



MERRIMAN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

June 19, 2020

Dear Merriman Park Elementary Community,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the new principal of Merriman Park Elementary. Building strong relationships is very important to me, and I am so excited to get to know the students, staff, and families of Merriman Park Elementary and becoming an MPE Panther! As your leader, I value partnership, and I know that together, we can continue to build upon the excellence that is already a primary focus in MPE's mission to engage and inspire all students in preparation for their global future.

After having spent all of my years as a student in RISD schools from White Rock Elementary, to Lake Highlands Junior High, and graduating from Lake Highlands High School, I can tell you that I am a proud RISD alumni! After graduating from the University of Texas at Dallas, I continued to grow my love of RISD and passion for teaching by becoming a 1st grade teacher, and later, a 4th grade teacher at White Rock Elementary.

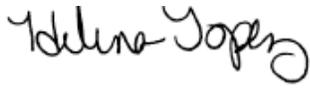
For the past eight years, I have served in administration at Math Science Technology Magnet Elementary school in RISD. I served as a assistant principal for two years, and six years as campus principal. The 2020-2021 school year will be my 18th year in education in RISD. I am honored to begin that 18th year as an MPE Panther!

In addition to being an educator, I am the proud dog mom of a little 13 year old terrier mix fur baby named, Lacey. When I am not at school, I enjoy live music, spending time with family and friends, and exercising. I also really enjoy hiking and being outdoors.

I hold relationships, trust, communication, and collaboration very close to my heart and feel that all are needed to continue to build a positive and supportive school culture. Most importantly, I feel strongly that all students need to feel loved, valued, and supported as they grow as individuals in their elementary journey. I look forward to working alongside you to continue to help our students thrive.

I am so thankful to have the opportunity to bring all that I have experienced and learned with me to Merriman Park Elementary. Please know that I value and invite your input, and look forward to meeting you all soon. This is a going to be an incredible 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helena Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the word "Lopez".

Helena Lopez

Principal

Helena.lopez@risd.org