

Dear Patterson Families and Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write to introduce myself to you as your new principal for the 2024-2025 school year! I am thrilled for the opportunity to again join the Patterson School family. I know that Patterson is like a home away from home. It is a community where strong relationships are made between the home and school, and where all staff, families, and community members are committed to inspiring all students to achieve their greatest potential. I am eager to work together with you to uphold the long standing tradition of Patterson pride and excellence.

I am so excited to be back at Patterson where I spent the last 4 years as Student Service Coordinator before going to Owen where I currently serve as the Student Service Coordinator. Previous to this, I have spent time as a classroom teacher at both first and fifth grades at Graham and Cowlshaw Elementary School. I was also the interventionist at Cowlshaw for four years. I have been very fortunate to work with many students, families, community members and staff who have helped me to become the educator I am today.

I am grateful to have the support of both my husband and family. I have three children; Mackenzie and Jack who attend Kendall Elementary and Madelyn who attends Crone Middle School in District 204. We spend our time supporting each other at various events such as gymnastics meets, soccer games, wrestling tournaments, basketball games, chorus concerts, and dance performances. My husband and I both graduated from the University of Iowa and are loyal Hawkeye fans! When we are not watching sports, we enjoy time outside hiking, biking, as well as playing games as a family.

I have been dedicated to my career in education for the last seventeen years. Building relationships with all of you is a top priority as I believe this leads to developing a positive school culture where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe in an open door policy and I feel that communication is essential for a successful partnership. I look forward to continuing to get to know each and every student and family at Patterson. I can't wait to see what amazing things we can accomplish together.

I am excited and humbled to be back in the burrow as principal of Patterson Elementary School!

Go Prairie Dogs!
Michelle Hebenstreit