



August 5, 2022

Dear Cornell Elementary Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Principal of Cornell Elementary School. I am very excited and honored to join this amazing staff as your School Leader! Cornell Elementary has enjoyed tremendous success over the years and is well-known for educational excellence within the Okemos Public School District and beyond. This recognition has not materialized by accident. It has been through the hard work, dedication, and partnerships that have existed between school staff, parents, community members, and the most important piece of the equation, the students. It is my intention to continue the wonderful work that has been implemented at Cornell Elementary through previous leaders and work in collaboration with staff to elevate Cornell Elementary to a new level of success! I am humbled and most appreciative of this opportunity to become a member of your school family.

This fall marks my 22nd year in the field of education. I am a graduate of MSU, receiving my Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education in 2000 and my Masters of Arts in Literacy and Language Instruction in 2005. I have been with the Lansing School District for 21 years as a classroom teacher, mentor, grade level lead, and most recently a building principal. My career began as a classroom teacher in the Magnet Program at Woodcreek Magnet School for Math, Science and Engineering where I taught in the classroom for 10 years. I moved to Riddle Elementary School in the fall of 2011, where I was an active on the building Leadership team, iCollaborate team, and the lead-teacher in Kindergarten for 5 years. I also gained valuable experience at the collegiate level, working as an adjunct faculty member of Lansing Community College. My most recent assignment was as the Principal of Post Oak Academy International Baccalaureate/Chinese Immersion from 2016 to 2022. The most enjoyable aspect of each placement was building relationships within the school community and engaging in collaborative opportunities to provide the highest quality educational experiences for all students.

As the leader of Cornell Elementary, I enthusiastically embrace the philosophy that each and every one of us can make a difference in someone else's life each and every day. We will continue to work as a staff to instill this belief in all of our students, helping them see the positive difference they can make in others' lives, no matter the size of the action. I recognize that embracing diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as differentiated, rigorous, and relevant instruction that meets the needs of each student will be the vehicle to continuing Cornell Elementary School's success. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to provide a strong academic program for our students which includes inquiry, exploration and discovery, with opportunities to expand the global viewpoint of each Cornell student. I cannot wait to meet your child(ren) and look forward to working with your family this school year!

Warmest Regards,

Tracy Ojerio, Principal
Cornell Elementary School

"Together...educating with excellence, inspiring each learner for life."