

Dear AOWL School Community,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Ms. Kimberly Strandemo as the new principal of Academy of Whole Learning!

I am particularly excited that the principal hiring committee selected Ms. Kim as she is a leader with a depth of experience and an undeniable passion for serving youth. Ms. Kim brings with her over twenty years of experience working in schools as a teacher and principal. Over the past 20 years, Kim has been a world traveler with her husband, a U.S. diplomat, living and working in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Guangzhou (China), and Doha, Qatar. She has taught at the International School of Beijing, Hong Kong International School, and the American School of Doha. During her second stint in Doha from 2013-2015, she served as Principal at the K-12 Middle East International School. She also has teaching and administrative experience in Minnesota and Virginia, most recently serving as the Vice-principal of Family, Staff & Student Support at Athlos Academy in St. Cloud. I am confident that her skills will serve the AOWL community well.

Ms. Kim grew up in Mahanomen, Minnesota, located in the northwest part of the state. She graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and then acquired a Masters' degree in Educational Leadership from Moorhead State University in 2013.

Ms. Kim has four (4) children, one a professional golfer, currently playing overseas in Africa, Europe, and Asia; one a professional track & field runner and an executive with Target Corporation; one a student-athlete graduating college this May; and a sophomore in high school, who no surprise, is also a student-athlete.

In her free time, when she's not attending her children's sporting events, she loves to read, knit and crochet and make sure she hits the 10,000 step bar on her watch each day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, students, teachers, staff, and community partners that participated in the principal recommendation process. On behalf of AOWL, we truly appreciate the time you dedicated to identifying your principal characteristics, meeting & greeting candidates, and your commitment to having your voices heard.

Ms. Kim will assume her role as Principal of AOWL effective May 16, 2022 and is ready to collaborate with you all. To initiate that collaboration, we invite our high school families to attend the Ceremony of Completion on Thursday evening, June 2 from 6:30-8:00 pm. All families are invited to attend our annual end of school year picnic on Friday, June 3, from 11:00 am - noon, to get to know Ms. Kim. Please join us if you are available. If you are unable to attend either of these events, please note there will be other opportunities to meet Ms. Kim prior to the first day of school in August.

Please join me in welcoming your new principal and taking a step forward in this new chapter of success for AOWL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wyayn Rasmussen". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Wyayn" written in a slightly larger and more prominent style than the last name "Rasmussen".

Wyayn Rasmussen, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Academy of Whole Learning