

## New Year... Big Changes

Dear FMIS Families,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and officially welcome all of you to the 2022-2023 school year! My name is Jake Kelly and I am your principal at FMIS. This is my 10th year in education and 8th in Anaconda. I was born and raised in Butte, Montana where I attended Greeley Elementary School, East Middle School, and graduated from Butte High School in 2008. After high school, I began attending college at Montana Tech where I was majoring in Metallurgical Engineering. After three semesters at Tech, I realized engineering just wasn't for me. I knew I wanted to have a positive impact on someone's life and help people, so I transferred to the University of Montana Western in Dillon to become a teacher. At Western, I majored in Secondary Education English and graduated with honors in December 2012. I then taught in Eureka, MT and was a wrestling and golf coach, before moving to Anaconda in 2015. After several years of teaching, I went back to school where I received my master's degree in Educational Leadership in May of 2018 from the American College of Education. I previously taught junior and senior English, coached golf and wrestling, was an assistant principal for grades 3-12, the district testing coordinator, junior high athletic director, and the winter sports announcer while in Anaconda.

I married my amazing wife, Erin (Heaney) Kelly eight years ago. We were married in St. Peter's Church in Anaconda and our reception was at the Anaconda Country Club. Erin works at the Community Hospital of Anaconda in Administration. This past May 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 6th birthdays of our twin boys, Declan Leo and Oscar McKittrick Kelly. They are attending 1st Grade at Lincoln Primary. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 2nd birthday of our little girl, Sloane Alice Kelly. We also have an eight year-old Corgi, Gus. We could not be prouder to be their parents and we love raising our kids in Anaconda.

This is my second year being principal and I couldn't be more excited. I am so grateful to be back at FMIS and plan on continuing to lead our school culture through LOC, which stands for Love Our Copperheads/Love Our Community. In this school I believe in building each other up and working together to achieve our goals to be successful. This falls right in line with the Eight Keys of Excellence. I also believe in helping others and giving back to our community who do so much for our schools throughout the district. I am looking forward to helping improve our school and continue moving forward in a positive direction. We also have some big changes to our school this year. We are no longer switching classes for the 5th and 6th grade. We strongly feel that this will be more beneficial for our students and we will see more gains and less disruptions to their day. The 6th grade will have an AM and PM teacher along with their specials to help them adjust to switching classes to prepare them for junior high. Another change you will notice is that our 3rd grade will begin using standards-based grading for their report cards and assessments. We look to add this for all grades in the coming years, but will start this year with 3rd grade and move forward. This is to have more alignment within our elementary schools and help us understand where our students are with their understanding of common core standards. We believe this will help our students grow holistically and improve their academic and social emotional well-being.

We are also going to be using the **Seesaw App** to improve our communication with families, and to, again, have more alignment within our elementary schools. This will be our primary tool for sending out information, so please make sure you download the app and your

child's classroom to your phone so you don't miss out on any information being sent out. We are really excited about these changes and look forward to a great year working hard and building relationships with our students. I hope you have enjoyed your summer activities and your child is excited about the upcoming school year that begins **August 29th. Open House is the 25th from 3:30-6:30pm.** This will be a time for you to come meet your child's teachers and learn more about our school. We are looking forward to a great year.

On behalf of the Fred Moodry Intermediate Staff, we are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children achieve the high expectations we will bestow upon them this academic year. A strong partnership between the home and school is key to your child's success. We ask that you support our efforts of LOC by helping your child:

- Attend school regularly, and arrive on time
- Complete all assignments
- Follow ALL the school rules
- Share positive school experiences
- Understand the importance of respect and kindness
- Read at least 15 minutes, and practice math facts every night
- Have a regular bedtime schedule

We have a few changes in personnel this year. Mrs. Baker has moved to fourth grade and we have some familiar faces coming to us from Lincoln along with a few new faces as well. Please help me give a warm welcome to:

- Fourth Grade: Aaron Saltenberger
- Fifth Grade: Kelsey Deeks
- Librarian: Claire Lind
- Asst. Cook: Marianne Maes Wood

Our teachers have spent the summer preparing for the arrival of our students. They have taught summer school courses, attended professional development training, and are prepared to implement many new strategies to differentiate the instruction for all of our students' needs. Our teachers have been working hard in preparing their classrooms and lesson plans that promise to make for another exciting and productive year at FMIS. A great big thank you to our school's team of Matt, Brian, Wyatt, Bill, Dawn, and Kellie; who have worked diligently to prepare our school for the beginning of the new school year.

Enclosed in this packet are the Emergency Information Card, lunch form, technology use form, volunteer form, bus routes, student schedules, supply lists, and several other important forms you will need for this upcoming school year. Please sign and return your forms to the main office as soon as possible, or have your child bring them on the first day to turn into their teacher.

As always, my door is open, and I invite you to drop by to ask questions, share concerns, or volunteer. I am happy and eager to talk about LOC, our school, and the children we share. Let's work together to make your child's school experience a memorable and positive one. LOC!

Sincerely,

Jake Kelly

Principal FMIS

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