

Ralph R. Smith Elementary School

16 Smith Court
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Hyde Park, New York 12538
845-229-4060

Melissa Lawson
Principal

February 1, 2010

Dear Families,

My name is Melissa Lawson and I feel honored and privileged to say that I am the new principal of Ralph R. Smith Elementary School. It was truly an honor to be selected to fill this very important role within this wonderful school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I reside in New Paltz with my husband, Steve and twelve-year-old son, Eric. For the past two and a half years, I have been the assistant principal at Scotchtown Avenue Elementary School and Goshen Intermediate School in Goshen, New York. Prior to that, I taught fourth grade, second grade and academic intervention services for reading and math at Cairo Elementary School in Cairo, New York.

Over the past few weeks, I have been working with Mr. Welling to ensure a smooth transition for you and your child. I have also been meeting with the faculty and staff and would like to extend the invitation to you as well. Please come and meet me prior to the next PTA meeting on February 9th at 6:30pm in the art room. Attached to this letter, you will find a questionnaire. Please take some time to fill it out and return it to the main office. It will help me to understand the specific culture and climate of the building.

I strongly believe that each child is unique and in the need of a secure, caring, respectful and stimulating environment in which he/she can learn and reach his/her fullest potential academically, socially and emotionally. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the upcoming school year. I had a great time visiting each classroom on my first day of school to introduce myself.

Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions or if I can be of any assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to call me. I know that if we keep the lines of communication open, together we will build a successful future for your child at Ralph R. Smith Elementary School!

Sincerely,

Melissa Lawson
Principal