



July 14, 2025

Dear Ginn-Thompson Families and Community,

I am very proud and excited to introduce myself as the new principal of the Ginn-Thompson School for Girls. It is my privilege to be on this trailblazing new journey as we establish a powerful, purpose-driven space for young women to succeed academically, socially and personally.

Ginn-Thompson School for Girls is where girls learn to be successful for life through rigorous academics and competitive athletics. From early entrance kindergarten to high school, we are shaping scholars, athletes, and future change-makers. Here at Ginn-Thompson, we are not just preparing girls for college or careers—we are preparing them for *legacy*.

Having been an educator and a youth development advocate throughout my life, I have a passion for academic excellence, character education, and equity. I have had the opportunity to lead in school turnaround and transformational efforts, and I have found that a strong partnership among school, family, and community is what leads to student success.

I look forward to building that partnership with each of you. In the weeks to come, you will hear more about our academic vision, our cultural values, and the systems we will build together to support the whole child. From a rigorous curriculum to restorative practices, from enrichment opportunities to wellness supports, everything about our model is meant to support our kids to become leaders who are confident, compassionate, and competent.

To our families, thank you for partnering with us! I value the synergistic relationship between home and school, which is why your voices, expectations, and support are significant to the success of our students and to building a strong school culture.

To our community leaders and partners, thank you for your dedication to young women in Cleveland. Your presence, advocacy, access to programs/resources, volunteers, and connections build an expansive ecosystem that our girls need to grow into confident and bold leaders, ready to impact the world.

To our students, you are the heart of this school! I anticipate walking beside you in this journey, supporting and celebrating your growth, and ultimately helping you release the greatness within you.

Let's build a beacon for excellence, empowerment, and hope at Ginn-Thompson School for Girls! This is a new beginning—and a historic one. Let's do something amazing.

With purpose and pride,

Janet McDowell

Principal

Ginn-Thompson School for Girls (K-11)