



Dear East Ridge Middle Community,

Yesterday, I sent the regular newsletter providing updates to our families as we return to in-person learning this week. As part of that newsletter, I highlighted February as Black History Month with a theme of “All Lives Matter.” I want to apologize for not more fully considering the context of that theme, as my inspiration for it was taken from a mural within our school that states “Where Every Child Matters.”

As a black woman in leadership, I embrace civil rights, Black History Month and the sacrifices that have been made by those who came before me. I hope that my students, many of whom look like me, believe in the possibilities of their unlimited potential.

My father, Dr. Virgil J. Caldwell, was a local pastor and civil rights leader. I had the opportunity to experience firsthand the fight for equality. Additionally, both of my parents were educators, so I learned at a young age the importance of access to high-quality education.

I firmly believe that every child that walks through the doors of East Ridge Middle School matters, and my heart was to emphasize how important each one of our students are to me.

It’s been a joy to welcome children back to in-person learning, and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Christy Caldwell Drake, ERMS Principal

# East Ridge Middle School

Onde Cada Crianca É Importante

Wo jedes Kind zählt

すべての子供の事項

Donde importa cada niño

Dimana unggal anak perkara

Όπου κάθε παιδί έχει σημασία

모든 어린이가 중요한 곳

## ***Where Every Child Matters***

Noi mà moi trẻ em đều quan trọng

Où chaque enfant, ma bataille

在这里每个孩子都很重要

Saan ang mahalaga ang bawat bata

حيث يهم كل طفل

Gdje svako dijete važno

Kahi o kela keiki mau mea

# Home of The Pioneers