

August 7, 2017

Sylvan Park Family,

Welcome back! I am so excited to begin a new year with you!

First, I want to welcome all families who are new to Sylvan Park. The Sylvan Park community is truly special and we are glad to have you join us. Our teachers and families care deeply for this school, as is evident by the immense amount of energy they invest. I am so happy to be a part of such a special place, and I believe you will feel the same!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I was able to spend some time with my daughters, Taylor (23) and Tori (20). In June, Taylor gave birth to my first grandbaby, Kamryn, and I became a grandmother for the first time. I am, of course, in love. Tori is beginning her senior year at Howard University in Washington, DC this month with a major in Television and Film. I am very proud of her hard work. I hope to introduce you to all of my girls soon and to learn more about each of you and your children as well!

Over the summer, I also enjoyed preparing for this school year with teachers, the PTO board, and our office staff. Together, we are working to bring together district-wide and school-level initiatives while also taking special care to maintain the unique culture and spirit of the Sylvan Park community. These initiatives include the Paideia philosophy, restorative practices, differentiated instruction aligned to the new Tennessee standards, and Personalized Learning Time (formerly known as RTII). We look forward to sharing more with you about these frameworks in the coming weeks.

Finally, your contribution matters! We want all members of the Sylvan Park community to have a voice, take part in the work we do to serve children, and, in turn, build positive relationships. On the last Friday of every month at 8 a.m. in the media center, I will be available to answer questions during Engage with Elder meetings. I also hope to see you at PTO meetings. Our wonderful PTO provides many opportunities for you to be involved, and this support is critical. Please find a way to participate!

Thank you so much for choosing to be a part of the Sylvan Park family. We are so excited to begin this new year with you!

Your Principal,

*Robin Elder*