



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/wilson/>

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

June 5, 2012

Dear Wilson High School Families,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write to you my first letter as your new principal. My name is Brian Chatard and I come to Wilson via another of Portland's outstanding schools, Grant High School, where I have been a vice principal for several years. I am grateful and humbled to be given this opportunity to lead Wilson High School as its principal and I am acutely aware of the impact that the principal has on the success of a school. I wish to thank the members of the hiring committee as well as the district office leaders that have entrusted me with this responsibility. I also wish to thank the outgoing principal Sue Brent, whom I've known for many years, and her administrative team, Ms. Lamont and Mr. Haskins, for passing Wilson on to me in such solid condition. I look forward to building upon this foundation and making Wilson the best high school it can be for all of its students.

I began teaching in 1994 in San Jose, CA where I first taught middle school Core (language arts/social studies), then later high school social studies, computer applications and English as a Second Language. In addition to teaching I coached high school baseball and basketball. Prior to beginning my career I attended the University of California Santa Barbara. Following my undergraduate studies I enrolled at San Jose State University where I received my teaching certification and in 1999 a master's degree in Educational Leadership. After living and working for many years in the Bay Area my family chose to relocate to Oregon in 2003 because of the many great things we read about the quality of life in Portland. As we get to know each other better in the months ahead I look forward to sharing more of my background and ideas with you and to hearing how together we can find ways to make these high school years amazing for each of you.

Public Education in Oregon and the nation seems beset on all sides by controversy and difficult challenges. In these tough times it will be my strategy to look for opportunities, to build new partnerships and relationships that can strengthen what Wilson does well and to remain optimistic and positive. I believe that the outcomes we seek for students are in our control. I encourage you to reach out to me during these summer months (email or drop by the school), so I will better know the ins and outs of this community when school begins this fall. Once I fully transition from Grant over to Wilson in a few weeks I will connect with you again and establish some formal opportunities to gather and get to know each other.

Have a great summer vacation!

Brian

Brian Chatard
Incoming Principal
Wilson High School