

Dear Thoreau Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

It is with mixed emotions that I must notify you I will be leaving Thoreau for a new position with Fairfax County Public Schools. I have been offered and accepted the position of Principal of West Springfield High School. Though there were only a few positions that could have drawn me away from the Thoreau community, as a 1987 graduate of West Springfield High School, this was one of them. I have a unique opportunity and challenge ahead, and as I sadly depart from Thoreau, I am excited about returning to “my” high school to learn and lead. Please know that this decision was not an easy one, but I am confident that the outstanding staff, teachers, parents, and community members will continue the mission of excellence that is the very foundation of our school.

Our cluster office will begin the search for a new principal soon. In the meantime, the staff will be introduced to an acting principal to help through the transition. The search for a new principal is not an easy task, and it is one in which Fairfax County will invest a lot of time and resources. Our Cluster Superintendent Jim Kacur will hold a parent meeting on November 15th at 7 pm in the library to discuss community needs and explain the process.

Thoreau is truly an exceptional place, and I have often told people that I have the best job in all of Fairfax County Public Schools. It is the absolute perfect combination of dedication and community, and it has been an honor to be a part of it for eight years. When I first came to Thoreau, I never envisioned my tenure being this long; however, Thoreau quickly became a part of me. I have had immense and worthy collaboration with a phenomenal PTA, the exemplary support of an extraordinary business partner-Navy Federal, and the good fortune of our exceptional students.

I am most grateful to the dedicated staff that has allowed me to serve them. I receive so much credit and so many accolades for Thoreau’s successes, but, quite frankly, they are because of the staff’s effort, not mine. The teachers in this building are second to none, so rest assured that your children are being educated in one of the best environments in the country by some of the best professionals in the business. The teachers at Thoreau continually strive for improvement in practice and performance, and their tireless effort and dedication have consistently furthered our students’ achievement. I leave Thoreau proud of the culture that has been established, proud of the work that I have led, and so incredibly thankful for the opportunity.

Always respectfully,

Mark Greenfelder

Principal, Thoreau Middle School