

Welcome Central School District 13j students, staff, families, and our great communities to the 2017-2018 school year. I have the honor to serve as your Superintendent, in a gem of a school district. As I have transitioned into this position throughout this past spring and summer, I have watched students and staff engage in summer learning, staff preparing for the year ahead, and over the past month have watched principals and building staff engage and prepare for the start of the new year. Through these past months I have seen great learning, growing, working and leading within Central School District 13j.

I hail from Tacoma, WA, where I was a product of the Tacoma School District and also worked for the past 14 years. I had the honor of coming back to serve the Tacoma community that began to mold me as a young adult and has allowed me to learn, grow, live, work, and lead, for the past 14 years. The past six years I have been part of an amazing team focused on the development of the whole child, where students are academically, behaviorally, socially and emotionally healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. Many times you will hear me say, it takes a village to raise a child. Yet, it takes a whole child, to build a sustainable and adaptable school and community. Whole children can read, write, do math and science. Whole children also know how to build relationships, self-manage themselves, have self-awareness, make responsible decisions, and are socially aware. Through this process over the past six years, I have watched as these shared purposes and clear expectations have built trust and communication amongst student-to-student, staff-to-staff, staff-to-student, staff-to-families, and district-to-community, leading to positive outcomes for all. This has led to greater understanding and empathy, which in return leads to greater relationships, learning, and growth. So why did I apply for the position as Superintendent of Central school district? Because these communities are already beginning to build and have some of these positive cultures within Central.

I also want to share a bit of my educational philosophy and how I am already seeing these connections here in Central School District through this past spring and summer as I have transitioned into this position. During my interview process while walking through Independence Elementary and one of the 5th grade classrooms, I asked a student what he was working on. The student explained to me about percentages in a math problem and how he was going about to solve it. And then he stated “you know, percentages are just another way to look at the numbers.” **I believe that every child has the capacity to learn and achieve at a high rigorous level** and this is one example I have seen already in Central School District. I observed an instructional assistant from Monmouth Elementary be dedicated all summer in supporting students through our summer programming. I even had the opportunity to join her at the migrant camp as she taught letters, numbers, and colors to a group of ten to fifteen 3 to 5 year olds. She did this all summer long, in the evenings Monday through Wednesday with other dedicated staff and Centrals current bilingual scholars from Western Oregon University. I watched as our bus drivers throughout the summer transported students to field trips at OMSI and the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, where many of our students had first time experiences in these learning environments. **I believe children educated in an equitable and diverse community make significant impacts and differences in communities and the world today** and these are examples of this that I have seen in Central School District. This past spring

at Ash Creek Elementary, I asked a student what was great about his class. He stated “my teacher listens to us and she pushes us to learn and be great. She makes it safe.” **I believe every child must be treated fairly and in a respectful, responsible, and safe manner for student learning and achievement to occur** and this is an example I have seen in Central School District. I have had the opportunity over the last month to observe and interact with the five principals and assistant principals in Central, who together are continuing to build strong relationships with each other. I have watched them learn from one another and have transparent conversations in the interest of Central students, staff, and the greater communities. **I believe that principals have the capacity to teach and learn from their teachers, support staff, students and the community. I believe that successful principals have high expectations of themselves, their staff, and the students in their school, and that equitable leadership increases staff teaching and learning so student learning and achievement can occur** and this is one example I have seen in Central School District. Teachers from 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 6th grade, instructional assistants, and administrative assistants, as well as many others, dedicate their time to the teaching and learning of students throughout the summer. These teams of staff over the summer supported and served approximately 180 students K through 12. I watched as they made connections, push students, laugh with students, and had students teaming together. I also watched as staff partnered with the Independence community to offer extended learning focused on Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math, aka STREAM. **I believe that every staff member has the capacity to learn from every child, that all staff are vital to the success of making significant impacts and differences in communities and the world today, and that every staff member has the capacity to collaboratively learn from one another, as well as their students, so students can learn and achieve at the highest level.** And, again, these are just a few examples I have seen in Central School District thus far. It goes without saying that I am truly inspired and honor to be a part of these great communities.

I look forward to an amazing 2017-18 school year as I already see tremendous dedication to the Central students, staff, families, and communities we serve. I am so excited to be here as the Superintendent of Central School District 13j and I look forward to seeing you all and teaming together as we learn, grow, live, work and lead for the success of Central School District.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kubista, Superintendent