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Announcing New Principal at Kellogg, Richard Smith

January 2021

Dear PPS Community,

I am pleased to announce that Richard L. Smith, an established and accomplished educational leader, will be the principal at Kellogg Middle School when it re-opens in fall 2021.

Kellogg will open after two years of construction of a fully-modernized campus on the same Southeast Portland site that closed in 2006. The old building, parts of which dated to 1913, was torn down in 2018, and the new school will play a major role in our continued move to a comprehensive middle school model for the district.

Richard will move into his new position immediately to lead the re-opening. He moves from Lent K-8, where he has served as principal since 2018.

At Lent, Richard took over a traditionally underserved campus and improved attendance, school culture and staff retention. He lowered discipline incidents, including suspensions by 60% and total referrals by 75%, keyed by introducing trauma informed practices and increasing parental involvement.

Richard came to PPS from Texas' Houston Independent School District, where he won the Achieve 180 Principal of the Year Award after he guided Edison Middle School to improvements in morale, attendance, discipline and benchmark scores. The award was among the multiple distinctions he earned in his time as an administrator in Houston.

Richard started his career as a math and Spanish teacher at Alternative Learning Center West in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Texas, then worked as a math teacher in that district's Cypress Ranch High School.

Richard earned a Bachelor of Science in Math Education, with a minor in Spanish Education, from Brigham Young University-Idaho, and got a Master of Education from the University of Houston.

Please join me in congratulating Richard on his new position.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Richard Smith

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