Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

We're off to a strong start to the 2018-19 school year! We adopted a lot of exciting new programs across our three campuses: our elementary campus utilizes Calm Classroom strategies, which empower students and teachers to use mindfulness skills that support mental and emotional wellbeing; our middle school students participate in regular all school meetings and outdoor recess at Parkview Recreation Center; and, our high school offers exciting new courses including Music Production, Peer Court, Yoga, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and Jay Z Decoded: A Model of African American Resistance and Liberation. This year, we also doubled the number of students who are taking Advanced Placement Calculus.

Our PARCC scores demonstrate that we have work to do. We are strategizing to improve rigor and student work quality and are more closely monitoring the achievement of our special education students and English learners. Our principals and teachers carefully analyzed our results and are creating structures and strategies to increase our proficiency rates.

In addition to our maintained focus on your students' learning experiences, we also continue to invest in expanding students' horizons through clubs, athletics, arts, and music. Please feel free to reach out to me or your principal if you would like to share your reflections, questions, concerns, or hopes for your student's learning. I look forward to sharing additional exciting updates with you as the year progresses.

With excitement for a new year,

Phyllis Hedlund
Chief Academic Officer

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

APTT Meetings are Around the Corner

We are a few short weeks away from our first round of academic partnering. In place of traditional one-on-one conferences, our elementary school will hold Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) meetings during the week of September 17. During these group meetings, teachers will share important data, set relevant and measurable goals, and introduce activities for you to do at home to support your student's learning. We will provide childcare and light snacks and will raffle off $50 gift cards to families. We look forward to seeing you there!

Middle School Music has the Beat

Our middle school music classes kicked off the year with lively performances on the sidewalk on Georgia Avenue and during a middle school community meeting. Students began the year with a unit on Percussion Ensemble, where they are learning to play drums, steel drums, marimbas, and xylophones. So far, our musicians have learned to play 12 songs from a variety of genres including *Danza Kudro*, *Se Marcho El Amor*, *Level Up*, *Tokyo Drift*, *Solita*, and *I Smile*. Thank you, Mr. Conklin, for continuously displaying student learning in unique ways and providing joy to the entire Haynes and Columbia Heights community.

High School Fosters Community

In August, we hosted an extra-curricular, activities, and sports recruitment event and pre-college fair. To date, 56% of our High School students have already started participating in an extracurricular activity! Last week our 9th grade students completed a full-day of team-building at the Calleva Ropes Course. This coming week the Class of 2019 will engage in an interactive overnight team-building retreat in northern Maryland. We look forward to bringing back our experiences to the classroom.

MEET OUR STAFF

Rasheed Copeland, ES Ops Coordinator

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

**If you could go back and tell your younger self something regarding education, what would it be?** I would tell my younger self that each individual learns at their own pace and in their own way. So, if you are having trouble grasping a lesson, whether in class or in life, be kind and patient with yourself.

**Fun Fact:** I attended elementary school in the same building (Clark Elementary) where E.L. Haynes is now located.

Casey Kilburn, Teacher, Grades 5-6 ELL

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

**How has working in education impacted other parts of your life?** Working in education has been an incredibly humbling experience for me. The skills I have learned that have allowed me to communicate and build stronger relationships with my students, have also transferred into other parts of my life. It also has made me much more socially active and aware of the inequities that our students face, and has pushed me to be more reflective in the ways that I can be active in the fight to change certain policies or support certain causes.

Becca Thomas, Registrar, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, HS Yoga Instructor

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

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?** A news anchor - that ship sailed when I realized that I was terrified of anything public speaking related in front of large audiences or for important things.

**Fun Fact:** In HS, I played field hockey and we won states (in 2004), which was a huge deal because we were the first team in our region to ever win states!