



Dear Highlands Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Highlands Community. My name is Carrie Betti and I'm honored to be serving as your new school principal. I would like to share some of my experiences and background with you, so you know a little more about me before we meet in person. I grew up in Santa Cruz, where part of my family still resides, and I moved to San Francisco to attend college. I have spent the last 28 years living in San Francisco and working in the Bay Area. I am grateful to spend my free time with my husband Albert and our extended family who all live nearby in the Bay Area. This coming school year will be my twenty-fourth year in education, serving as an administrator for the past fourteen years, and a classroom teacher in upper and lower elementary grade levels for nine years. I feel privileged to join the San Mateo Foster City School District at Highlands Elementary School.

I received my Bachelor's degree and teaching credential from San Francisco State University. For graduate school I studied Education Leadership at Cal State East Bay in collaboration with the LEAD program at the Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools. I earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership and an Administrative Services Credential at Cal State East Bay. Through my studies and years of service to public schools, I have developed a deep understanding of what it means to lead for equity, social justice, and democracy. I am a leader who is committed to creating a community of learners who use their minds and hearts well. The responsibility of educating young children is one that I take seriously and know that a diverse elementary experience sets students up for success for their future. Now more than ever, this generation of students needs to be supported and nurtured for an ever changing future.

I am fortunate to have been able to take on diverse experiences throughout my career. I'm very accustomed to partnering with staff and parents for School Site Councils, ELAC, and PTA. I'm thrilled to bring my experience, Spanish bilingualism, and commitment to the Highlands diverse community. My initial goal is to continue to support the collaborative school culture that you already have at Highlands Elementary. I will continue to hold space for diverse teacher and parent voices by continuing to nurture distributive leadership opportunities. This year will likely prove to be like none other we've experienced with the pandemic affecting our daily routines and the delivery of our instruction. Our Superintendent and school board members are currently making decisions about what the fall start will look like, which includes a full time distance learning option, and a hybrid model for distance learning. More information will be sent out this week from Superintendent Rosas. Now more than ever, school communities need to work together to support each other through these challenging and changing times. I'm optimistic, open, and ready to become a part of the Highlands school community. I'm looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Thank you,

Ms. Carrie Betti