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Announcing new principal at Astor, Blake Robertson

April 2020

Dear Astor Community,

I am pleased to announce that Blake Robertson will be the new principal at Astor K-8 School starting in the 2020-21 school year. Blake is an educational leader who is committed to strong family partnerships, supporting teachers in building instructional practices, and racial equity.

He will succeed Sarah Zabel, who has been Astor's principal since 2017. We thank Sarah for her dedication and hard work.

Blake has been assistant principal at Jason Lee for four years and is familiar with the K-8 structure. Jason Lee was a K-8 school for his first two years before it converted to an elementary school. He supported instruction through math interventions in the classroom and by delivering professional development. Blake also led the school's climate and culture team, refocusing professional development on racial equity and giving all students a sense of belonging.

Starting his career as a teacher, Blake taught third through eighth grades at Beverly Cleary and Astor. He formed a professional learning community, created a school-wide peer observation model, and used best practices to help reduce the racial achievement gap in reading fluency.

He also served as a middle school math teacher at Self Enhancement Inc. and collaborated with teachers to provide math interventions. Before moving to Jason Lee, he served as a school climate coach at Ockley Green Middle School and Chief Joseph Elementary, where he was responsible for such initiatives as restorative justice, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions, and Supports) and student council.

Prior to joining PPS, Blake served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, with honors, from Longwood University, and a Master of Teaching and Initial Administrator License from the University of Portland. In his free time, Blake enjoys spending time with his family including his two daughters, running, and gardening.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Robertson to Astor.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Blake Robertson

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