



FAIRMOUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Fairmount Families,

I commence the fifth year at Fairmount filled with optimistic excitement about the journey we have embarked on as a school community, and aware of the needs that still need to be met, both academically and behaviorally. I am optimistic that we will strengthen our existing bonds to better serve our students in a manner that is just and equitable. And we are working on making that happen.

Every year brings transitions to every school in our district, and this year is no exception. As many of you may remember from the little gathering we had back in May, several of our staff have gone to do different things, although we may be able to see Ms. Wolf and Ms. Rodriguez as substitutes in the future.

We have hired several amazing teachers to cover these vacancies. The new people joining our team are: Sarah Volk, our bilingual social worker; Sarah White, our bilingual school nurse; Laura Crahan, our .5 bilingual teacher of special education; Patricia García, in kindergarten; Christine Bovis and Xavi Merino in first grade; Christopher Merino in third grade; and Ana Guerrero is our new Education Outside teacher. There are also several internal moves that I want to share with you. Ms. Keli went from 1st grade to second. Ms. Amezcua went from 1st grade to being our new literacy coach. Mr. Novella went from 3rd grade to fourth; Ms. Nataly will be our new family liaison; and Ms. Tania will support in the library along with continuing being a recess assistant.

We also have one return we need to make note of. Ms. Kositsky returns to her K-2 SDC and we welcome her back! We are extremely pleased that we were able to secure her return.

I am excited about some changes we are making to our instructional day and approach to coaching. This year, we are changing the coaching structure to allow a vertical alignment from pre-kinder to fifth grade (our pre-kinder teacher will participate as much as possible given that they have different needs and requirements). In the past, we segmented the coaching with each one of them taking a grade level span (k/1, 2/3 and 4/5). For several years, the coaching emphasis had on literacy. This year, each of the coaches will work with the teachers, primarily K-5 on three areas: literacy, math, and social-emotional learning, which we introduced last year with the addition of Ms. Alison as our SEL coach. This year we have increased her time at Fairmount to provide more support for our teachers. We are incorporating SEL structures in our daily routine in a proactive manner and not reactive. We are really excited about making this change and though we may not see the results this

year, we can't continue doing the same thing and expect different results.

Another instructional development we are really excited about is the inaugural teaching of computer science! We are partnering with the department of technology to bring this program to our school y en español! Ms. Alma Akrabawi will be the teacher supporting us. We will begin with 3-5 in the fall and in the spring we will switch to K-2.

We will continue the implementation of our Mariachi Program: Culture, Language, Art, Music coming together in one program, providing our students another outlet for their creativity. We are lucky to continue with Mr. Peter as the music teacher with the support of Ms. Arianne Cortez and our new instrumental teacher, Ms. Claudia Portillo. The Mariachi Program will cover 3-5 grades again.

My office door will always be open to you. I will listen respectfully and attentively. I am positive that your commitment and dedication to your child's education will enable us to forge productive and meaningful relationships in the months ahead that will pave the way for a brighter future.

To a successful 2018-2019 school year!!!

Mr. Luis Rodríguez
Principal