Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Koogler Middle School,

As the new school year begins, I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little about me personally

and professionally. My name is Brenda L. McNeal. I was born and raised here in San Juan County and

come from a farming family who lived in Blanco. I graduated from Bloomfield High School and went on to college at NMSU where I met and married my husband.

I have been with the Aztec Municipal School District for the last 7 years as an assistant principal at Aztec

High School. For a brief time, I served as interim principal at Aztec High School and was then asked to

accept the job as the principal of Koogler Middle School. Prior to my time at AHS, I was a teacher for the

Farmington Municipal School District for a period of 24 years. I feel that my experience will be beneficial

and worthwhile as I assume the role of principal at Koogler Middle School. I hope to continue a tradition of excellence for the school.

My goal for all students is to prepare them for the future and to make sure that they realize how

important they are in creating a better and brighter future. Realizing that these young people have

experienced much hardship these last few years, it is important that they are aware that they can become more resilient and responsible young adults with our help and support. Education is a very special privilege and a gift that students must learn to value and appreciate.

Beginning a transition to middle school is going to be a challenge that I am willing to undertake with the help from community and parents. One of the first items I would like to address is teaching the young

people that RESPECT for each other, for their teachers and for the school is a top priority. That respect

must come in the form of communication that allows a student to disagree without being disrespectful

and that communicating within the school setting with appropriate dialogue is an expectation. Educators, in turn, will respect students and their communication with students will be an example for

them to follow. My belief is that once this is established, the ability for better classroom management

and classroom teaching will improve. My hope is that teachers, parents and community will support

this first and very important initiative.

My next request may seem a little out of the ordinary, but will help us with discipline and hopefully make students aware that we want them to live healthy lives. Vapes and vaping have become one of the most recurring issues and if you can be more cognizant of what your student has in their backpack, that would help the school and prevent your child from getting into trouble.

The next few things are just information about lunch. We have a new lunch service and they have assured us that students WILL NOT run out of food. You can access their information at <https://aztecschools.nutrislice.com/> This service will also provide all food items for the school and as such, we are asking that you use this service should you want to do something extra for your student’s class, etc. (For instance, you may want cupcakes for a birthday; we are encouraging parents to use this food service). Outside food will be discouraged so please be aware of this minor change.

In addition, ID’s will be required to be worn on campus at all times and once the students ID’s have been made on the first day of school, the busses will eventually require them to be worn as well. If they lose their ID, the first one is free and the next one is $5.00. We appreciate your help in making sure your student wears their ID on a daily basis.

The last thing I would like to request is that you remind students about cell phones. I know that you want them to be able to contact them for emergency purposes, but we will still confiscate them if they are being used in school. The only time it is permissible for them to be out is after school.

Future endeavors will stem from what is needed to make sure that students have the best education

they can possibly obtain and prepare them for the high school setting. We MUST provide our students

the necessary skills for them to be successful at the high school level and successful adults. This is NOT

an option. There is not a more important job, in my estimation, than teaching and reaching our most

important assets – our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as principal of Koogler Middle School!

*Brenda L. McNeal*

Principal Koogler Middle School

Aztec New Mexico

505-334-6102 ext. 1610

*Inspired, Safe and Fulfilled*