

Dear Goddard Students and Families,

I am so thrilled and honored to be your new principal and to have the opportunity to serve you.

The Goddard Middle School community has a long and proud history of which I am delighted to join. I have heard nothing but praise and love for this beautiful school and community!

In the coming weeks and months, I hope to get to know every single one of you and to learn more about our school, our students, and our community. I will be doing a lot of listening and learning and I want to thank you in advance for your help and support during this process.

One of Glendora Unified School District's core belief statements says, "Successful education is the shared responsibility of the parents, students, educators, and the community." I wholeheartedly believe this and ask that every student, parent, and educator fully embrace this belief statement and do their part to help our Goddard Titans succeed academically and thrive socially and emotionally.

As an educator and as the principal, I believe in high expectations for every single one of our Goddard scholars. Together, we will work hard to ensure every student at Goddard is social-emotionally healthy and happy. I believe in a strong life-skills curriculum and teaching to help our students learn and develop skills like perseverance and resiliency, empathy and love, community service, and good citizenship. I also strongly believe in making sure our students are getting the best in the basics—reading, writing, learning to articulate thoughts and ideas coherently through speech. Our students also deserve and need the best opportunities and experiences in athletics and the visual and performing arts where children most often learn and find creativity, teamwork, life lessons, and friendships.

Together, I believe that we can make all of this happen as we continue to celebrate everything we are doing well and to focus on what more we need to help support our Goddard scholars.

I will see you all soon! Please enjoy your summer vacation with the ones you love.

Dr. Alen Akhverdyan
Principal



More About Your Principal Than You Ever Wanted to Know...

I was born in Soviet Armenia. After a devastating earthquake, in 1988, that leveled my birth city of Leninakan, my family was fortunate enough to emigrate from Armenia and to find a new home in America the Beautiful! Escaping extreme poverty, natural disaster, geo-political tensions among neighboring countries that eventually led to a war, we were lucky to find refuge in California.

I attended Glendale schools and went on to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where I earned my bachelor's degree in English literature. I received my teaching and administrative credentials from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). I also received my master's degree in administrative leadership from CSULA. In 2013, I attended the University of Southern California (USC) and received my doctorate degree in education. Yes, I am both a Bruin and a Trojan.

I love and I have always loved the teaching profession and I believe that teaching is one of the most noble and most honorable professions one can devote his life to. My own personal story, a classic American story about the immigrant experience with its many challenges and overcoming challenges that ultimately lead to successes and a realization of the American Dream, could not have happened without my school teachers. Teachers like Ms. Barbara DeBall, Ms. Cathy Kilduff, Ms. Molly MacDonald, Mr. John Grace, Ms. Pat Rogerson, Mr. Vardgez Ghazarian, and so many others who I want to acknowledge and celebrate. They were my superheroes and our Goddard teachers will be the heroes of your children.

There is my work and then there is my beautiful family. I am happily married to my wife and best friend of over 10 years and together we have two beautiful children, Alexander and Angela. I live in Glendale and I have been a teacher and administrator in East Los Angeles, Northeast Los Angeles, and most recently in Glendale. I taught English 9 through 12 at an incredibly amazing college-ready school called the Stern Math and Science School in East Los Angeles. The school was one of two small high-performing high schools on the California State University, Los Angeles campus alongside the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA). I served as the school's assistant principal for four years as well before moving back to Glendale. I was lucky enough to be the assistant principal at Glendale High School (my alma mater) for the last five years where I was in charge of everything from counseling, instruction, and curriculum development, to Advanced Placement (AP), visual and performing arts, assessments, and technology.

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to now serve the Goddard Family! Students: I can't wait to see you all learning and growing in your classrooms with your teachers and classmates. I will see you soon. We are going to have a fantastic school year!