



**Source:** 268C Mammoth Road  
Londonderry, NH 03053  
(603) 432-6920, Ext. 1109

**Contact:** Scott Laliberte  
slaliberte@londonderry.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Principal at Matthew Thornton Elementary School**

The Londonderry School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Amity Small as the new principal of Matthew Thornton Elementary School, effective July 1, 2018. Mrs. Small will be stepping into that position replacing Sharon Putney, who will be assuming the principalship of Merrimack High School.

A lifelong resident of Londonderry, Amity is an alumna of both Matthew Thornton Elementary School and Londonderry High School. After completing both a BA in English and a Master of Arts in Teaching, she returned to her alma mater, where she taught English for 15 years. Widely regarded for her teaching abilities, Amity was a finalist for NH Secondary English Teacher of the Year in 2009, and was the recipient of Londonderry High School Teacher of the Year in 2011. As a long serving advisor to the Future Educators Academy, she has mentored hundreds of young people who have aspired to enter the teaching profession, including some current faculty members in Londonderry.

Amity began her work in school leadership in 2014, when she was promoted to Assistant Principal at Londonderry High School. In addition to her duties involving student discipline and staff evaluation, she was tasked with overseeing the Adult Education Program, which provides an alternative educational path for the students of Londonderry. In this role, Amity has fostered the growth of a program that has

made a significant difference in the lives of many students who may not otherwise have had an opportunity to be successful.

School Board Chair Jenn Ganem has stated that “Mrs. Small has demonstrated a considerable leadership presence in the District for many years now. She represents all that we value in our community, and I am confident that she will lead Matthew Thornton Elementary School with great success for many years to come.”

Superintendent of Schools Scott Laliberte added “Mrs. Small’s strong organizational skills and considerable communications abilities are certain to allow her to overcome any impact of her lack of elementary classroom experience. She is a hardworking and conscientious instructional leader who has demonstrated an ability to turn big-picture ideas into daily practice.”

Mrs. Small stated that she is beyond excited with her appointment and knows she is joining a highly skilled and caring group of educators at Matthew Thornton Elementary School. “I came back to Londonderry to raise my children in the same environment that was so meaningful to me. To have the opportunity to lead such a skilled and compassionate group of educators is beyond anything I could have imagined.”

**## END ##**



Amity Small