Dear Families,

As the 2017-2018 school year gets ready to begin, I wanted to reach out and let you know how excited I am to be the new principal at Meadowlawn Elementary and also to give you a little bit of information about me.

This year I am entering my thirteenth year working for the Kentwood Public Schools. For the past twelve years I have been an Academic Support Coach for the district. My job was to work with teachers in our elementary buildings on reading and writing instruction. During the past three years, in particular, I spent a good deal of time working closely with the teaching staff at Meadowlawn. We did a lot of good work together, and I am definitely looking forward to continuing my work with the Meadowlawn staff, and students, in my new role as principal.

In addition to working in Kentwood, I have also worked over the past decade as an independent literacy consultant. This work has allowed me to work in school districts throughout the state of Michigan, supporting teachers across the state in their teaching of reading and writing. Prior to my work in Kentwood, I was a classroom teacher in the Grand Rapids Public Schools where I taught sixth grade and third grade.

My life outside of school revolves around my family. I am a husband and a father. My wife and I have two daughters, ages 11 and 6. I keep busy in my free time spending time with my family and supporting my daughters with their activities. I’m also a pretty big sports fan and try to keep up with some of my favorite teams throughout the year.

My goal as Meadowlawn’s principal is to make sure that your child achieves academic success in a safe and caring environment. I understand the importance that school plays in opening doors for our kids in their futures. I look forward to partnering with you to do what is best for our Meadowlawn students in this upcoming year.

One thing to be aware of as we enter this school year is the construction going on at our school. We are thankful to the Kentwood community for its support in helping us make improvements to our building. However, this means it might take a little more time if you are dropping off or picking up students before and after school because of possible construction traffic. Please keep that in mind as you are planning your day. Also, please remind students that they need to stay out of construction zones. Certainly, we will remind them this at school, but if they hear it at home, too, that would be helpful.

So, again, I am eager to get started this year, to meet you, and to work with your children. Here’s to a positive 2017-2018 school year.

Much thanks,

Tim Hargis

Principal, Meadowlawn Elementary