

March 19, 2013

Maplewood Richmond Heights School District
7539 Manchester Road
Maplewood, MO 63143

Dear MRH Middle School Principal Selection Committee:

As an education leader, I am guided in my daily work by a focus on student learning and preparedness for global citizenship, and by a set of professional maxims ([Prezi](#) presentation):

- Be Authentic
- Ask Questions
- Two Is Better Than One
- Empower Is Power
- Tell Your Story
- Focus On The Verge
- Do Good With A Vengeance
- Equity Is Not Optional
- Simplify And Go

What does this look like in practice? I am in every classroom, every day, working side-by-side with students and teachers as a learner and facilitator. I connect with the community beyond the boundaries of the school walls, during planned events, impromptu conversations, as a professional, a teacher, a mother, an advocate, an invested member of the community I am serving. I make connections one student, one teacher, one family, at a time. I model, share metacognitive processes, and actively develop the leadership capacity of others, intentionally multiplying each individual's potential. I inspect what I expect, and find ways to share the good work our community does to further multiply our success. An essential strength of mine is the ability to develop meaningful relationships with a wide variety of people. This allows me to engage in honest discourse, be transparent with collective and individual expectations, provide constructive and individualized feedback, create authentic feedback loops, evaluate progress, reflect, revise, and adjust to ensure we are on the right path.

INNOVATIVE is a repeated mantra of those who speak about Maplewood Richmond Heights, and while this is an apt and exhilarating quality, the word that resonates most with me as a single descriptor to encapsulate all I have learned of MRH is **CHERISHED**. This is a community that cherishes its children, their happiness, their self, and their potential. This is a community that cherishes the world that will provide its children roots and wings throughout this life and generations to come. MRH students cherish their schools, learning experiences, opportunities, diverse peers, dedicated staff, and their own unique and inspiring selves.

The Blue Devil community was able to act on their hope for their children and transform their schools into a physical manifestation of those feelings. Few districts are able to accomplish what MRH has set out as exemplar across the nation. Although overall student achievement has improved drastically, it is far from excellence, and the racial and economic achievement gap implores us to action. I am confident that I possess the leadership ability to continue to build upon the foundation of success established at MRH School District. My combined experiences as a high school teacher, K-12 leader in curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and gifted specialist, put me in a prime position to understand the often-disjointed middle school experience and create an academically and socially-emotionally positive and enriching learning experience for students and families.

At this time, I would like to formally apply for the MRH Middle School Principal position. I look forward to meeting with the interview team and discussing my qualifications and vision. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Sincerely,



Erin Croley
5892 NW 181st Ave
Portland, OR 97229
503-351-1334