



# Los Alamos Public Schools

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### New Leadership at LAPS

Superintendent Dr. Kurt Steinhaus announces changes in leadership for the Los Alamos Public Schools: Jennifer Guy, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Accountability; Kathryn Vandenkiesboom, Systems, Curriculum Mapping, and Data Analysis Coordinator; Brian Easton, Los Alamos Middle School Principal; and Michele Altherr, Aspen Elementary School Principal.

A series of interviews for leadership positions in the district yielded a strong pool of internal and external candidates. Please join Steinhaus in welcoming these four individuals to the leadership team.



#### **Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Accountability** **- Jennifer Guy**

Jennifer Guy has worked in education in New Mexico for the past 29 years. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from New Mexico State University, a Master's degree in Pedagogy and Learning with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Eastern New Mexico University. Jennifer has worked in districts around the state at a variety of grade levels and in a variety of roles, including teaching at Piñon Elementary and most recently as the Principal at Mountain Elementary. She is passionate about teaching and learning. She has worked as a mentor teacher in the district and around the state for many years. Jennifer looks forward to supporting the teachers in our district in a new way. Jennifer and her husband, John, moved to Los Alamos 13 years ago with their three boys. John grew up in Los Alamos and they have been honored to have the opportunity to raise their family in Los Alamos.

This position is focused on supporting student and staff well-being, student learning, professional development, meeting state and federal requirements, strategic planning and much more.



**Systems, Curriculum Mapping and Data Analysis Coordinator - Kathryn Vandenkiesboom**

Kathryn Vandenkiesboom has worked in public education in New Mexico since 1988. Kathryn taught in the elementary setting for 16 years and most recently completed 10 years as the principal of Aspen Elementary. She completed both a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Master of Arts in Educational Leadership at the University of New Mexico where she was a Danforth Scholar. Kathryn brings strong communication and organizational skills, along with institutional knowledge about LAPS to the Systems, Curriculum Mapping and Data Analysis Coordinator position. When she isn't working, she and her husband and kids enjoy working in the yard, playing with their dogs, visiting beaches and watching the latest Star Wars movies together.

The goal of this new position is to align the school district with the recommendations from the AdvancED accreditation review that took place last fall. This will include developing and implementing district-wide systems, working with teachers on curriculum mapping and training, and making better use of data to inform instruction and strategic planning.



**Los Alamos Middle School Principal - Brian Easton**

Brian Easton just finished his 20th year of teaching at Los Alamos High School. Most recently, he taught Economics, AP Economics, and Government. He has also taught Constitutional Law, Ethnic Conflict, U.S. History, and World History. In 1979, Dr. Easton earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees, one in Economics and in one Government, from the College of William and Mary. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1982. He recently earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from New Mexico Highlands University. While Dr. Easton still loves teaching, especially Economics, he is looking forward to the new challenges and successes of the Middle School. Dr. Easton said, "I am excited about becoming part of the Los Alamos Middle School community. I am looking forward to working with the staff, students, and parents of the Middle School to continue down our path towards excellence."



**Aspen Elementary School Principal - Michele Altherr**

Michele started her New Mexico teaching career in 1997 and has taught grades K-6. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Florida Institute of Technology, a K-8 teaching certification from University of New Mexico, and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Highland's University. This past year she taught sixth grade science at Mountain Elementary and served as a New Mexico Public Education Department Teacher Leader School Liaison, Site Science Fair Coordinator, and Data Team Chairperson. Michele is an active community volunteer and is a founding board member of the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. She has been married for 35 years and has two children. Michele enjoys time in the outdoors, gardening and the creative arts. Michele looks forward to joining the Aspen community and supporting their wonderful efforts on behalf of children.

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