

August 19, 2013

Dear Howard Families,

I hope you all have had a relaxing and pleasant summer! I am very much looking forward to working with everyone and having another great year at Howard Elementary School!

One exciting announcement for this school year is that with the passage of the School District Facilities Bond, Howard will be getting a brand new building that is scheduled to open fall 2015! Construction will begin at the end of this school year behind our current building, but beginning this fall will be opportunities for families, students and staff to provide input on the new school design. Look for more information coming soon as the public input sessions are scheduled!

Another announcement I am pleased to make is that Howard will be providing students with more PE and Music specialist time this year. We will have a music specialist for the first half of the year, with all classes getting music at least twice a week. The second half of the year we will have a PE specialist, with all classes getting PE at least twice a week. Howard is also very lucky in that we are getting a pair of highly skilled PE and Music specialists who are actually the district leaders for their specialty areas.

We have several new staff members who I'd like to introduce to you. Please join me in welcoming Carrie Davis (Learning Center), Jen Kirkwood (Comprehensive Learning Center), Robin Vaughan (Title 1 Coordinator), Cyria Wisner (Title 1 EA), James Grubic (Technology Support Specialist), Rachel Farkas (PE), and David Adey (Music). Carrie Davis, our new LC teacher, was previously the learning center teacher at Edison. Jen Kirkwood, our new CLC teacher, has previously taught special education at Edison, Spencer Butte and Corridor/YG. Robin Vaughan isn't new to Howard, but new to her position as our Title 1 Coordinator. Besides previously teaching kindergarten at Howard, Robin has also been a Title 1 teacher and a Title 1 Coordinator. This year we added two new Title 1 EA positions to provide more intervention groups. Cyria Wisner, who has previously worked at Howard as a Title EA, is filling one of the positions and the other position is still yet to be filled. James Grubic will be our new TSS and is also the lead TSS for the entire North Region. And finally, our specialists for the year will be Rachel Farkas for PE and David Adey for Music. Both Rachel and David have a long history of teaching at the PE and Music at the elementary level and will bring much to their programs. We are still in the process of hiring a kindergarten teacher, a Title 1 EA, and a reading & math intervention teacher, so look for an announcement soon about these positions. We are lucky to have all of these wonderful new folks so please make them feel welcome as they acclimate themselves to our school!

Please read all of the attached important information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, email or stop by.

Howard staff and I are looking forward to seeing you all and to working together to provide the best possible education for your children. Here's to another great school year!

Sincerely,

Allan Chinn, Principal

