

Dear Families,

As you know, Mr. Brent will be leaving our school this summer. This change has allowed me to rethink the roles of our administrative team. I am writing to share a new vision for the position of CJDS principal and announce the person who will fill this role.

The new vision is for one person to serve as principal of the entire school (preschool and elementary school). This person will be supported by an assistant principal (next year Ms. Kelly plans to serve in this role, with the title of mentor principal) along with a second support person whose title will be determined. I will continue in my role offering overall educational vision and guidance with a focus on the school's long-term fiscal health. Those of you who have been at CJDS longer than three years will remember that I served as principal for the entire school. I believe that this model can provide a more unified school with better support for children, families and teachers.

I am truly excited to announce that Ms. Kristin Ziegler will serve as the new CJDS principal. Many of you know Kristin as the current principal of the School of Zoological and Botanical Studies known as ZooBot. Kristin founded and leads this inquiry-based school and its after school program. Kristin is also a Magnet Schools of America Teacher of the Year Representative for Richland School District Two 2018/2019, Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District State Teacher of the Year 2017, and Teacher of the Year, Longleaf Middle School 2015-2016. Kristin also has expertise in Project Based Learning which aligns well with our school's educational approach.

Kristin has 14 years of educational experience including serving as a classroom teacher and for the past nine years as an administrator. She holds a bachelor's degree in science, master's degree in education, and an advanced educational specialist certification in principalship. She is also Nationally Board Certified and has a Gifted and Talented Endorsement. Her leadership practice revolves around partnering with families and teachers. Kristin shared that, "As a leader I work alongside families and teachers to make decisions on how to determine the best methods to achieve student-led learning. I communicate constantly to collaborate in serving the needs of teachers, families and children."

I think Kristin has the love for children, educational expertise, and years of school leadership that will enhance our entire school. Guided by my vision and supported by Ms. Kelly I am confident that we will have an incredible 2019-2020 school year.

Best,

Rabbi Meir