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Announcing new principal at Whitman, Stephanie Murdock

June 2019

Dear Whitman Community,

I am pleased to announce that Stephanie Murdock will become the new principal of Whitman Elementary School. Stephanie comes to us from the Reynolds School District, where she has served as principal at Hartley Elementary School.

Stephanie will succeed Ruth Tucker, who has served as Whitman principal for four years. We thank Ruth for her hard work and dedication.

Stephanie started her education career as a teacher in Maryland in 2006, and has worked in Oregon since 2007. She took over as Hartley principal in 2015 and helped the school move from being identified as a “focus school” – a term for a Title I school that has the largest gaps between the highest and lowest achievers – to one utilizing “targeted support” for students who need extra help.

Using data, Stephanie worked with the school’s improvement team to develop an overall plan, and guided staff through a Professional Learning Community process and setting targets, assessments and clarity for teachers. She also participated in equity work with the Oregon Department of Education, implemented restorative justice practices, and worked with families to hold parent meetings and community circles in multiple languages.

Before taking the helm at Hartley, Stephanie served as vice principal at Ogden Middle School in Oregon City for three years. She moved into administration by assuming the duties of principal on an interim basis at Parkrose Middle School for two years during the principal’s absence. She had served as an eighth-grade Social Studies and Language Arts teacher at Parkrose for five years.

Stephanie has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Portland State University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Pacific University.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Murdock to Whitman Elementary School.

Keeley Simpson
Area Assistant Superintendent



Stephanie Murdock

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