



HENRY M. JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

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June 29, 2020

Dear Timberwolf Community,

It is with great enthusiasm to serve you as principal beginning July 1. I most recently served as the principal of Everett HS for the last four years. My connection to Everett Public Schools goes back further than that, both my sons whom are grown now, are products of EPS and have been built on that solid foundation as they pursued their post high school dreams.

My professional background has provided me with a variety of experiences in the education world, and I am eager to take this leadership role at Jackson, to continue the great work that has been done already, and take it to the next level. I earned my Bachelors of Science in English and American Literature with a minor in French Literature from the University of California, a Masters in Teaching from Seattle University, and my administrative and program certification through the Danforth program at the University of Washington. My work experience consists of, 18 years as a classroom teacher, 8 years as an Instructional Designer for AP and APEX Learning, 7 years writing test items for the SAT, and 13 years as a College Board consultant and trainer. I am confident that I possess the required qualifications to help our teachers develop an instructional approach that meets the needs of all our students with the goal of ensuring that each student finds success, in high school and beyond.

During my career, I have provided a wide variety of professional development for teachers both in our district and in districts across the nation, as well as for teachers in a number of international schools across the globe. Working with such a wide range of teachers. It has reinforced my belief that strong instruction is at the heart of all that we do. I have led a number of innovative programs that have led to a significant improvement in student achievement while maintaining an equitable program. My work includes the creation and implementation of a highly successful literacy program, with total curricular alignment, and the preparation of our teachers to provide the differentiated instruction that is necessary for students to succeed both in their classes and in external measures like state and national exams.

In addition to training teachers in my district and across the nation, I authored several publications related to instructional design, including a pre-AP textbook intended to invite more students to take rigorous courses, and close reading and analytical writing curriculum for College Board. I have worked with numerous school districts and large educational institutions on improving instruction and growing Advanced Placement and other programs with a focus on equity and access for all students.

I believe that now more than ever that a principal can truly have a significant impact on building a culture of belonging for all students, and that a strong leader can facilitate positive growth with teachers as everyone embraces the mission of preparing each and every student for success in college, career, and life. I am excited about what we can do for our students, and I will work to facilitate a systems approach by creating true equity and access for all students. This will begin with a focus on building positive relationships with students and staff, as people learn best when they feel valued and heard. I have always believed that education is first and foremost a matter of social justice, and I will work every day to support the work that honors that deeply held belief.

I am eager and excited to begin my work at Jackson, I look forward to working with this outstanding community. We will work together, as we face the unprecedented challenges that are ahead of us. I am confident that we will face the challenges together and ultimately prevail as we work to meet the academic needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Lance Balla, Principal