

August 23, 2016

Dear Howard Families,

I hope you've all had a fabulous summer! We here at school are looking forward to seeing you soon and to having another great year at Howard Elementary School! It's been an eventful summer for Howard. Our old building came down in July and construction of our new playground and parking lot are now taking shape. The office opens Tuesday, August 23rd, though the parking lot may not be finished at that point. For access to the office, families can currently use in the bus loop for parking. Look for signs as to where to park. For updates on the new school and other activities, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



We have several new staff members who I'd like to introduce. Ashely Pond (2nd grade) is returning to Howard, taking the place of Erin Gaston, who is moving into a Title 1 teaching position. Ashley taught 3rd grade for several years at Howard, then at ATA, and most recently at Gilham. Matt Robinson (Counselor) comes to us from New Jersey where he was a middle school counselor and takes the place of Jennifer Harris. Siera Kaup (Music) did her student teaching with our prior music teacher, David Adee, which will provide some nice continuity for our music program. Katie Gates (Learning Center) is moving from her educational assistant position into a part-time Learning Center teacher position. Howard's reputation as a great school is continuing to grow, which means more families are choosing to come here, and as a result of that, the superintendent has added staffing to lower class sizes for our 4th and 5th graders. We'll be adding a 4/5 blend that will be taught by Stephanie Peterson, who job shared a 4/5 blend here at Howard last year. Stephanie was originally going to teach a job share with Allison Kreider at 3rd grade, so we will be hiring a replacement for that position. We're also in the process of hiring a job-share partner at 4th grade to work with Amber Frank, who is taking a part-time leave. With more space in our new building, we're excited to announce that Howard is the new home to the first district sponsored preschool program in Eugene. In the first grade wing, we'll have our very own preschool that being funded through the ODE Preschool Promise grant. Gretchen Baxter was hired as the preschool teacher. She previously taught Head Start at LCC and before that was a kindergarten teacher and a special education teacher. I think Howard may have the strongest instructional staff in all of 4J, so please welcome these fine new staff members as they join the Howard Elementary School family!

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Chinn".

Allan Chinn, Principal