

December 20, 2013

Dear West High Parents,

I am writing to inform you that at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year, I will be retiring from the Madison Metropolitan School District and stepping down as principal of Madison West High School. I send this notification at this time because shortly after winter break, retirements from the Madison School District will be made public. I wanted to inform you myself rather than have students and families find out via a news cast.

It has indeed been a privilege and an honor to serve with the Madison schools over the past 24 years and as principal of West High for the past decade. As principal and a parent of two West graduates, I continue to believe in the ideals that have been passed down from one generation to the next in the storied tradition and legacy of excellence at West. The job has been all I anticipated and more. What I will cherish most, as I move into retirement, is the opportunity I have had to work with some of the most committed, passionate, and talented education professionals in the country.

I have valued the sense of community and extended family West provides to all who come through our doors. The tremendously talented students, who are second to none in terms of leadership, creativity, innovation, and intellectual capacity, have inspired me to learn and grow and have pushed my thinking and leadership over the past ten years. The West community exhibits such spirit, pride, and integrity amongst the families who love West so much that they would not think of sending their children to any other high school. These qualities make this place special and sets it apart from other public schools.

I have appreciated your support over the past ten years and look forward to your continued support for the next six months as I complete my tenure as principal at West.

I hope your holiday season is filled with fun, festive activities with family and friends as well as much rest and relaxation. I look forward to the New Year with great excitement and anticipation.

Sincerely,



Ed Holmes, Ph.D., Principal

Madison West