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Announcing new principal at Metropolitan Learning Center, Mark Van Hoomissen

September 2019

Dear MLC Community,

I am pleased to announce that Mark Van Hoomissen has accepted our offer to become the new principal at the Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC).

He will succeed Alexa Pearson, who served as MLC principal for two years. We thank Alexa for her hard work and dedication and wish her the best in her new role with the Oregon Department of Education.

For the last 15 years, Mark served at the Portland DART School, a K-12 program that has seven small campuses across PPS integrated into day or residential mental health treatment. Mark was Portland DART principal for nine years, and assistant principal six years before that. Under his guidance, DART staff helped students earn their diplomas, increase math and writing skills and demonstrate growth on common learning targets across grade levels. Mark maintained a consistent focus on racial equity and worked with teachers to provide culturally-responsive instruction.

Mark is excited to collaborate with MLC staff and their focus on experiential/project-based learning. He sees this as a valuable teaching-learning approach that is engaging, student-centered, and family- and community-oriented. He intends to participate in school- and community-based learning opportunities along with the students and staff.

Mark grew up in the Portland area and was a substitute teacher for PPS. He worked in Athens, Georgia, as an elementary school teacher for three years and a district-wide technology integration specialist for one year. After returning to the Portland area, he taught at Woodburn High School for two years, serving as the Site Council Chair and initiating an after-school tutoring program.

Mark earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a Master of Education from the University of Portland and an Educational Specialist Degree from Lewis & Clark College.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Van Hoomissen to MLC.

Joe LaFountaine
Regional Superintendent



Mark Van Hoomissen

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