



# Hamlin Elementary School



ROCHESTER  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

**Gary A. van Staveren, Ph.D.**  
Principal

**Yvonne LaCross**  
Secretary

**Shelley Wright**  
Office Assistant

**Tiffany Goliday**  
Learning Consultant

**Sarah Dubensky-Obando**  
Title 1 Interventionist

**Kathleen Brown**  
Social Worker

**Tracy Marshall**  
**Sierra Palmateer**  
Speech Pathologist

**Dan Pryde, Psy.S.**  
School Psychologist

**Teachers:**  
K-Lindsay Nichols  
K-Teresa Pass  
K-Dede Read  
1-Kristin Hoelscher  
1-Lisa Lamb  
1-Sarah Kirby  
2-Melissa Moore  
2-Kristin Zagula  
2-Kari Giarro  
3-Katie Kilgore  
3-Jami Schuermann  
3/4-Marisa Kalmus  
4-Amber Gress  
4-Kim Mroczek  
5-Nicole Stein  
5-Anne Thomson  
Art-Joe Zagula  
Media-Katie Bateman  
Music-Laura Combs  
PE-  
ESL-Lindsay Woodberg  
RR-Alison Howard  
RR-Lorene Klafit  
RR-Michele Thoms  
ASD-Christina Shalawlyo  
ASD-Amy Gjonaj  
ASD-Emily Reinbolt  
ECSE-Erin Knight

***2018-19 School Theme: “Act upon and transform the world in order to move towards ever new possibilities of a fuller and richer life individually and collectively.” – Paulo Freire***

Dear Hamlin Families,

My name is Gary van Staveren and I am honored to be embarking on my sixth year as the principal of Hamlin Elementary School. This will be my 21st year in education where I have been a cross-country and track coach, a math and science teacher for eight years, and an assistant principal or principal for the past twelve years. I am a life-long learner and hold degrees in Business Administration and Education, a Master’s in Educational Technology, an Educational Specialist degree in School Administration, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership.

I am married to my wonderful and supportive wife Erin, who is an attorney and has served as a rehabilitation counselor working primarily with people with disabilities for the past 15 years. We welcomed our beautiful daughter, Violet, into the world last year. We have lived in Rochester since 2009 and also have a Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Cosmo.

The learning community of Hamlin Elementary is one of excellence, collaboration, support, and caring. You, as the parent/guardian, are the personal cheerleader of your child or children. It is imperative we work together and that we have your support and help in your child’s or children’s education. We, as a professional learning community, are fully committed to working tirelessly to meet the needs of each and every child at Hamlin and provide academic experiences that are rigorous and relevant in a fun and nurturing environment. Parent involvement and engagement are primary factors for a child’s success in school.

I encourage you to maintain open communication with your son/daughter’s teacher; first and foremost. Secondly, I encourage you to get involved by volunteering to work in the classroom, chaperone field trips, and/or become a member of the PTA. I look forward to continuing our parent/school partnership that is focused on doing what’s best for kids! In closing, when we ALL work together, collaborate, and maintain open communication as a learning community the children of Hamlin Elementary will learn, grow, and soar.

Yours in learning,

Gary A. van Staveren, Ph.D.  
Principal

**We Learn. We Grow. We Soar.**

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