Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

The start of a new school year brings possibility. The possibility of exciting new learning, substantial growth and development, and the possibility of new experiences and memories that will stay with us forever. A new school year also brings new relationships: new teachers, new classmates, new families, and new team members. These new relationships are at the center of our work the first few months of school at the elementary school.

We believe that a trusting relationship between home and school is a critical ingredient in the success of a student. Partnering with families—knowing them and valuing their contributions—is as important to us as knowing the students and content we teach. In order to build relationships from a place of trust, we conduct home visits with students across the elementary school. Starting in July, pairs of elementary school staff meet up with families to learn about what their goals are for their child and share about ourselves: where we grew up and what our hopes are for the year. It is through these visits that we begin to develop the trusting relationships required to communicate with one another effectively about academics and social-emotional growth and development.

Last year, the elementary school completed home visits with 83% of our families. This year we’re striving for 85% and we’re well on our way. So far, 73% of elementary school families have welcomed staff into their homes or community. Does your child attend the elementary school? If so, have you had a home visit yet? If not, reach out to your child’s teacher to find time. Not only will your child’s teacher learn more about you, but you will learn more about them as people too!

With gratitude,

Brittany Wagner-Friel
Elementary School Principal, Grades PK-4

Stay up to date

To stay up to date on academic, family, and community events at E.L. Haynes, visit elhaynes.org/school-calendars.
CAMPUS SPOTLIGHTS

ES Launches *Boys to Men Youth* Program

Our ES recently launched the *Boys to Men Youth* Program for male students in grades 3 & 4, to duplicate the mission and values of the *Boys to Men Big Brother* Program at our HS. The *Boys to Men Youth* Program intervenes in the challenges young boys face by offering mentorship, engagement and bonding, community service, structure, and rewards for being a positive member of our school community. For the first celebration, ES Dean of Culture, Chad Quinn and HS Dean of Culture, Nicole Smith, hosted a monthly "Do It For The Culture" breakfast and invited select *Boys to Men Youth* members.

MS Student-Led Community Meetings

This month, our MS launched their first student-led community meetings of the year, focusing on building relationships and showcasing student performances. Music teacher, Ashton Conklin, and Assistant Principal, Sarah Valverde, collaborated with teachers to provide students with the opportunity to display their talents, entertain their classmates, and learn about their teachers. During a recent 6th grade community meeting, students welcomed each other, listened to a teacher talk candidly about bullying, enjoyed a musical performance, and closed by dancing to "The Cha-Cha Slide" - all within twenty minutes!

HS Seniors Meet the Crew of *Hamilton*

At the end of September, our 11th and 12th grade students had the opportunity to attend a free performance of *Hamilton* at the Kennedy Center. Before the show, students delivered original performances inspired by American history. Haynes trio, Diego, Lanyiah, and Te'wan performed their original rap, *Hands up, 13 Colonies* on stage for the *Hamilton* cast and more than 2,000 local high school students. Thank you to the Hamilton Education program and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History for this amazing opportunity for our students.

MEET OUR PRINCIPALS

Brittany Wagner-Friel, ES Principal

*How long have you been at Haynes?*
This is my twelfth year.

*What was the most important lesson you learned in school?* The most important lesson I learned in school is the value of hard work. My education helped me see the impact effort had on my learning and progress. When I worked hard and didn't give up I learned more and did better than when I didn't try as hard or let other things get in the way.

*Fun Fact:* I like to lick my plate after I eat a delicious meal (when nobody is looking!)

Zenada Mahon, MS Principal

*How long have you been at E.L. Haynes?*
This is my third month.

*When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?* When I was younger, I wanted to be a psychologist.

*Fun Fact:* Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day. I love cooking breakfast with my daughter.

Emily Hueber Stoetzer, HS Principal

*How long have you been at E.L. Haynes?*
This is my seventh year.

*What was the most important lesson you learned in school?* Ask for help!

*What do you appreciate most about the diversity of E.L. Haynes?* Our diversity defines the community for staff, students, and families. I appreciate how our students are leaders for equity, embrace diversity, and learn from each other.

*Fun Fact:* I moved 15 times before graduating from High School.