



**AUSTIN D. BALTZ
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Baltz Elementary School Community,

I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Baltz Elementary School. As I step into this role, I am filled with both enthusiasm and gratitude to be returning to the Red Clay School District—a place that holds a special place in my heart.

For the past seven years, I have served in the Christina School District, first as an assistant principal and most recently as the principal of Brader Elementary School. My time there has been invaluable, allowing me to grow as an educational leader and to deeply understand the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment.

Prior to my time in Christina, I had the privilege of working in the Red Clay School District as a kindergarten teacher and as a kindergarten through fifth grade instructional coach. These roles allowed me to develop a strong foundation in early childhood education and a passion for instructional leadership. Returning to Red Clay, and specifically to Baltz Elementary, feels like coming home, and I am thrilled to be part of the Red Clay family once again.

I have a deep respect for the strong foundation and work of the Baltz leadership team and staff, and look forward to collaborating with Mrs. Palma, Mr. Wright and the entire school family to foster a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

Away from school, I cherish time spent with my family. My husband, Chris, and I are proud parents to five grown children and three energetic Labradoodles. We enjoy biking, hiking, and taking long walks along the beach or creek—activities that refresh and invigorate us.

My goal as your principal is simple yet profound: to cultivate an environment where every student can celebrate their growth, feel a strong sense of belonging, and be empowered to reach their fullest potential. I believe that when students feel connected, supported, and valued, they are more likely to thrive both academically and personally. Together, we will continue to build a school community where every Baltz Bear feels seen, heard, and inspired to succeed.

I am eager to get to know each of you—students, families, and staff—and to work alongside you to ensure that Baltz Elementary is an incredible place for our children to learn and grow. Please know that my door is always open, and I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and involvement as we embark on this journey together.

Thank you for welcoming me to the school community, and I look forward to a wonderful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Jacqueline Gallagher

Proud Principal
Baltz Elementary School