

McDermoth Elementary School



Home of the Bulldogs
409 N. K St.
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Bryan McKinney, Principal
(360) 538-2120
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February 15, 2019

Dear McDermoth Parents and Guardians:

I am sure many of you are aware that one of our teachers was arrested this week. All of us here at the school understand that this is a very shocking and difficult situation. I am writing to assure you that our staff is fully dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our students.

We have planned how to address this issue as a building team and will be offering support for students. In addition, Mr. Dan Sundstrom has agreed to come out of retirement and join our staff as the P.E. teacher effective Wednesday, February 20.

Shortly after we learned of the arrest, our superintendent, Dr. Alicia Henderson, issued the following statement:

Our District was informed Wednesday evening, Feb. 13, that Mr. Ryan Harless, a P.E. teacher at McDermoth Elementary School since 2012, had been arrested and was being transported to Marysville.

At this time, it is an active police investigation by the Marysville and Aberdeen police departments and the District is cooperating fully. Anyone who thinks they may have information that would aid the investigation is asked to contact Detective Jeff Weiss at the Aberdeen Police Department, (360) 533-8765.

This is a legal matter and a personnel matter that limits our ability to share specific information, but I can share with you that Mr. Harless has been a teacher in good standing with the District and has not been the subject of any prior complaints or internal investigations. The investigation does not involve any students of the Aberdeen School District.

As always, the safety of our students remains a primary concern. The District will keep itself apprised and will take all necessary steps to ensure the least possible disruption to the learning environment. To that end, we ask our community's assistance regarding the tenor of social media conversations while the legal process plays out. Anyone with concerns is free to contact me at (360) 538-2002.

The McDermoth staff is ready to support you and our students should you have questions or concerns. We are encouraging any students with questions or concerns to talk with our counselor, myself, and their parents.

I personally appreciate all of the support we have had this year from parents and the community. We will move forward and persevere together. If you have any further questions for me, please feel free to contact me at (360) 538-2121 or through email at bmckinney@asd5.org.

Sincerely,


Bryan McKinney
Principal