



June 16, 2017

Dear Madison families,

One thing we know about this time of the year in schools is that there are always changes. That is certainly true for Madison Elementary too. As many of you know, Ms. Gilmore is relocating and we wish her the best at her new school. We also wish the best to families who are relocating over the summer months. Thank you for being a part of the Madison community.

An exciting change for me is I was recently selected to be the new principal at Madison Elementary School and I am super excited to address the Madison community as your new principal. Let me share some highlights about my personal interests and diverse professional experiences.

I grew up in Sarasota, Florida and went to Florida state universities (Seminoles and Gators). In 2009, my husband and I honeymooned in Seattle and we knew we had to move to this beautiful state. So, we packed up all our belongings, including our big dog, and drove 2800 miles to start our life here. Prior to our arrival, I applied, interviewed, and was selected to be the assistant principal at Everett High School. I brought my many years of experience as an assistant principal, dean of discipline, and chemistry teacher in Orlando to Everett Public Schools. In addition to experiences at EHS, I assisted administrators at Silver Lake Elementary, Heatherwood Middle School, and Eisenhower Middle School.

My passions are many. I love animals, music, films, children, hiking these beautiful mountains, reading, and water sports. But most of all, I love spending time with family and friends.

My goal for Madison is simple: to make this the best community school in Washington. I want your kids to be inspired and excited to come to school every day. If they are not, I want to know it! I have high expectations for both students and staff. I strongly believe in rigorous and engaging lessons and I think students and teachers alike should work hard and have fun while doing it.

We have all heard the phrase *communication is the key to success*. I plan to frequently communicate with parents and address key areas: culture, curriculum, and coming soon.

Culture

We will be teaching Growth Mindset at Madison this year, a powerful life-changing practice that focuses on the belief that everyone can grow their brain power through persistence and a positive attitude.

Positives school cultures are the result of deliberate practices that increase emotional and physical safety. My first responsibility as your child's principal is to ensure this safety. If you have concerns about anything at school, please contact me or your child's teacher so we can address concerns.

You will want to check out the culture section of my newsletter for current culture themes at Madison.

Curriculum

We have a very exciting change this year in our literacy program. Everett Public Schools adopted the *Reach for Reading* instructional materials by National Geographic. This is an innovative program, backed by top research in the field of early childhood literacy. *Reach for Reading* incorporates social studies and science throughout, and addresses the Common Core skills your children need to be successful in school now and later. If you a chance this summer, sit down with your child and Google *Reach for Reading* so you both can become familiar with and excited about this new program.

In future newsletters, you will want to read this section for updated learning topics. We want you to know what your students are learning so you can have engaging conversations at home.

Coming Soon

Watch the website for dates in July when you can stop by and have popsicles with the principal and provide me your hopes and aspirations for Madison. In addition, we will also announce the August dates for our kindergarten orientation.

I look forward to a fulfilling first year at Madison. I know it will be filled with new relationships, learning, and smiles. I will be in the office beginning July 10th. If you stop by, you'll likely hear me singing off key to my music. Don't let that stop you. Come in and say hello. If you are unable to stop by, please do not hesitate to contact me at 425-385-5990 or aoverly@everettsd.org

Sincerely,

Amanda Overly

Amanda M. Overly
Principal
Madison Elementary School