

DRAGON Nation, I feel pleased and privileged to be the new principal of this wonderful learning institution.

You cannot imagine my joy when I received the opportunity to be the instructional leader for FAIR School Crystal (FAIR) with such a culturally and racially diverse student body! I am delighted to represent FAIR as the principal and look forward to continuing our work with students, families and our talented and caring teachers and staff. This will be an exciting journey and I am looking forward to it.

My first goal is to continue to listen and learn from the people who know FAIR best, our students, teachers and families. Ultimately, my focus for FAIR will be for us to become an even stronger and more effective community of learners and artists - a place where both students and staff feel proud of their accomplishments. School is a place where the primary activity is learning for both students and adults. Our school will continue to value the arts and the richness of our cultural and racial diversity and hold high academic and behavioral expectations for students and for ourselves. We will further these goals as a community by working together to establish a culture of shared beliefs and values, communicating openly with students, staff, parents, central office and the community and by providing quality instruction based on current research and best practices.

More immediately, the classroom teacher will continue be the center of our school responsibility and discipline policy. Teachers will continue to strive to ensure that classrooms are safe and productive and will continually emphasize to students the importance of being responsible, engaged, and motivated. Teachers will continue to focus on teaching and encouraging responsible behavior, rather than trying to “control” irresponsible behavior. The best way to accomplish this task is by helping students see how their behavior relates to our school wide guidelines for success; **focus on excellence, act with integrity, show respect, and have empathy**. The three following basic principles of behavior management will continue to be implemented by all teachers:

- **Proactive** – *classrooms must be structured for academic success, which means having efficient routines, focused instruction, clear rules and expectations, direct teaching of expectations, and frequent monitoring.*
- **Positive** – *classroom teachers must strive to interact frequently with each of their students, providing non-contingent attention/acknowledgment as well as positive recognition when students are behaving appropriately.*
- **Instructional** – *classroom teachers must view incidents of misbehavior as teaching opportunities and must calmly and consistently implement appropriate corrective consequences.*

Lastly, I invite all staff to join me on Tuesday, December 12, for a student/parent meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. This will be my first opportunity to begin a long-term relationship with our families.

Sincerely,



Zoraba Ross