

BEARTOOTH ELEMENTARY

BITESIZE NEWS

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8/10/2016

Dear Beartooth Family,

I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you all as your new principal.

My name is Travis Niemeyer, and I am so excited to be coming to Beartooth! My wife was part of the original group of teachers that reopened this school and we used to live on Peony Drive. Coming here feels a bit like coming home!

I had been in education as a first grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade teacher for 11 years prior to becoming a principal. My reason for becoming a principal was to impact more students than the 20-30 in my classroom each year. I feel as a principal, I get to impact 300+ students each year. My impact, while not always educational as in objectives taught, is instead teaching other critical life-skills of getting along with others, using manners, and developing character. I work with students every day and am still a teacher - this is my passion! I have been a principal for 5 years at Newman Elementary before coming to Beartooth.

I believe in creating a safe environment for students. We ALL take on the responsibility of this every day so I ask you to join me in this effort. If one does not feel safe, he or she cannot learn. Secondly, I believe in manners. We will be talking a lot about these in the first week in particular, but believe me, they will remain in focus in all that we do here at school. Again - you are your child's first teacher in this area so I ask you to partner with us! Talk to your children about their interactions at school and be their teacher as we work together. Lastly, I believe we are all learners. We can all learn! I want your child to be challenged to think critically (analyze and synthesize information), reflect, revise, and create. While we put so much focus on testing these days, know that this is a snapshot in time that often does not take into account the many facets that necessarily determine success. Not to say that reading and math aren't required for levels of success, we know they are, but it is not the end of the road. We know that character, grit and perseverance can take you incredibly far in life's endeavors.

We are busy getting the school ready for you and your child(ren) to begin the 2016-2017 school year. Anticipation and excitement is building with all of us at school! We'd like to extend an invitation to come meet your child's teacher, specialists, our secretary and me on August 24 from 2-3 pm. This is a chance to meet staff and bring supplies; it is not an open house where we will go over classroom expectations and learn about the student's day at school. We do encourage you to bring supplies - it makes that first day of school much easier for everyone! School starts August 25 so we will see you soon!

Sincerely,

*Travis Niemeyer
Principal*