

Welcome Back! We are thrilled that you and your students have joined us for the 2019-2020 school year. It is such a gift for us to be able to partner with you in your child's education. We are excited about the positive changes taking place at Whittier to create a safe and caring learning community for our students.

We believe in nurturing a child's academic, social, and emotional development through explicit teaching, coaching, and mentoring. Creating a supportive class and school community will be vital to our success. We teach social skills that develop competencies for life long-learning and college and career success such as self-regulation skills, working collaboratively, problem solving, and conflict resolution. Our Tacoma Whole Child Initiative school-wide systems and the focus on the IB Learner Profile attributes will teach and reinforce expected behaviors and social skills and provide opportunities to recognize students for regular attendance, achieving academic goals, showing character traits, and demonstrating expected behavior. We will begin every day by meeting as a school community for morning business, announcements, and student recognition to ensure a calm start to the school day.

Safety will be an important goal for our school this year. We have created new safety procedures for parent pick to ensure that students are not running near the cars in the pick-up line. Our school doors and gates will be locked during the school day as we enforce the closed campus rules necessary to keep all of our students safe and secure. We will require all visitors to check-in at the office to get a visitor's sticker if you are volunteering or visiting during school hours. All staff members will be trained to remind visitor of the safety rules. We will be providing direct instruction about weapons, bullying, and harassment rules to all students several times per year.

Parents are an important part of our learning community and your voice is essential in achieving success for our students. We greatly appreciate opportunities for parent partnership, feedback, and leadership and we would like to invite you to become involved in the Whittier learning community. We have many volunteer opportunities as mentoring, supporting lunch and recess, working in the classroom, PTA events and leadership opportunities on school committees. Parent coffee events will be offered to provide parents with necessary information about our school, collect feedback from diverse perspectives, and share goals and action plans for school improvement. Parent workshops, family nights, and student-led conferences are great opportunities to partner with the school around your goals for your student's learning. Please join us for one of our many events.

We look forward to an amazing year of learning for your student! At Whittier, we believe in purposeful connections and intentional supports.

Debbie Audet, Principal