

# Efren D. Toledo

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## References

*"Efren Toledo blends sound educational practices with real concern for the people with whom he interacts. He spearheaded the technology "revolution" at Jamieson long before others even thought of what computers could accomplish in the classroom. He is an excellent decision-maker and problem-solver who invites the input of all participants. His enthusiasm is contagious as he challenges others to do their best. Efren is a hard-worker and never asks more of others than he does himself. He is a model of what a true administrator should be!"*

### **Pamela Zawila**

#### **Assistant Principal (Retired)**

Jamieson Elementary School

[pzawila@comcast.net](mailto:pzawila@comcast.net)

847.967.004

847-823-7653

*"Efren was one of my best multi-talented teachers. He always performed beyond my expectations. He established Jamieson's Technology program, but more importantly I value him as a person who improves the lives of those around him."*

### **Kevin M. McCann**

#### **Principal (Retired)**

Jamieson Elementary School

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773.699.8051

## Professional Objective

As principal of Thorp Scholastic Academy, a high performing magnet school serving 850 students from all around the city, I have learned the importance of addressing the social emotional needs of students as a prerequisite to building their academic acumen. I hope to instill in our staff the belief that their role starts with a commitment to academic excellence guided by a personal interest in the success of the students they serve.

## Degrees and Certifications

### **ESL/Bilingual Certification**

University of St. Francis, Aurora, Illinois. 2020

### **Learning Behavior Specialist I Certification**

University of St. Francis, Aurora, Illinois. 2019

### **Educational Leadership Certification**

Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois. 2007

### **Master of Arts in Teaching (Technology Concentration)**

Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois. 2001

### **Bachelor of Arts in Literature (Minors: Secondary Education, Philosophy)**

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. 1993

## Leadership Experience

### **Principal, O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy 2012-Present**

As principal I have had the responsibility and privilege of helping lead a school with over 850 students and over 80 staff members to ever-higher levels of achievement. During my tenure as principal at O.A. Thorp Academy:

- Our composite NWEA scores in Reading and Math have risen each year, and we consistently perform in the top 5-10% of elementary schools nation-wide in Reading and Math.
- I have helped monitor and evaluate classroom teachers, auxiliary staff and educational support personnel providing an environment that acknowledges their instructional strengths, lauds their achievements, and supports their personal development.
- I have managed the implementation of a social-emotional learning program freeing our counselor from case-management duties allowing her to work with students full-time both in small groups as well as through individual consultation.
- Through innovative scheduling practices and by helping provide a continuum of services for our "diverse-needs learners" I have supported the efforts of our special education team in establishing O.A. Thorp as an exemplary model of student inclusion for schools throughout the city and the state.
- At O.A. Thorp Academy, I have developed learning cohorts allowing our school to have one of the highest number of dual endorsed (ESL/LBS1) general education teachers in the city.
- I have helped provide our families with diverse learners a number of resources in mental health, social-emotional development and academic extension through partnerships with the state of Illinois, Loyola University, The University of Chicago, Lutheran Social Services and other agencies.

### **Assistant Principal, Jamieson Elementary School 2007-2012**

As an assistant principal I helped to support the school principal in leading a school with over 800 students from over 30 language groups and a poverty rate over 80%.

- At Jamieson I helped develop various safety plans in conjunction with our

*"It is a pleasure to work with someone who understands and works to continually develop the special education program at Jamieson. It is encouraging to have your support as an Administrator in the efforts of the Special Education Department as we continue to make the inclusion model a viable and flexible program. With your role as not only an Administrator but also a teacher, you get to see, first hand, the challenges of an inclusion setting"*

**Slavka Fager  
Counselor and Special Education  
Case Manager**

*Jamieson Elementary School  
(Retired)*  
[sfager@cps.edu](mailto:sfager@cps.edu)  
773.275.2691

*"Efren has created an environment where students and faculty feel supported and equipped to meet the challenges we face both in and out of school. His innovative approach to special education as well as his commitment to addressing the social-emotional needs of our students helps to foster an environment of equity and agency for all of our children."*

**Michelle Goldstein  
Counselor**  
O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy  
[mlporvancher@cps.edu](mailto:mlporvancher@cps.edu)

counseling team for at-risk students, incorporating both supports at school as well as at home. This led to a drastic reduction in truancy and chronic absences.

- I helped manage a budget of over \$6M, maximizing our resources both in personnel and materials while minimizing costs and inefficient spending.
- I have helped provide our faculty with the necessary resources to maintain Jamieson's tradition of excellence as one of the top 15 neighborhood schools in the city of Chicago.

### **Technology Coordinator, Jamieson Elementary School 1995-2007**

In the area of professional development I have led numerous faculty and staff workshops. I have also led area-wide staff development sessions for other technology coordinators as well as school administrators in both Area 2 as well as for the Office of Autonomous Management and Performance Schools (AMPS).

### **Technological Accomplishments**

- Established and maintained the Jamieson School Website from 1996 to the present.
- Automated school library with over 10,000 items.
- Implemented computerized lunch POS system to facilitate lunch money collection procedures.
- Created a school wide database allowing for immediate data retrieval, student grades, and student progress monitoring 10 years before the arrival of IMPACT.
- As a network manager, responsible for the installation and operation of a school network with over 140 computers and laptops.

### **Teaching Experience**

#### **Computer Teacher, Jamieson Elementary School 1995-2012**

As the computer teacher for Jamieson Elementary I have designed and implemented the technology curriculum and have actively taught students in all grades from K to 8<sup>th</sup>. Currently, my teaching focus is on students in grades 6 to 8 where students are challenged to master office applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Additionally, elective computer classes allow students to learn the skills of digital imaging and graphic manipulation, as well as advanced presentation techniques using PowerPoint, and an introduction to film making and video editing through MS Moviemaker.

#### **Classroom Teacher 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/Social Studies, Duprey Elementary School 1993-1995**

During my first teaching job I learned how to prepare effective lessons with clear objectives and high expectations of my students. I also learned the importance of building a strong, structured community in the classroom to counter the lack of structure many of my students faced by upbringings filled with gangs, high-crime and low parental involvement in education.

### **Related Professional Skills**

- **Native Spanish speaker; able to communicate effectively both in verbal and written form.**

### **School Based Committees and Professional Affiliations**

- Magnet Schools of America (2012-Present)
- American Federation of School Administrators (2007-Present)
- Chicago Principals and Administrators Association – Aux. II – President (2007-2012)
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (2007-Present)