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Introducing Permanent Principal at Jason Lee, Alma Velázquez

April 2021

Dear Jason Lee Community,

I am pleased to announce that Alma Velázquez, who has been serving as interim principal at Jason Lee Elementary School, will become the school's permanent principal.

As you know, Alma took on the interim position in August when Isaac Cardona, who had served as Jason Lee principal for four years, moved to the central office as a senior area director. Although we relied on Alma's skills and experience to provide steady leadership during the pandemic and distance learning, we also went through a formal process to hire a new principal.

Through that process, we identified Alma as the best candidate. During input sessions with families, your feedback pointed to Alma's outstanding qualities, including her respect for and openness to the staff and community, respect for Jason Lee's traditions, full fluency in Spanish, advocacy for equity, and impressive professionalism.

Before coming to Jason Lee, Alma served as assistant principal at Woodlawn Elementary School. In 2019, she – along with your former principal, Isaac Cardona – was one of 15 school leaders from across the country selected to a fellowship with the National Institute for Latino School Leaders. In this two-year role, she advocates for legislation on behalf of Latino and English learner students.

Before moving into administration, Alma served as an elementary teacher and teacher on special assignment (TOSA) in PPS. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Journalism from California State University-Sacramento; and a Master of Education, ESOL Bilingual Endorsement, and an Initial Administrative License from Portland State University. She is working to complete a Continuing Administrative License from Portland State University.

Please join me in congratulating Principal Velázquez.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Alma Velázquez

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