

May 2021

Dear Kellogg Marsh Staff, Students, and Families,

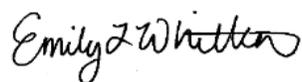
I am honored to serve as the new Principal at Kellogg Marsh Elementary beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Learning about the Kellogg Marsh community has brought me joy and hope. I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to hear your stories. I hope to share a little bit about my story with you, so that you will know who I am and what I value.

I grew up in Chicago, Illinois (yes this makes me a Cubs fan 😊). My love for learning began in fifth grade, when my teacher taught me to dream big and work hard to achieve goals. Moving to Bellevue, Washington in high school, I continued my love of learning as I participated in the Teaching Academy, setting goals to become an educator. As a college student at Seattle Pacific University, I found my passion for cultivating student voice in my teaching internship in South Seattle. After I graduated, I worked in Guatemala City for a summer, learning Spanish while immersing myself in another culture. I returned to Bellevue and taught 4th-6th grades for nine years. I completed my administrative internship and earned my Masters of Educational Leadership and Principal Certificate from Seattle Pacific University in June of 2014. As I shifted from teacher to administrator, I brought the lens of teacher and developed a vision of shared leadership. For three years I served as the Assistant Principal of Woodridge Elementary School: developing a strong Positive Behavior Supports and Intervention (PBIS) program. For the past four years, I've been the Assistant Principal at Ardmore Elementary School, a Title 1 school. I have led teams in creating an equitable, inclusive, student-centered learning community. This past year I have been the lead in-person administrator, as my principal worked virtually.

During these seven years as an assistant principal, I have raised two sons with my husband, Jordan. Lucas is 8 and in third grade, and Judah is 6 and in first grade. Outside of school I enjoy riding my bike, playing games with my boys, exploring the Pacific Northwest, reading, and entertaining family and friends. Also, I am a die-hard Seahawks fan!

I value building positive relationships by creating space for people to be seen and heard. My first priority is to listen and learn about the Kellogg Marsh community and each of you. I hope to learn more about the important parts of your stories: your families, cultures, interests and things that are important to you. I am excited to hear how I can build on the strengths of the school and support all learners. I look forward to partnering with you to positively impact the Kellogg Marsh Community.

With optimism and excitement,



Mrs. Emily Whitten

