



February 2, 2017

Dear Students, Families, and Community of Grant Ranch School,

It is with great honor that I introduce myself as your next school leader. I have been a resident of Grant Ranch for twelve years. My family and I moved to Grant Ranch because of the community and the school. My children all attended Grant Ranch and now my grandson does too.

As well as being a parent and grandparent, I have served in many roles in the Denver Public Schools and am a graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School. The roles varied from part-time custodian, paraprofessional and teacher. These experiences have provided me with a unique and diverse perspective of the people support we provide in schools. My commitment to children runs very deep as evidenced by the fact that I began working for the school district in 1981. Currently, I am the Executive Director of the Culture, Equity, and Leadership Team. I missed the daily buzz of school life and so decided it was time to serve in a school role once again.

I served as Principal at Godsmen Elementary for seven years working with a dedicated team to move the school from turnaround status to meeting expectations during my tenure. I developed several leaders in the process. Several teachers have gone on to become Teachers Leaders, Assistant Principals and Principals, as well as one becoming an Instructional Superintendent. Together, along with our parents and community, we created a school that focused on student growth and development while ensuring a safe, clean and orderly learning environment.

Prior to that, I was an Assistant Principal at Lake Middle School where I learned that the needs of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are both different and yet very similar to elementary school children. While the content grows more complex as students move through the grade levels, the need for trusted relationships with the adults in the school are the same. This opportunity provided me with an ECE - 8th grade lens into the needs of students from four years of age to twelve.

Grant Ranch School is a special place for me and my family. I look forward to creating a rigorous and caring environment once again. To have a child for ten years as a student provides great opportunity to develop strong bonds with the student and his or her family. My door is always open. I would love to hear about your hopes and dreams for your child's education. My email is patricia_hurrieta@dpsk12.org if you would like to contact me prior to the beginning of the school year. I look forward to hearing about what you love about GRS and what changes you would suggest.

Respectfully,

Patricia Hurrieta