

Dear Toler Families,

I feel so privileged to introduce myself to you as the new principal of Toler Elementary School! Partnering with you in leading such an accomplished school has me over the moon. Toler's long-standing tradition of excellence and student-centered teaching and learning is evident in every corner of our extraordinary campus; I can only imagine what it is like when our students and our amazing staff are bustling about. I can not wait to start the 2022-23 school year, meet all of our families and get to know each and every Toler student.

I started my career in San Diego Unified while I was working on my Bachelor's Degree in Education and obtaining my Teaching Credential at San Diego State University (SDSU). I served in San Diego Unified as an instructional aide, classroom teacher (both elementary and middle school) and staff developer in the Clairemont area. During this time, I obtained my M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction and Administrative Service and GATE credentials at SDSU. I left San Diego Unified after serving for five years as assistant principal at Muirlands Middle School. I accepted the promotion to the principal position at Del Mar Hills Elementary School in order to be closer to home as I raised my children. Two of my four children actually went through "The Hills" during my seven year tenure as principal. I then had the honor of serving as principal of Carmel Valley Middle School for several years. Most recently, I have enjoyed reconnecting with students, curriculum and instruction as a classroom teacher (both virtually, due to the pandemic and in person). This pivot back to the classroom reaffirmed my love of teaching and broadened my leadership lens. I can truly say that I lead collaboratively with the perspective of a mom, teacher, and principal.

Now, with all four of my children through high school (my youngest daughter just graduated this June), I am positioned and eager to return to school leadership, and, once again, make as positive an impact as possible on the children and community that I serve. It is not a coincidence that I chose to return to San Diego Unified or Toler. I love our district and value our focus on the whole child, diversity, equity and inclusion. It is good to be "home". It is my dream to spend the upcoming years as principal of one of the best little elementary schools in the county.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. We have a fun, productive and memorable year ahead. I can not wait to greet your student's sweet smiling faces each morning, dig in the garden, "play" and chat on the playground and support innovative and cutting edge instructional practice in our classrooms. Please do not hesitate to stop by and say hello; my door is always open. Thank you for allowing me to be part of some of the most magical years in your family and your student's life.

In partnership,

Laurie Brady Francis
Principal, Toler Elementary School

GO DOLPHINS!

