a meeting in-person or by phone.

We have an “open door” policy here at Henderson and we value your ideas and feedback. We value the idea of family and community and the idea that we are better together! There is some important information for you to consider below. Please remember that you can access our District and our school’s website to get any additional information that you may need regarding your child’s particular needs.
Henderson Elementary School
Vision: Inspiring ALL Students to Wonder, Explore, Grow and Embrace Challenges!
School Motto: Be the Difference!

Assessment Days

This year and District wide, we will not schedule student assessment days like we have in previous years. Instead, your child’s teacher along with their teammates will work on completing their initial assessments during the school day and over the course of the first two weeks of school. Contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions about your child’s assessments.

Back To School Night is Thursday, Aug 8th between 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm
The first day of school for grades K - 5th is Tuesday, Aug. 13th 7:45 am-3:30pm.

The Parent Portal in IC has been unlocked and you can now log in and view your child(s) teacher assignments you are free to “come and go” anytime during this “open house” window. If you do not have your Parent Portal account set up yet, contact the office so they can help you set it up. This is a great time for you and your child to meet their teachers, our staff and spend time getting to know our wonderful school. We will have additional informational booths set up in the school for your reference as well.

Be on the “look out” for future letters and notifications from our office regarding upcoming events and important dates!

I know that if we commit to inspire each other to “Wonder, to Explore, to Grow and to Embrace the Challenges” that we will face this year with an open mind and a collective spirit, I know that our school will be successful. Together, let’s “Be the Difference” that continues to make our school a positive, collaborative, fun and inclusive learning environment for each other, our students and our entire Henderson community.
Thank you for your on-going support! Once again, if you have any feedback, comments or questions about our school, please feel free to stop by. I’d love to meet you!

See you soon!

Sal Conca
Principal
Henderson Elementary
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Ms. Landers & Me!