



Clayton Valley Charter High School

Academics • Excellence • Scholastics

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www.claytonvalley.org

Dear CVCHS,

My last day as a Clayton Valley employee was Monday, March 2nd.

It has been my greatest honor to serve the students, families, and staff of Clayton Valley (Charter) High School for the past 11 years. As an alumnus, teacher, academy chair, co-lead charter petitioner, board president, and administrator my experience has been diverse, but equally rewarding from all angles. This school will forever hold a place in my heart and I will miss it dearly.

As anyone knows who has been a part of this great institution for a significant amount of time, Clayton Valley is a special place. For most of us, this is far more than just a job. It is a calling, a way of life, a home away from home. This has certainly been the case for me.

More than anything, I would like to say thank you. Thank you for the experience, the education, the relationships, the memories.

I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation for our Executive Director and my administrative team. The leadership capacity at our school is second to none and it has been a privilege to work with such intelligent, talented, and dedicated individuals. This is also true for our incredible teaching staff, the vibrant classified employees, and everyone else who contributes to the spirit and product of CVCHS. I count myself very fortunate to have been an Eagle.

For any who may be interested, the next phase of my professional journey is incredibly exciting to me. Those that know me best, understand how passionate I have become about the charter movement. In my humble opinion, it is the single greatest vehicle in our country today for substantive and sustainable education reform. Clayton Valley is living proof of that. To that end, I step away from CVCHS to do what I can for charters in our region and throughout the State. Several unique and promising opportunities have presented themselves in the last few months. This was not an easy choice to make, but in the end I believe it was the right one.

I wish you all the best. I leave with a farewell unapologetically stolen from Colbert's final episode.

From "We'll Meet Again" by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles:

*We'll meet again,
Don't know where, don't know when,
But I know we'll meet again, some sunny day.
Keep smiling through,
Just like you always do,
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds, far away.
So will you please say hello,
To the folks that I know,
Tell them I won't be long, (I won't be long)
They'll be happy to know that as you saw me go
I was singing this song.*

Sincerely,

Neil McChesney