

Mark Armijo Academy Families,

My name is Shawn Morris and I will be serving as the Executive Director of Mark Armijo Academy this year and I want to personally welcome you to the Mark Armijo Academy Family. The staff and I are honored that you have made the decision to have your student continue their education at Mark Armijo Academy.

I have been in the education field since 1999. During my twenty-four years in the education field, I have served as a Substitute, Teacher, Coach, Assistant Principal and Principal. For the past 10 years, I have served as either a Principal or Assistant Principal. I have served at primarily secondary school sites at the middle and high school levels in the Albuquerque area. I have learned a great deal during my time in education and value every experience because the experiences, of all ranges, have shaped me into who I am today professionally and have shaped my leadership style.

Overall, my career has provided many opportunities. Opportunities such as leading teams of people towards a common goal, both in the educational field and in the military. I have also had the privilege to serve as a member on a non-profits board (Cottonwood Gulch), on the NM Community Schools Coalition, on the New Mexico Public Education Departments Community Schools Hub Team and on various committees with ABC Community Schools. My career has also provided me the opportunity to work with various organizations including Johns Hopkins University, Bank Street College of Education, the New Mexico Public Education Department as well as several others.

Working with other organizations has been fulfilling professionally, but doesn't come close to the feeling I get it when I know a life has been changed through the education process. Our students are the future and I truly believe the future is bright, but as educators I believe we need to do more to ensure our students are prepared and ready for that future. When I graduated from high school, I wasn't prepared for life after high school. I was ill prepared for college and I had no idea what I was to become because I didn't know about the various opportunities out there in the

world. Eventually, I got on track due to caring teachers who mentored me and helped me to see that I could learn and achieve what I used to think was not possible. One of my goals, because of my educational journey, has been to provide a different outcome, as well as possibilities, to all the students that come through the doors at the institutions that I was either teaching at or leading and I plan to whole heartedly continue this work at Mark Armijo Academy. I'm privileged to lead the youth at Mark Armijo Academy and look forward to working with our staff, families and the community.

Lastly, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm happy to discuss your student, programing, likes and dislikes or anything you feel is pertinent to your student's educational journey. Together all things are possible and I look forward to the partnership.

Respectfully/

Shawn Morris
Executive Director