



# Collegewood Elementary School

*A California Gold Ribbon School*

Dr. Mary Wendland

Principal

Laura O'Donnell  
Elementary Learning Specialist

Tamie Liptak  
Administrative Assistant

Gaby Manganiello  
Office Assistant



Dear Collegewood Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! Our school has been undergoing transformation while everyone was away making memories. Thanks to our amazing community and the passing of Measure WV Collegewood will be getting 14 new classrooms. To prepare for this state of the art building, the primary playground was moved and fencing has been added to keep students safe during the construction. We are so grateful and excited to see this come to fruition!

We hope you will join us at our annual Back-To-School Night on Thursday, August 8th. This is a parent orientation during which time we provide important information regarding the curriculum and learning for students. Please note the schedule below:

- 5:30-6:15 PM** TK, Kindergarten and 1st Grade
- 6:15-6:30 PM** Teacher introductions in the amphitheater
- 6:30-6:55 PM** 4th and 5th Grade
- 7:00-7:25 PM** 2nd and 3rd Grade

There will be many familiar faces on campus when you return to school in addition to some new members of our team. With the retirement of outstanding teachers like Betsy Hale, Bonnie Manuel, and Jayne Knight and Ms. Kaplan moving on to become an Elementary Learning Specialist, we searched far and wide to make sure students would be taught and cared for by amazing teachers! Kelsie Boris will be joining our first-grade team. She has worked as a long-term sub in kindergarten and most recently taught our Kindergarten PE program. After completing her student teaching in WVUSD we were thrilled to welcome her back to Collegewood. Tina Moffa-Torres will be a tremendous addition to our third grade team after relocating to our area brings with her twenty years of teaching experience! We are ecstatic to have her on our team! Kristin Vigil will complete our fourth-grade team. She has more than thirteen years of experience and previously taught in Pasadena. Ms. Vigil's expertise and passion for reader's and writer's workshop will undoubtedly continue the excitement we foster at our school as we nurture the development of these areas in our students. Quynh Tran rounds out our fifth-grade team and brings tremendous enthusiasm and love for teaching. She has previous experience in Irvine school district where she built strong relationships with students and knowledge of supporting English Language Learners. Collegewood kids deserve the best of the best and we were careful to bring people onto our team who believe in our kids and have a heart for serving the families in our community. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them aboard.



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Our Community Club is a group comprised of amazing volunteers who come together to ensure that our kids have tremendous experiences. This group of parent volunteers is led by Maggie Baca who has been working to connect with new and returning parents and share the many ways contributions are made to enrich our school community. The Community Club is already busy planning family events and fundraisers that will help us provide materials for Project Lead the Way and contribute to the cost of field trips in addition to many other events. I encourage all of you to contribute to this group as no effort is too small.

This year, Collegewood is excited to continue offering exemplary learning experiences through Robotics, Genius Hour, Music, Meet the Masters, and data-driven intervention. Writer's workshop continues to grow school and district-wide as we support students as they enhance their ability to think creatively and express their thoughts and ideas through writing. We have added performing arts to all students in grades 1-5 with programs that include band, choir, dance, and drama. Our staff will continue to support the social-emotional development of our students by emphasizing a growth mindset and work with students on goal-setting throughout the year.

It amazes me to think how far we have together as we begin our fourth year together. I feel tremendous joy as I watch your children learn and grow. They bring life to our school and fill the halls with kindness and laughter. I am humbled with gratitude for the opportunity to partner with you as we work together to ensure your child's emotional, social, and academic success. It's going to be a great year!

Fondly,

*Mary Wendland, Ed.D*