

G.A. STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Falcons



Mrs. Mary Kay Puchalla, Acting Principal

June 24, 2020

Dear Stetson Middle School Community:

I wanted a chance to introduce myself as the new acting principal of Stetson Middle School. The end of the 2019-20 school year was certainly not without its challenges, and as we look towards the upcoming school year, there are still many unanswered questions.

The unexpected passing of Dr. Cognato hit everyone hard. Students, staff, and the community lost their beloved principal; I lost a friend, colleague, and mentor. I want you to know that I am here to help support all of you through this difficult time.

I worked with Dr. C at Stetson as his assistant principal from 2013-2018. At that time, I moved to Fugett Middle School in the same role. I am honored to return to Stetson and have the opportunity to lead a team of great educators, staff, and students who care about one another. I aspire to establish a school culture and educational program that promotes student growth, socialization, and academic achievement while fostering positive behavior, student and faculty teamwork, and collaboration.

Throughout my career in education, I have held many roles - teacher, advisor, coach, mentor, but my favorite is principal. It is a challenging but rewarding job. My philosophy is to meet students' needs, both socially and emotionally, and help them achieve their personal best. I will continue to build strong relationships with the students and staff at Stetson as well as community members.

I live in West Goshen Township with my husband and two sons. My older son recently graduated from East High School and will be attending the University of Richmond this fall. My younger son is a rising sophomore at East High School. We chose to live in West Chester because we strongly believe that the West Chester Area School District values high standards and provides rich learning experiences for all students.

My goal is for all students at Stetson to feel safe, engaged, and supported. I look forward to greeting students in the hallways, seeing them laugh and smile, and having conversations with all community members soon.

You'll be receiving information shortly about the school district's process to complete a search for a new principal, as well about our incoming sixth grade transition program. Communication is the key to success, and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. These words have been spoken many times over the last few months, but to me, they are more important than ever - we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Kay Puchalla

Acting Principal