



**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gail Pinsker
310.450.8338, ext. 70230
gpinsker@smmusd.org

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SMMUSD Announces Chris Hertz as New Elementary Principal in Malibu

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education appointed Christopher E. Hertz as the new principal for the combined Point Dume Marine Science School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School at its May 2, 2019 regular board meeting. His position is effective July 1, 2019



Hertz will be the first principal of the newly combined school, opening on the Point Dume campus this fall. The school is still unnamed.

Hertz brings more than 25 years of education experience to SMMUSD as an elementary school teacher, vice principal and principal, and since 2012 served in director positions for the Beverly Hills Unified School District. He leaves our neighboring district as the director of school safety, and previously served as the director of student services and special projects and director of academic excellence and technology.

“It is an honor to join the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District team!” Hertz said. “I look forward to the coming school year and to working collaboratively with the students, teachers, families, community, and district colleagues, to bring the best practices and traditions of Juan Cabrillo and Point Dume Schools together. Collectively we will build a welcoming, safe, and inclusive new school and ensure that our students receive the best educational experience. I am very excited to be selected as the first principal of the combined school.”

Hertz earned his bachelor’s degree in American studies from University of California, Santa Cruz and his master’s degree in educational administration from National University. His professional training includes leading professional learning communities, Readers and Writers Workshop, English language development, accelerated reader best practices, school safety, first aid / AED / CPR / Stop the Bleed certification, student custody, enrollment, discipline, records, special education and technology connections in learning.

Hertz has been the recipient of many honors and awards in his career including the administrator of the year award from Beverly Hills USD in 2018; a PTA administrator involvement award and a teacher of the year award early in his career. As a principal, he led a school to earn a California Distinguished School award. Hertz has received more than \$240,000 in grants for various school programs.

“Mr. Hertz will be a great addition to our Malibu team,” Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. “We welcome him to SMMUSD.”

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