

Lopez Island School District #144

86 School Road
Lopez Island, WA 98261
Phone 360-468-2202 Fax (360) 468-2212
www.lopezislandschool.org

Dr. Carl Bruner, Interim Superintendent

Mary Fordham, Interim Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

Dear Lopez Island School District Community,

Hello! My name is Mary Fordham and I am very excited to be serving the LISD community as the interim elementary principal for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about myself. I started my teaching profession as a special education teacher in Texas. I continued teaching when I moved to Washington and then Oregon and have ten plus years of teaching experience spanning both elementary and middle school levels. About seven years ago, I decided that I wanted to make a larger impact in the teaching field, so I started my doctorate work in education at the University of Washington, where I also coached and prepared teacher candidates for the teaching profession. During this time, I developed a deep appreciation for research, but I also realized how much I enjoyed working with teachers to grow their instructional practice through professional development and individually with students.

So, four and a half years ago, I pursued my administration degree and for three and a half years, I worked as an assistant principal for four different elementary schools in the Edmonds School District, splitting my FTE between two schools at one time. For the 2019-20 school year, I was fortunate to have the chance to cover for my colleague as an interim principal in Edmonds so that he could take a leave of absence to help his mother who is suffering from Alzheimer's. This opportunity allowed me to gain great experience as a first-year principal.

On a more personal note, I grew up in Houston, Texas and moved to Washington 13 years ago. I have a house in Seattle with my fiancé, Todd, and his 16-year-old son, Tyson; however, I am renting a place on Lopez Island and both Todd and Tyson will be visiting often. Todd and I had planned to be married last summer, but COVID had different plans for us. We love to garden, hike, bike, and travel. My favorite activity is mountain biking and I try to get out to ride at least once every weekend. I enjoy riding with Todd or my teammates on Spokeswomen Racing; however, my favorite riding partner is my five-year old Vizsla pup, named Livy. I am looking forward to meeting Lopez Lobo families, students, and community members in the upcoming months and to making this a successful spring 2021.

Sincerely,

Mary

The Lopez Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Superintendent Carl Bruner – cbruner@lopezislandschool.org, Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org, Section 504 Academic Case Manager, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – jcarter@lopezislandschool.org, Section 504 Health Care Case Manager, Karen Hattman, RN – khattman@lopezislandschool.org
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