



Gene Dillon Elementary School

Bemidji Area Public Schools
3795 Division St. W, Bemidji, MN 56601

Ami Aalgaard
Principal

David Gooch
Asst. Principal

Amy Merschman
Social Worker

Michelle Canada
School Psychologist

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians:

August 9, 2018

Welcome students, parents & guardians from the staff at Gene Dillon Elementary.

Our social worker, Amy Merschman and our school psychologist, Michelle Canada and I had the good fortune of visiting all of the District's elementary schools this past spring. In doing so, we got to shake many hands, give oodles of high-fives and meet many of our incoming students. This helped us feel much more at ease as well as energized to continue planning for the exceptional learning opportunities and spaces at Gene Dillon Elementary.

We wanted to share a similar experience with our families as they prepare for the significant transition from your home elementary school to the inaugural school year at Gene Dillon. We will introduce a few of our key staff members and include a picture of them to assist with the ability to recognize a familiar face this fall in our hallways.



Ami Aalgaard, Principal; I am thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to serve our community as the Principal of Gene Dillon Elementary School. This is my twenty-seventh year in education as teacher, Dean of Students, Activities Director, and Principal. This fall brings for me a new chapter in my professional career and I want to thank our Bemidji Area parents for choosing Gene Dillon Elementary as your child's educational choice for their 4th and 5th grade public school experience.

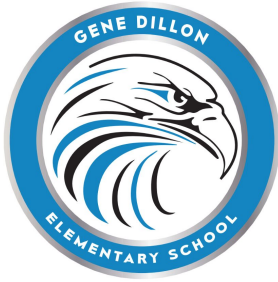
My contact information: ami_aalgaard@isd31.net & 218.209.0822 (cell)



David Gooch, Assistant Principal; Hello Future Eagles, It is my honor to serve as your new Assistant Principal at Gene Dillon Elementary. I have been a teacher with Bemidji Area Schools for 20 years and have also served as an administrator in other surrounding school districts. Our team of Teachers, Support Staff, and Principals are looking forward to providing exceptional experiences at Gene Dillon Elementary. We are the only 4th & 5th grade elementary school to offer a unique and wide range of disciplines that include state of the art equipment and

facilities. I am always available to help and guide you and your child to have a successful school year. I look forward to meeting all of you!

My contact information: david_gooch@isd31.net & 218. (Office)



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Amy Merschman, School Social Worker; I'm excited to be at Gene Dillon Elementary full-time this year! I have been working as a School Social Worker with Bemidji Area Schools since 2001. Social Workers are the link between home, school, and community. As members of the educational team, we help promote and support students' academic and social success by providing specialized services. I look forward to a great year!

My contact information: amy_merschman@isd31.net & 218.368.6713 (cell)



Michelle Canada, School Psychologist; Welcome to Gene Dillon Elementary! This will be my sixteenth year working as a School Psychologist. My first twelve years were spent working in an urban school district in Utah. Three years ago, I had the opportunity to return to Bemidji. I'm excited to begin my fourth year working for Bemidji Area Schools, with the majority of my time being spent at Gene Dillon. As a School Psychologist, I will work closely with our Special Education programs, as well as General Education teachers on helping students develop strong social, behavioral and academic skills.

My contact information: michelle_canada@isd31.net

We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve your family at Gene Dillon Elementary. If you have any questions or concerns, prior to or during the school year, please reach out to one of our team members and we will assist you.

The Gene Dillon Team would like to invite _____ to _____ House.

Your homeroom teacher will be _____ .

Have a great remainder of the summer and we are looking forward to meeting you all on the morning of Thursday, August 30th, 2018 during our Gene Dillon Elementary Open House.

Sincerely,

Gene Dillon Admin Team