



1150 GARFIELD ST.
DENVER, CO 80206
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TELLER.DPSK12.ORG

March 17, 2017

Dear Teller Community,

It is with very mixed feelings that I write this letter to you. After five years as your principal, I am leaving Teller. In my time here at Teller, I had the privilege of being part of the tremendous growth of our school. I am proud of the work we have done together to create a successful neighborhood school for our community and most importantly, for our children.

Over the past five years we have accomplished many things as a community. First of all, Teller was able to conquer a three-year decline in achievement data to move from a “yellow” school on the School Performance Framework in 2012 to a “green” school from 2013 – 2016. From 2012 to 2016 we have increased by over 20 percentage points on the SPF overall score, even with the new PARCC assessment. Our overall growth and status has continued to climb. From the overall SPF growth score of 35.9, we have lead culture shift around continuous use of data to inform instruction. Our work paid off in an overall growth score of 60.9 in 2016! We are also quite proud of our specific growth in 5th grade math, which in 2016 placed us 5th highest in the district, with an 81 Median Growth Percentile (MGP). Our school is thriving with increased enrollment and a vibrant community of engaged proactive families. Your support has made this all possible.

As a school leader in Denver Public Schools, I am committed to the shared value of success for every student. School leadership is, for me, an essential calling to serve. I see no more important commitment to social justice than providing every child with access to high-quality education. On the next leg of my leadership journey, I will continue to inspire others to engage every day in learning that stretches their thinking and makes school a happy place for every one to learn.

I leave you in the very capable hands of our Principal Resident/Assistant Principal, Sabrina Bates and a talented and experienced interim principal, Lynne Scates. Their skills and knowledge will help to keep Teller on track to success and continue to build even better supports for our children.

I will be transitioning my work starting on April 3rd. Until then, I will cherish every moment I have to spend with our fantastic teachers, incredible children and wonderful families. Please know that the Teller scholars, teachers and parents will always be in my heart. I thank you deeply for the opportunity to serve you all here at Teller.

Yours truly,

Jessica Downs
Proud Principal of the Teller Tigers



Denver Public Schools
Elementary Education Division
1860 Lincoln St., 8th floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

March 17, 2017

Dear Teller School Community Members,

Thank you for your ongoing and incredible support of Teller Elementary School. Jessica Downs will be moving on from her principal role at Teller after spring break. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Jessica for her deep passion and legacy of modeling Denver Public Schools value of **Students First**. Jessica leaves the school with a history of proven success with examples that include:

- Moving the school from an On Watch (yellow) rating on the School Performance Framework (SPF) in 2012 to a Meets Expectations (green) in 2016
- Increasing from 42.5% of points on the SPF in 2012 to 64.96% of points in 2016
- Producing consistent overall growth and status gains on the Transitional Colorado Student Assessment Program (TCAP) and the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS); for example, the school's 5th grade Math Median Student Growth Percentile (MGP) was at the 81st percentile in 2016, 31 percentile-points above the state average

For the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year we will have two strong administrators leading Teller. Lynne Scates will join the Teller team on April 3 as interim principal. Lynne has many years of proven experience in education, serving as a Highly Gifted and Talented (HGT) teacher, district administrator, principal at Cory Elementary School, and interim principal of Carson Elementary. Sabrina Bates will continue with her strong work as principal resident/assistant principal at Teller.

DPS considers selecting a new principal an essential component of building highly-effective schools. We value your participation, input and feedback on the characteristics you would like to see in the permanent leader. We will select five staff and five family members to be on the principal selection advisory committee. Please complete the attached School Leader Hiring Input Form if you would like to be considered for one of these spots. This form also allows you to share the characteristics you would like to see in the next principal. The deadline for applications to serve on the advisory committee will be 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22.

The NNE Instructional Superintendent team will meet with the Teller (CSC), made up of staff, community and parent representatives, as soon as possible to review the hiring process. Committee members will use the information on the School Leader Hiring Input Forms during the advisory member selection process. We will continue to update you on progress.

Thank you for your support of students and staff as we work together during this transitional period.

Sincerely,

Kevin King, Ed.L.D.
Instructional Superintendent
Network 3, NNE Denver

Denver Public Schools Shared Core Values:
Students First · Integrity · Equity · Collaboration · Accountability · Fun

**Application to serve on the Advisory Committee and
Feedback Form
for Principal Selection
Teller Elementary**



Dear Parents and Staff,

We are beginning the process of selecting a new principal for Teller Elementary. If you are interested in serving on the committee or if you want to give some feedback about the characteristics you'd like to see in our new principal, please complete this form and return it to **Dee Faust in the Teller office by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 22.**

I am interested in serving on the Advisory Committee for Principal Selection because: (Please include information about your connection to this school such as number of years teaching, grades of children, languages spoken, etc.)

I represent the following group (circle one):

Teacher (Grade Level) _____ Non-teaching staff member (Role) _____ CSC Member _____
Parent _____ Grades of children attending Teller: _____

- **Time Commitment – You must be able to attend all sessions in order to be considered.**

- HR Training** **1 hour after school**
- Interviews** **4 – 8 hours *after school* on two separate days**

I understand that I must be able to attend all sessions in order to be eligible to serve.

Name (Please Print): _____

Contact Information: Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am not able to serve on the Advisory Committee. However, here are some characteristics that I think would be important for the principal of our school to possess.

**Solicitud para formar parte del
Comité Asesor para la selección del Director(a) de Teller Elementary**



Estimados padres de familia,

Estamos en el proceso de seleccionar un nuevo Director(a) para Teller. Si usted está interesado(a) en formar parte del comité o si usted quiere ofrecer información sobre las características en un nuevo Director(a), favor completar este formulario y devuélvalo a **Dee Faust en la oficina antes de las 4:00 pm del miércoles, 22 de marzo.**

Estoy interesado(a) en ser parte del Comité Asesor para la selección del Director(a) porque: (Favor de incluir información demográfica acerca de su conexión con la escuela como por ejemplo; el número de años de enseñanza, las calificaciones de los niños, idiomas hablados, etc)

Yo represento al siguiente grupo (marque uno):

Maestro(a) _____ Miembro personal _____ Padres _____ Miembro de CSC _____

Los grados de los niños: _____

Compromiso de tiempo - Usted debe estar disponible para asistir a todas las sesiones para mantenerse informado(a) de lo siguiente.

o Reuniones de 1 horas para capacitación y desarrollo después de la escuela

o Entrevistas en 2 diferentes días que toman de 4-8 horas al final del día escolar

Yo entiendo que tengo que estar disponible para asistir a todas las sesiones para manterme elegible para servir en el Comité.

Nombre (letra de molde): _____

Información de contacto: _____ Teléfono: _____ Email: _____

Yo no estoy disponible para participar en el Comité Asesor. Sin embargo, ofresco las siguientes características que considero importantes que un nuevo director(a) posea.
