



Where Eagles Soar

# GLEN HAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10900 Inwood Avenue · Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Phone: 301-649-8051 · Fax: 301-649-8540



*Office of the Principal*

July 15, 2021

Dear Glen Haven Families, Staff, and Community,

I am writing to inform you that at today's Board of Education meeting, I was appointed to the position of Dean of the K-6 Virtual Academy. In this role I will have the opportunity to support the superintendent's vision and strategic priorities by providing a strong, innovative, and equitable academic program for students in the new Virtual Academy. The decision to leave Glen Haven Elementary School (GHES) has truly been the most challenging and emotional decision of my career. Over the past four years, I have dedicated my heart and soul to every aspect of our incredible school and to our wonderful students. Though I look forward to promoting the success of students from across the entire school system, I will greatly miss the Glen Haven community.

My years as Principal have been the most rewarding, challenging, and exciting of my career. It has been an honor to serve the GHES students, staff, and families and it is difficult to know that I am leaving behind a very special school and an amazing community. When I began as Principal, I had already enjoyed the privilege of serving the community as Principal Intern and I have felt nothing but love, support, and connection in the years that have followed. As I transition into my new role, I take with me countless memories, lasting relationships, and a lifetime of lessons that I have learned from each of you. I leave with a grateful heart.

In my time as Principal, I have led with the belief that empathy and high expectations are the foundation for student success. I am proud of our accomplishments as we have expanded efforts around equity, culturally-responsive instruction, student well-being, social-emotional learning, implementation of new rigorous curricula, and school-wide engagement in social justice and celebrating cultural diversity. I am also proud of the enhanced systems and structures we have put in place for teacher collaboration and differentiated supports for students.

As a staff, we have kept students at the center as we have dedicated ourselves to continuous growth, improvement, and our own learning. We engaged deeply in robust professional development to ensure rigorous, relevant, and engaging instruction for all students. We deepened our knowledge of ourselves as leaders of learning through meaningful self-reflection on our identities, cultures, and mindsets so that we could better serve our students in an equitable and anti-racist school environment and in a culturally-responsive way. We carried these lessons and commitments into our virtual classrooms and devoted countless hours providing the very best for

each and every student. Staff truly demonstrated their commitment to Reach, Inspire, Support, and Engage with every student. We embodied what it looks like to RISE so our Eagles can SOAR.

As a community, we have come together countless times over the years to celebrate our diversity, our students, and their successes. We have come together in solidarity around social and racial justice with the shared goal to make this world a better place for our children. And more recently, we have found new ways to come together and remain connected as we have all navigated difficult times during the pandemic. I have never ceased to be amazed by the generosity of spirit I have seen throughout our school community. You have filled my heart and I hold the deepest respect, admiration, and gratitude for my Glen Haven family.

I am certain that this announcement is unexpected and raises some questions and concerns. In a short time, Dr. Peter Moran, Director of Learning, Achievement, and Administration, will share information regarding the next steps for the leadership transition. I want to assure each of you that I will stay very closely connected to all aspects of Glen Haven during this time to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

I also want to take a moment to thank the other GHES leaders who will support the transition including Ms. Brevard, our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Willis, our School Counselor, Ms. Gibson, our Staff Development Teacher, and Ms. Lucina, our Reading Specialist. GHES is truly in amazing hands! I want to express my appreciation for your support and thank you for welcoming the next leader of Glen Haven with open arms. I know Glen Haven will continue to SOAR and I look forward to hearing about your future successes!

With gratitude, respect, and love,

Cassandra Heifetz

*“...once an Eagle, always an Eagle...”*