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Dear Mountainside Middle School Parents and Guardians,

I know you have been anxious to learn who your students' next principal will be, following the retirement of Ms. Terri Kellen at the end of this month.

I am happy to inform you that Adam Kohlen, who has most recently served as an assistant principal at Chaparral High School, has been appointed as Mountainside's next principal. Mr. Kohlen is no stranger to the Desert Mountain Learning Community, having taught history for five years at Desert Mountain High School, prior to his tenure at Chaparral. He is trained and certified in International Baccalaureate (IB) instruction, and taught students in Desert Mountain's Pre-Diploma IB program, as well as Advanced Placement U.S. History. Mr. Kohlen's knowledge of IB will be invaluable as Mountainside continues working toward certification as an IB Middle Years Programme school.

Mr. Kohlen received his B.A. in Fine Arts and M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Arizona State University. He holds a certificate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and, in April, completed the nine-month-long Principals Leadership Academy of Arizona, an Arizona Educational Foundation program for aspiring school leaders.

The selection of Mr. Kohlen was made after conferring with parents, Mountainside staff and community members. His appointment was recently affirmed by our school district's Governing Board.

While great care is taken with all such appointments, I must share with you that as Mountainside Middle School's first principal, I took a keen interest in choosing Ms. Kellen's successor. I have every reason to believe that Mr. Kohlen will be a great fit with your community, and, with your support, his leadership of Mountainside Middle School will be outstanding.

Respectfully,

John Kriekard, Ed.D.
Superintendent