



Nassau Elementary School

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Dear Nassau Elementary School Community,

I'd like to introduce myself as the new principal of Nassau Elementary School. My name is Erik Lynch, and I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to work with your children. In my short time thus far, I have found Nassau Elementary to be a wonderful learning community with many dedicated professionals at every level. I can assure you that I share in this school community's commitment to caring for our most valuable resource, our children.

I received my bachelor's degree in elementary education from Valparaiso University and my master's degree in school leadership and administration from The College of Saint Rose. I arrive at Nassau with 9 years of elementary teaching experience and 4 years of school building leadership experience. Throughout all of these experiences, I have always looked forward to coming to "work". As I was taught growing up, when you can turn one of your loves into a job, you will never work a day in your life.

While I am an elementary teacher at heart, it is in my position as a principal where I have had the largest impact. Teachers are the most important variable in schools, and this elementary principalship provides me with the opportunity to work collaboratively with teachers on a daily basis while still remaining connected to the daily learning and growth of young children in the classroom. I strongly believe that every child can learn and grow, and it is this belief that motivates me to create a school culture that fosters the continuous improvement of all through a partnership between home and school.

In addition to my role as an educator, it's important for me to also mention that I am a husband and father as well. My wife, Kelly, is an elementary special education teacher in Rhinebeck and an incredible mother and wife. We live in Red Hook and have two (soon to be three) young boys at home! Gunner is a 5-year-old kindergarten student who loves watching college football, learning to read, and climbing anything! Axel is a 1 year old who is learning to verbalize himself, but would much rather remain stationary and have the toys brought to him!

Our family is excitedly expecting another boy in early February. I am really looking forward to introducing my family to the Spackenkill school community. Being a parent makes me appreciate the work/life balance that each of you face and has taught me to respect how difficult that can be. It also makes me think about the school experience that I would want my own children to have and pushes me to make all decisions based off of "what is best for kids".

I plan to attend monthly PTA meetings and will be sending out a separate communication in regard to a Principal's Coffee Hour that I will be hosting. It is my hope that we will get to know each other better in the coming months and have an open dialogue on all things Nassau! Please know that my door is always open and that I look forward to forming a strong partnership that will benefit all of our students!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E".

Erik Lynch
Principal