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Announcing new principal at Mt. Tabor, Tonya Arnold

May 2020

Dear Mt. Tabor Community,

I am pleased to announce that Tonya Arnold will be the new principal at Mt. Tabor Middle School starting in the 2020-21 school year. Tonya is passionate and dedicated to ensuring that every student, regardless of race, culture, gender, economic status, or other life factors, achieves at the highest level.

Tonya succeeds Sean Keating, who has served as Mt. Tabor principal for three years. We thank Sean for his hard work and dedication and wish him the best in his new position in California.

During her 18 years in education, Tonya has engaged with other educators from various content areas and grade levels. She has transformed grading practices and implemented instructional changes to ensure that all students will be on the path to being college and career ready when they leave middle school. She has worked with students, staff and the greater community to make positive changes school-wide that focus on equity, building community and implementing restorative justice practices.

Tonya comes to Mt. Tabor from Beaumont Middle School, where she served as assistant principal for two years. Like Mt. Tabor, Beaumont has a dual language immersion program. Working collaboratively, Tonya helped create structures to support a more restorative campus culture, integrated social-emotional learning and supports, and created more opportunities for dual-language immersion, English language learner and special education students.

Before joining Portland Public Schools, Tonya served 14 years in the St. Helens School District, starting as a language arts teacher. She held a variety of other roles, including secondary literacy coach, teacher on special assignment, AVID site coordinator, AVID district director, and activities and leadership director. She started her career as a teacher in the Burnt River School District in Unity, Oregon.

Tonya holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from the University of Idaho and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Arnold to Mt. Tabor.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Tonya Arnold

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