

June 25, 2024

Dear Carderock Springs Elementary School Community,

My name is Ryan Graves, and it is with great pride that I write this letter of introduction to you, as the next principal of Carderock Springs Elementary School. I am excited to lead Carderock Springs Elementary School, a 2004 National Blue Ribbon School, with a history of outstanding student achievement. I look forward to working with a strong instructional staff and active parent community to support the engagement and achievement of all Carderock Springs' students.



Over the past nineteen years, I have served as an elementary school teacher, team leader, staff development teacher, assistant school administrator, assistant principal, and most recently as a principal intern. It was these experiences and those of my own educational journey that taught me the importance of opportunity, integrity, and persistence. I look forward to bringing the knowledge gained from these experiences to the students, staff, and parents/ caregivers of Carderock Springs to ensure everyone is provided opportunities for success, acts with integrity, and persists in all that we do!

On a personal note, my wife Julie, an elementary school teacher in MCPS, and I have two wonderful daughters, Autumn and Ivy. Autumn will be entering eighth grade and Ivy will be entering fourth grade this fall, both enjoy school, athletics, music, playing roblox, the outdoors, and playing with friends.

In the coming weeks, I will work closely with Mr. Owusu to ensure there's a smooth transition between leadership. I also plan on learning about the community. That entails knowing faces and names, and meeting with all stakeholders to learn what makes Carderock Springs important to you and our students. I believe all children should receive a high level of education in an environment that is safe and engaging, where our students can be themselves while focusing on a growth mindset in order to build lifelong learners.

In the coming days, I will share dates and details of optional gatherings in order to connect but please know that I welcome your phone calls, emails, and school visits in the meantime. I look forward to celebrating our successes during the 2024-2025 school year.

Ryan T. Graves

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan T. Graves". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.