



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Announcing Interim Principal at Peninsula, Claire Skelly

August 2021

Dear Peninsula Community,

I am pleased to announce that Claire Skelly will serve as interim principal at Peninsula Elementary School in the 2021-22 school year.

She will succeed Debbie Armendariz, who had been Peninsula principal since 2018. We thank Principal Armendariz for her hard work and dedication to our students.

Claire has been one of Portland Public Schools' leaders in Special Education. She served as an administrator in the central office the last six years, including as an Assistant Director of Special Education the last three years. In that time, she worked to create equitable systems to support meaningful learning for all students in schools. Claire has regularly collaborated with parents, administrators, teachers, legal counsel and outside agencies to ensure students receive high quality, responsive and individualized instruction. She is dedicated to using data to analyze trends and examine systems, and to working with staff to create new systems, protocols, and plans for professional development that are responsive to data trends.

Claire joined the district as a special education focus classroom teacher in 2007, and developed a program that provided rigorous, engaging instruction to students with complex learning needs. As a TOSA and SPED administrator, she teamed with content experts in other departments to provide professional development to SPED and general education staff around high leverage practices, Universal Design for Learning and Standards-based instruction. Claire believes in every student's limitless potential. She is passionate about creating student-centered systems that ensure that every child, staff and family member feels welcome, valued and essential to the fabric of the school community.

Claire earned a Bachelor of Science in Child Development from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, and a Master of Science in Special Education and Administrators Licensure from Portland State University.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Skelly to Peninsula.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.

Deputy Superintendent, School Communities & Instruction



Claire Skelly

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