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Announcing new principal at Atkinson, Jennifer Fontana

October 2019

Dear Atkinson Community,

I am pleased to announce that Jennifer Fontana will be the new principal at Atkinson Elementary School. Jennifer is a former principal in Portland Public Schools who is returning to the district after a year away and has the dual language skills that make her a good fit for Atkinson.

Jennifer will succeed Brenda Fox, who served as Atkinson principal in 2018-19. We thank Brenda for her continued service in PPS and wish her the best as principal at Roseway Heights Middle School.

Jennifer previously worked in PPS from 2015 to 2018 at Rigler Elementary School, serving as assistant principal for two years, then interim principal in 2017-18. Like Atkinson, Rigler is a Spanish Dual Language Immersion school, and Jennifer's multilingual skills (she is near native fluent in Spanish, and speaks conversational French) were a great asset there and will be at Atkinson.

In 15 years as an educator, Jennifer has built skills in culturally responsive practices, racial equity, restorative justice, balanced literacy, social emotional learning and growth mindset. She has spent her entire career in dual language programs, starting as a teacher at the K-5 levels at Barnes Elementary School in Beaverton and at the El Puente Bilingual School in Milwaukie. Last year, she served as the elementary principal at Colegio Jorge Washington, an international school in Colombia, and has also taught courses at Lewis & Clark College on teaching English Language Learners.

Jennifer earned a Bachelor of Art in Spanish from Western Oregon University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Oregon.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Fontana to Atkinson.

Esther Omogbehin, Ed.D.
Regional Superintendent



Jennifer Fontana

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