

Dear MVGS fellowship:

I am thrilled, honored, and privileged to be appointed as Regional Director for Mountain Vista Governor's School. Am I nervous? Absolutely! Am I motivated and challenged to take on this new role? Definitely!

For the last 19-years, I have served Alleghany County Public Schools, which is located in Southwest Virginia, in a variety of ways from high school English teacher to high school assistant principal to director of secondary instruction. One passion of mine as a teacher and administrator has been gifted education having served on several committees for the Jackson River Governor's School program, as well as being its fiscal agent. Moving forward, I intend to continue embracing the amazing gains that MVGS has made since its inception in 2006, and I will work diligently to continue to move the program forward with the same fortitude, creativity, and compassion, as intended by Dr. Rosanne Williamson and the MVGS Governing Board.

With this change, I wanted to share four themes, or core beliefs/practices, that I hope will serve as my brand identity as your new regional director. First is safety. This is paramount to me. I will strive to keep the MVGS community safe. I believe wholeheartedly in a program-wide practice to the commitment of health for us as individuals and for all of us as an educational family. Second is instruction. Instruction is foundational with student-centered, innovative, and project-based practices. I know that MVGS is, and has always been, a student first program, and I will enhance and maintain this stance. My roots are in the classroom, and I believe this will serve me well as your leader. Third is relationships. Rapport is critical to academic success. This is not just teachers having connections with their students but positive peer relationships across the entire MVGS family. I believe in Social Emotional Learning, again, not just for students but for all of us. Humility and kindness are more important now than ever. Fourth is facilitated leadership. Having been in educational leadership for over six-years, I know and embrace the power of collaborative decision making with the key benefits of commitment, alignment, and innovation. In short, voice and choice for students, parents, teachers, community partners, committee members, and leaders is necessary and integral in driving change.

I thank you all for being patient with me as I begin this adventure with you. I value you all and look forward to meeting the MVGS family. More than anything, I am excited and proud to serve as your new director.

Best regards,  
Kelly A. Huff