

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with immense pride that I write to you for the first time as the new Principal of Hatfield Elementary School. I am humbled by this opportunity. It is an honor to return to work for your Alma Mater, in addition to such a heralded school district. Prior to graduation from North Penn, I spent my entire life raised in Hatfield and Lansdale. I feel blessed to be able to return home to such a special area and raise my family.

Throughout my first few days in the building, the students welcomed me with numerous smiles, high fives, and hugs. As a passionate Philadelphia sports fan, it was a fantastic surprise on Monday morning to see so many jerseys and Eagles green celebrating the team's season-opening victory. I look forward to commemorating a plethora of student, staff, and parent achievements in the upcoming years as a Hawk.

I thank Dr. Waters for her unwavering commitment to our children in setting the tone for a bright future, as well as lofty expectations as an educational leader and positive role model for all. I pledge to replicate such perseverance throughout my tenure here. North Penn stands fortunate to have her advancing into a more far-reaching position.

Over the next few weeks, I encourage you to schedule a meeting with me. Please contact the Main Office to schedule a 9:15 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. appointment. The four questions noted below will drive our conversation and assist my transition:

1. Tell me about your family and student(s)?
2. How confident are you in us currently meeting the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of children?
3. What is one thing that we do exceptionally well at our school? Also, what is one area that we must improve?
4. What is the best thing about being a parent here?

As we start off September with energy abound, please recognize that our students are expected to abide by our motto as we mold Hatfield's next generation. It is imperative for our impressionable minds to identify with the core values of citizenship, respect, responsibility, positivity, high-quality decision-making, and enthusiasm. Additionally, the expectation for our older students is to commit to their education and take ownership of their learning and they mature. In doing so, they should strive to 1. Show up; 2. Pay Attention; 3. Ask Questions; 4. Ask for Help; and 5. Do the Work. Ultimately, on a daily basis, every one of us controls our effort, attitude, and how we view things. Equally vital is our function to help each child grow during their formative years, not only as learners, but as citizens.

Please know that I remain eager to give back to the community, as so many educators once did for me. I have received nothing but encouraging insight about the Hatfield Elementary community and I look forward to working alongside our staff, students, and parents in an effort to continue to maximize the holistic potential of everyone within the Hawks family. More so, please anticipate future correspondence about the happenings at Hatfield, as well as Social Media engagement initiatives (such as @NP_Hatfield on Twitter). Recognize that my foremost goal is to maintain an open-door policy, while also remaining transparent with our communication habits.

In closing, I look forward to meeting you in person soon – potentially tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for the HSA Welcome Back Picnic. Remember, as philosopher Albert Schweitzer once said, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing." In order to ensure that we keep soaring above and beyond, Hatfield Elementary needs you to participate to the fullest extent in your child's education; therefore, we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wes Heinel
Principal