

Dear Puesta del Sol Families,

I am incredibly honored to have been selected the Principal of Puesta del Sol beginning in the 2014-2015 school year! I'm excited to begin our work together next year in support of your staff, students and families. Until then, I thought I would share a little about myself with you.

My very first experience at Puesta del Sol was in 2000 when I visited the immersion program as a Spanish teacher. Following my undergraduate studies at the University of Washington where I earned degrees in English and Spanish, studying in Ecuador and Spain, I became passionate about Spanish language learning and the profound benefits of linguistic and cultural immersion. After earning a Master in Teaching degree from the UW, I became a Spanish teacher at Franklin High School in Seattle. At Franklin, I focused my efforts on growing their AP Spanish program, increasing the number of students taking the AP exam from one in 2003 to 25 in 2006. At the same time, I had the wonderful opportunity to develop and lead summer language immersion programs in Spain. My experience in Seattle Public Schools also afforded me the chance to take on various teacher leadership positions which, in turn, led me back to the UW and the Danforth Educational Leadership Program. I joined the Bellevue School District as an assistant principal in 2008, later becoming an assistant principal at Odle Middle School where I have been for the past three years. These experiences have time and again affirmed my belief that every child deserves an exemplary—challenging *and* supportive—educational experience.

On a more personal note, my wife, Janis, and I are proud parents of three children, Jayden, Julianna and our youngest, Jillian. Both my wife and I were raised in the Western Washington. I grew up in a Navy family with parents later working and teaching in the Central Kitsap School District. This summer, our plans include summer camps, fishing and camping in the Cascades, and a Fourth of July trip. For our children, all of which were born in early June, summer officially begins with their collective birthday bash!



I will be visiting Puesta del Sol multiple times in June to see the school in action, meet students, staff and families, and get to know the Puesta del Sol community. It is very important to me that I learn from all members of the school community how unique Puesta del Sol is, as well as any challenges and/or hopes that you would like to address together. Building relationships and fostering a collaborative school community are core values for me as a principal. I have an open door policy and want you to feel welcome meeting me either through an appointment or in a more impromptu manner as you see me around campus.

I'm looking forward to our work together to continue to build a school community where each individual feels welcomed, supported, challenged and proud to be a member of the Puesta del Sol community.

Cariñosos saludos,

Jonathan Shearer, Incoming Puesta del Sol Principal