

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Dear Griffin Family,

As I sit down to write to you, my heart is brimming with gratitude and a touch of bittersweet emotion. It is with a mix of excitement and reluctance that I share some news about the next chapter in my professional journey. I have been presented with an opportunity for next year to take on a teaching and learning position at the Central Office. While I am excited about this new chapter in my career, it is also with a heavy heart that I contemplate leaving behind the students, staff and families whom I have grown to love and respect deeply.

One of the aspects of West Hills STEM Academy that I am most proud of is the incredible team of teacher leaders and staff leaders that make this school truly exceptional. Our LEadER team, with its unwavering commitment to our mission, has been the backbone of our success, driving innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement in everything we do. I have complete confidence that the team we have will work with incoming administration to continue the excellence that is West Hills.

I am particularly proud of the way we've embraced the RCA's Five Houses and One School concept. The work we've done to cultivate a positive culture and climate within these houses has been truly remarkable.

To lead us into our future, Naval Avenue Elementary Principal Kimberly Powell and Mountain View Middle School Principal Carre Potis will be transitioning to West Hills STEM Academy as co-principals beginning in the fall of 2024.

Mrs. Powell has served as the principal at Naval since fall of 2022. She has experience teaching grades K-6 in both whole-class and Title/LAP roles in the South Kitsap School District. Prior to joining the Bremerton School District, she served as Executive Director of Learning Improvement and an elementary principal in the Pioneer School District.

Ms. Potis began her educational career as a math and leadership teacher at Keithley Middle School in the Franklin Pierce School District. She also taught 6th grade for four years at Meeker Elementary in Puyallup. She joined the Bremerton School District in 2018 as Assistant Principal at Mountain View and was named principal in the fall of 2020.

As I reflect on my time at West Hills STEM Academy, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of such an extraordinary community. While I may be stepping into a new role, please know that I carry with me the lessons, memories, and connections forged during my time here. I am proud and grateful to have been one of the many leaders at West Hills STEM Academy, and I am confident that the legacy of excellence we have built together will continue to flourish in the years to come, preparing our Griffins to thrive.

Thank you for the memories, the support, and the incredible journey we've shared. I am proud and grateful to be part of this extraordinary school family and look forward to every minute of the rest of this year spent together.

Sincerely,

Teneka Morley-Short
Principal
West Hills STEM Academy