



For Immediate Release  
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### **Kentfield School District Announces New Principal for Kent Middle School Following Retirement of Current Principal Skip Kniesche**

*Grant Althouse, current principal in the Palo Alto Unified School District, selected to lead Kent Middle School.*

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#### **Kent Middle School**

800 College Avenue  
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Skip Kniesche, Principal  
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Kentfield, CA. – The Kentfield School District is pleased to announce that Grant Althouse has been named the new principal at Kent Middle School beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year. Current Principal Skip Kniesche will retire at the end of June 2018 after 26 years of dedicated service to the Kentfield School District.

For the past four years, Althouse has been the principal at Fairmeadow Elementary School, a highly-ranked school serving over 500 students in the Palo Alto Unified School District. He also has experience leading a middle school from two years as Assistant Principal at Jordan Middle School. Althouse was a well-respected fifth grade teacher for eight years and then focused on middle school English language learners as a teacher on special administrative assignment before taking on his leadership roles within the Palo Alto Unified School District.

“Throughout our interview process, Grant stood out as a dynamic educator committed to the whole child - intellectual, emotional, social and physical,” said Liz Schott, Superintendent Kentfield School District. “I have never heard such praise for a professional and a person as I did when speaking to Grant’s references. It was quite inspirational.”

After Skip Kniesche announced his retirement in the fall, a search committee of teachers, classified staff members, parents, and administrators worked for several months to develop the desired leadership profile for the next principal to find the best fit for our community. Althouse quickly emerged as an outstanding candidate with experience in leading elementary and middle schools in a similar community to Kentfield, paired with his enthusiasm for the academic, social, and creative success of all children.

“I am excited for the opportunity to work at a middle school with a talented group of educators dedicated to developing students who are curious, engaged, healthy, balanced, and active participants in their community,” said Grant Althouse, incoming Kent Middle School Principal.

Althouse holds a Masters of Arts in education administration from Santa Clara University and a Bachelors of Arts in English with a minor in education from U.C. Davis. Althouse has been a noted speaker on social emotional learning, inclusion, and middle school leadership at national educational conferences and completed professional development courses on next generation science standards, social-emotional development, equity, reading, writing, and Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education’s prestigious *Art of Leadership* program.

Opportunities for faculty, staff, students, parents and members of the community to meet and welcome Grant Althouse to the Kentfield community will be announced.

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#### **About Kentfield School District**

Kentfield School District (KSD), located in Kentfield, California, educates 1,230 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School. Our teachers offer innovative, award-winning programs that engage our students’ creativity, character, and curiosity and empower them to reach high, work hard, and be kind