

Dear Families of Oakhurst Elementary,

Tonight at the August Board of Education meeting, I was promoted to the position of Director of Elementary Education. After serving as the principal of Oakhurst for the last 22 years (enjoying every moment of it), I decided that it was time to transition to a new challenge. An opportunity became available in the month of July and I submitted a letter of interest. Recently, I was offered the position and I accepted.

I am thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of the many collaborative educational changes in the Oakhurst Community, Oakhurst Elementary and City Schools of Decatur. The journey has been one that I will cherish and remember for a lifetime. In my heart, it is time to travel a new path. I am excited about the future of Oakhurst Elementary and the new opportunities that await me.

First, let me assure you that as I transition from serving as the principal of Oakhurst, we will have a plan in place to support and mentor the next principal. "I" will not leave until the next leader is on board and prepared to take Oakhurst to the next level, while the culture and family atmosphere of the school remains intact. It is my belief the best days at Oakhurst are yet to come. We have an incredible staff that has always, and will continue to, meet the changing needs of our students and ensure Oakhurst's continued success.

I want to thank all of you who took the time to consistently support me and the vision of Oakhurst Elementary and City Schools of Decatur. Your input and support have helped create an incredible elementary school that truly reflects the values of the community. We challenge our students to do their best on a daily basis; recognizing and accepting the differences of each and every person.

For the next few months, I will remain at Oakhurst and slowly transition into my new role. By the end of September, a committee of SLT, parents and staff members will be organized to plan the search for the next principal with the process being organized and implemented through our Human Resources Department. Until a new principal has been selected, I will remain as principal of Oakhurst. After the new principal is on board, I will still be available and will continue to serve as a support. I will work diligently and collaboratively with the new leader (and spend time in my new position) on a daily basis.

I am happy about what lies ahead for Oakhurst Elementary. I am even more excited about the opportunity to serve all young children in the City Schools of Decatur as the Director of Elementary Education. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. When you see me around, please stop and say hello.

With Warm Regards,
Mary Mack