

AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOLS

**Amherst Regional Middle School
170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002**

**(413) 362-1800
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September 4, 2009

Dear ARMS Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to update the middle school community of the most recent developments regarding the leadership transition.

As I assume most of you know, with Ms. Cresto's unexpected resignation, Superintendent Rodriguez asked that I assume a temporary role as interim middle school principal, a request I accepted.

The duration of the appointment is uncertain at present. We will assess the new, temporary arrangement in an ongoing manner and make a judgment about whether I will continue into the new year and beyond by December. Concurrently, I will retain my position as high school principal.

As you already know, Libby Hurley will remain in her position as an assistant principal. Until further notice, Mike Hayes will assume the position of interim senior assistant principal. On occasions when I am not available, Mr. Hayes will have the full authority to serve as interim principal of the middle school.

Final decisions about how to apportion my time between the two buildings and, more generally, how to temporarily re-define the roles and responsibilities of all the high school and middle school assistant principals is something we are working our way through right now. When these decisions are finalized, I will share with you all re-organization decisions.

Our immediate focus is on making final changes to students' schedules. Our goal is to distribute the adjusted schedules to students this Tuesday, September 8. While students' team assignments will not be affected, some of their classes may meet in a different daily sequence.

After schedules are distributed on Tuesday, we will hold grade-level assemblies later next week to enable students to meet the new administrators and answer their questions about the recent transition and temporary organizational plan.

Lastly, we will also schedule an evening meeting with parents and guardians. Most likely, this will happen during the week of September 14. The intent here will parallel that of our meeting with students: to meet the new administrators and discuss the transition and its implications for the next few months. We will notify parents and guardians of the meeting date and time via a ConnectEd message. It will also be posted on the ARMS web site.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. Email is best: jacksonmk@arps.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Jackson
Principal