

Dear Calvert Community,

Welcome Back to School! It has been such a great start to the new school year. The scholars have already been learning from their teachers, becoming familiar with their learning spaces, and participating with their peers in class. Wonderful conversations and laughter are filling our building. Smiles, handshakes, high fives, and hugs, are being exchanged between students and adults creating GREAT energy in our halls and classrooms...there is a genuine happiness to be back at school amongst teachers and classmates they enjoy and adore. We love it!!!

As your new K-12 principal, I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself. After over a quarter of a century in public education and participation in a wide variety of experiences, beginning with teaching and then moving into leadership at the school level, I am thoroughly excited to have been asked to be your principal. My administrative career started as an Assistant Principal and Curriculum Specialist in Austin Independent School District. Soon after, I was personally recruited by the Area II Superintendent, to become her Associate. Most recently, I spent 15 years in a principalship in Austin, Texas. Ultimately, there we created the culture of warmth and high expectations that exists today. On a broader scope, I was mentored by and learned from our superintendent and his chief of staff. I also spent time presenting as a public speaker/consultant at the district, state, and national level. I served as President for Phi Delta Kappa University of Texas Chapter; and I was invited to speak with leaders at the Department of Education in Washington, DC as a Texas representative with other state delegates. Finally, having read hundreds of books and articles on the topic of leadership, I earned my doctorate in educational leadership. This knowledge base, my vast experiences in public education, combined with my passion, determination and ongoing level of acquisition of current best practices of education will only help me guide students, teachers and work with parents and community members. I cannot wait to meet you all.

A few things you should know about my leadership style as it will relate to Calvert ISD:

While learning, listening, talking to experts, and working over the past 27 years in the field of education, I have been motivated with ideas about student learning, education, and environments within schools today, and what I believe is necessary to prepare students, not just to survive and thrive, but to become innovators, problem-solvers and leaders in tomorrow's world. It is my belief that no student should feel alone at school, and that it is ok to be who you are!!! I believe it is paramount that each scholar be supported by his/her teacher, other adult(s) in the school, and classmates and that we are intentional and purposeful in our efforts, expecting each student to be academically challenged, and prepared. It is important to me that each scholar sets and achieve goals, and are/become acutely aware of the potential that lies

within each one of them if we expect our student to become frontrunners in tomorrow's world, a world we, in 2019, know nothing about. We don't know the problems that will exist in 2035, we are not aware of the technology that will be essential, and we don't know what constraints young adults of the future will deal with, work under, or other factors they will encounter. So we must prepare them by ensuring their involvement in activities and tasks in core academic areas, character trait discussions and demonstrations, and daily tasks requiring learners to employ varied tools, methods, procedures, strategies and technology. Students will communicate, collaborate, problem-solve, embrace, and benefit from the strengths and diversity of others, and will be afforded venues and audiences in which students can develop, practice and share habits that cultivate imagination, creativity, risk-taking, and resourceful behaviors. There will be discussions to prepare students to expect to make mistakes, fail, embrace and learn from that failure, learn to handle frustration and anxiety, while coaching these learners to find within themselves, grit, resilience and indomitable will to overcome disappointment, uncomfortable situations and/or adversity, and provide opportunities for them to find success after mistakes/failure, and share their accomplishments with others.

In closing, rest assured that students' safety is my #1 priority, followed by promoting each student's academic, social, emotional, behavioral and physical growth. We know that by working together with you, our students will be prepared for life today, as well as college, trade school, life and a career in their exciting and unknown future. My leadership will continue to be focused on the success of all students, staff members, and parents. By having my eye on long-term goals with laser-like precision, we will be able to build strong strategies for short-term wins. I believe that a school can easily be a place where ALL can find mutual trust, respect, and openness. Now that I will have the honor to work with you and your students I am certain that with everyone together, we will charge ahead determined to blaze the trail for a brighter tomorrow.

Dr. Lori Schneider

Together for Children,
Dr. Lori Schneider, K-12 Principal in Calvert ISD