

# School District of the City of Pontiac

Owen Elementary | Dr. Suzanne Kavanaugh, Principal

**Owen Beavers Are Building the Future!**

August 24, 2022,

Welcome to Owen Elementary, home of the Beavers! For those of you who may not have met me before, let me take a moment to introduce myself. I have been in education since 2001, during that time I have worked with students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. I began my time with Pontiac School District in 2011 as an Assistant Principal at Pontiac High School. In March of 2013 I moved to WHRC as the assistant principal, I then became the Principal of ITA in the fall of 2013. In February of 2018 I was excited to return to PHS as the principal, with the goal of creating a college and career readiness program for students.

I am now honored to be at Owen Elementary, once again working with our youngest students. It is my goal to create an engaging experience for students at Owen Elementary. I believe that my experiences working at all levels gives me the unique lens that allows me to support and prepare students in a variety of ways. I understand the importance of students having a good foundational education, but I also know it is just as important for students to experience personal and character growth before entering middle school. I look forward to working with students and their families to help them have the best possible experience at Owen Elementary.

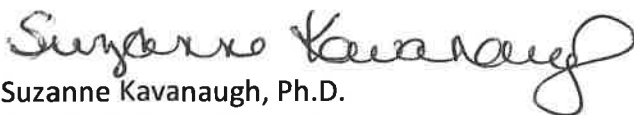
In the spring I spent several weeks with Principal Robinson as she shared with me the amazing things going on at Owen Elementary. Please know that it is my intention to keep all of those great programs and activities going. She also shared with me the things that she wasn't able to get off the ground due to restrictions caused by the pandemic. It is my plan to address these issues immediately this fall. Below are just some of the plans we have for this year:

- In person orientation, curriculum nights, parent engagement meetings
- Quarterly in person celebrations of students' academic and personal successes
- Operation School Bells uniform assistance
- Full utilization of the Second Step Program for student support

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and it is a **full day** of school. Due to Bond work throughout the district we will be sharing our space first semester with ITA K-5 and PPA 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Their start and end time is one hour before Owen's, so this should not impact our arrival and dismissal time. Art and Music teachers will be coming into students' classrooms to provide that instruction.

Our first family event of the school year will be on Friday, August 26, 2022 from 8:00 – 11:00am. Please bring your student to the school so that they can meet their teacher and see their classroom. I look forward to meeting you and working together to ensure your child's success.

Educationally,



Suzanne Kavanaugh, Ph.D.  
Principal, Owen Elementary