

Dearest Wheeler Community,

It is with great pleasure and excitement to write this letter of introduction to you as your new interim principal. I am truly honored to become part of a warm and welcoming community. I am looking forward to working alongside each of you to continue the success that has been generated.

This upcoming school year will be my sixteenth year in education. I started my career as an exceptional education teacher and taught seven years in a variety of settings and roles. I began as a self-contained ED teacher, then became a resource teacher, working with students with multiple disabilities. While obtaining my counseling degree, I had a wonderful opportunity to teach in a self-contained ID classroom at Booth-Fickett.

From 2015-2020, I served as the school counselor at Dietz K-8. It was with this great experience I understood the importance of supporting our children's social and emotional development while promoting their academic and personal growth. It was an honor to collaborate with our families, teachers and community services to ensure we were meeting the needs of our students.

For the past four years, I had the most amazing experience being the assistant principal at C.E. Rose. I was fortunate to work with Mrs. Carmona-Alday who mentored and guided me throughout the years, preparing me for this very moment of becoming a principal.

What I am most excited to share is that I am a mother of a seven-year-old daughter. As a parent, I completely understand the importance of ensuring your child has the best educational experience possible. You can expect me to stand side by side with our Wheeler families in believing that all students can and will succeed with the proper supports.

One of the most important principles I believe in is creating strong and positive relationships with students, families and teachers. You will see me attending our site's events, walking our hallways, being inside our classrooms, and helping direct traffic at our dismissals. I am often the first one to participate in any spirit week celebrations, often wearing anything to support the Minnesota Vikings.

Once again, I truly appreciate this wonderful opportunity to join the Wildcat family. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know one another better. If you happen to stop by campus and I am not there, it is because I will need to attend meetings and trainings within the next two weeks. Until we can meet in person, please feel free to reach out by. Again, I am very much looking forward to a wonderful 2024-2025 school year.

Warmest regards,

Kari Baltes

