

Dear Highland Families,

At the beginning of our years of working together, I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself to you as your child's new principal. My name is Ryan Henderson, and it is my huge PRIVILEGE to be your new leader here at Highland. I got my start in education as a classroom teacher, working with Kindergarten, 3rd grade and 4th graders near SeaTac Airport. When my wife and I were married in 2006 I moved to Lake Stevens and worked for three years at Hillcrest Elementary, right here in Lake Stevens assisting two awesome principals there. Fast forward seven years as a principal (two at Lakewood Elementary in Smokey Point and five at Beverly Elementary in Lynnwood) and here I am among YOU ALL at Highland. What a joy!

Important things about me:

- I live with Mrs. Henderson, a second grade teacher at Glenwood and our little pup Fergie in Snohomish.
- I love coffee. Like I *really* love coffee.
- I grew up in Renton and am happy to have my entire family living within one hour from me.
- I have wanted to be a school principal since I was in Kindergarten. Literally.
- I am passionate about seeing our students grow as learners and little human beings.
- I have felt so incredibly welcomed by all of you into this awesome community of teachers, students and families!



As I am telling your children when I visit their classes, my job as a principal is to make sure that everyone is safe and everyone is learning. As a staff we are streamlining our systems for what happens when one of these things is not occurring. If your child ever makes a choice that is unsafe or that hinders learning, you will receive timely communication from me or from my amazing assistant Mrs. P.

As a staff we have very important work to do this year, and that work includes implementing a new literacy curriculum for grades 3-5; learning about quality, developmental (full day) Kindergarten; integrating technology in our primary classes; and overall learning about how to best engage our students in their learning. It's exciting stuff, and takes a lot of time. This work is what we will be invested in during our early release Fridays. This is valuable time for us as a staff and we are so grateful for the time to work together. We know it takes coordination from home to arrange Friday schedules, so thank you!

This is going to be a great run together at Highland. My hope is that we can always WORK TOGETHER to solve problems as they arise, remembering that we are all players on the same team, with the same goal of helping each child learn, grow and succeed.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan J. Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. H

Ryan Henderson, Principal

When I can be of help, please don't hesitate to be in touch. My direct line is 425.335.1590 and my email address is ryan_henderson@lkstevens.wednet.edu.