



## Benton Community School District

*"Quality Education For a Lifetime of Learning"*

May 2020

Keystone Elementary Students & Families,

I am honored to have the opportunity to lead and serve at Benton Community's Keystone Elementary as I transition into the role of building principal. I am excited to serve all of you.

Due to the school closure, the decision was made that Mr. Ryan Junge and I would transition earlier than what we had originally intended. Mr. Junge is transitioning to the role of Assistant Principal at the MS/HS, so your student will see him again later in their learning journey. Mr. Junge and I are committed to working together to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible for the students and families we get the pleasure to serve. Communication that would have been coming from him in the past will now come from me.

I am not new to Benton Community or Keystone Elementary. I have been a Bobcat since 2012 serving as a first-grade teacher and Instructional Coach at Keystone Elementary. In 2017, I transitioned to the administrative role of Director of Curriculum & Instructional Services. While in this role, I have had opportunities to learn and impact the educational experience for students throughout our system. This is a role I will continue to serve in as well as serving as the Keystone Principal. I am also a proud Bobcat parent. My son, Carson, is currently in 7th grade at the MS/HS. I consider my most important job to be that of a child advocate. I will celebrate their successes, small and large. I will encourage them, letting them know they are valued and have a special place in our school community.

I am very familiar with the staff at Keystone Elementary and am thrilled to get the pleasure to serve them. The amount of joy and passion they bring to the building, our students, and each other positively impacts the learning experience at Keystone Elementary.

In addition to working with the staff and our students, I look forward to the work we will do together. These are certainly unprecedented times we are all living in. Please know that the health and safety of students, families, and staff are an absolute priority. Like you, I understand the celebrations and challenges of working, teaching, and parenting while at home during this COVID crisis. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to support you during this time. I will continue to share information as it is made available using the email you provided. I will also share on the Keystone Elementary Facebook page. My goal is to ensure you are fully informed on both the logistics of this unique situation and the logistics that would be involved at the end of any academic year.

Again, information such as picking up any belongings from classrooms or lockers, class lists for the following year, etc will be shared as soon as possible. Please continue to watch for communication from the district on dates, times, and specifics to close out this academic year and prepare to start a new one. If you have any immediate needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached by calling Keystone Elementary or by email at [aupah@benton.k12.ia.us](mailto:aupah@benton.k12.ia.us).

The overwhelming sense of pride that students, staff, and other community members have in living life the "Bobcat Way" is truly special, and I feel fortunate to be a part of it. I plan to lead with both my head and my heart, and my heart lies in Bobcat Country. Benton Community truly is *A Place to Belong*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Upah".

Ms. Anna Upah  
Keystone Elementary Principal  
Director of Curriculum & Instructional Services

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### Keystone Elementary

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