



Dear Alki Elementary Community,

It is with great excitement, enthusiasm, and commitment, that I join Alki Elementary as your new principal.

This Fall marks my 14<sup>th</sup> year in Seattle Public Schools. For the past three years I have been the proud Assistant Principal of Lowell (2017-2018) and Maple (2018-2020) Elementary. Prior to being an Assistant Principal, I was an elementary classroom teacher at Gatewood Elementary for ten years where I taught Kindergarten, first, fourth and fifth grades. I am thrilled to be returning back home to West Seattle where my career began and am looking forward to many years serving the community that I love and cherish so dearly.

I am the proud father of two girls; Vivian, who will start Kindergarten next Fall, and Willamina who is 18 months old. My family lives in Arbor Heights and as your new leader I want you to know how important it is to serve as principal in the same community where I live.

Meaningful family-school partnership is a cornerstone of successful schools. As an educator and a parent, I recognize that our children are future adults, each one filled with promise. I understand the importance and power of partnering with families and working together so that every student attains their highest potential.

As I begin my time at Alki it is important for me that we have as seamless of a transition as possible. I recognize that Principal Deese has made a huge impact on the Alki Elementary community during her tenure. She and I will be meeting throughout the summer as part of this transition, and I look forward to learning about and supporting the programs and initiatives in place at Alki.

As our staff, students, and families head off for a much-deserved summer break, I will be working to prepare our school for the 2020-2021 school year. Returning to school this fall will look very different as we prioritize staff and student health and safety following the guidelines from the CDC and public health agencies. While we are still unsure of what this will look like exactly, I want you to know that your child's safety at school is my top priority. The Alki Elementary School community is strong, and I know that together we will navigate the challenges and changes due to Covid-19 successfully as we launch into a great year ahead!

I look forward to beginning officially on July 1<sup>st</sup> and am already planning community listening sessions this summer and into the fall. In the meantime, I would love a chance to connect with you and your family individually. Please email me at [meskeffington@seattleschools.org](mailto:meskeffington@seattleschools.org) and I will be in touch to schedule a time for us to meet via phone call or video meeting. These initial conversations will be an opportunity for me to listen; to learn about your hopes and dreams for your child, and how we can partner in your child's educational and social development while attending Alki. I look forward to connecting with you and your family in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Mason Skeffington  
*Principal, Alki Elementary*