



Dear Northfield High School families,

We're excited to announce veteran principal Ron Castagna will serve as interim Northfield principal for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year, replacing Avi Tropper, who stepped down last week.

Principal Castagna is a very thoughtful, open leader who for the last two decades has been one of the state's most well-respected principals. He most recently served as principal of Lakewood High School, home to an International Baccalaureate program, in neighboring Jefferson County from 1996 to 2014. We are very grateful for his willingness to come out of retirement and help us fulfill our vision of Northfield High School as an inclusive, diverse school providing an excellent education for all students.

Principal Castagna was named Colorado Principal of the Year in 2012. During his tenure, Lakewood High School was consistently ranked as one of the top high schools in the Denver metro area by *5280 Magazine* and *US News and World Reports*. Principal Castagna also led the school's efforts to raise more than \$20,000 for flood relief, resulting in a nationally televised visit from singer Katy Perry. As one student told the *Denver Post* in a profile when Principal Castagna retired, "He's definitely the coolest principal I've ever had."

We believe Principal Castagna is the right leader to provide needed stability to Northfield High School as we conduct a search for a permanent principal. His extensive experience at a diverse IB school and demonstrated high achievement there make him a great fit for Northfield and its vision. He met with Northfield teachers on Friday and, once he completes the DPS background and reference checks, we will schedule meet-and-greet activities for our families.

We will share details on our hiring process and timeline for the permanent principal in coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to call our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) helpline at 720-423-3054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, we want to thank Ed Salem for his service as acting principal over the past two weeks.

Best,

*Tom Boasberg, Superintendent*

*Susana Cordova, Chief Schools Officer*