

Dear Tom Kitayama Elementary School Community,

In June 2019, New Haven Unified School District Board of Education confirmed my appointment as Interim Principal for the 2019 - 2020 school year at Tom Kitayama Elementary School. I am honored by the appointment.

I am overjoyed to join the Tom Kitayama Elementary School community as the first Vietnamese Asian American Interim Principal. As the school leader, I look forward to working collaboratively with faculty and supporting our Kitayama Bear scholars and their families. I have worked as an educator in various capacities within K-12 education settings for the past 16 years. In my recent role, I was House Principal at James Logan High School with New Haven Unified School District.

My philosophy of education has in large part been shaped by my education experiences. I consider that the success or failure of our society rests upon the education of our children. I believe that given the opportunity, every child has the potential for excellence and success. I trust that true education is ***not*** created by the rote memorization of facts, but rather by the sparking of curiosity that empowers students to engage in deeper learning for their own needs and desires. The only way to transform systems of inequalities and improve our society is through teaching children that their own success, and the success of their community, rests upon a strong education. By leading students to understand the value of education beyond grades, I hope that they learn to become agents of change.

United in Success,

Kim - Dung Nguyễn
Principal, [Tom Kitayama Elementary School](#)

