

1. What is your name?

Malia Hollowell

2. Why are you running for office?

Eight years ago, I transitioned from being a classroom elementary teacher to building a successful online company where I provide teacher training and math, literacy and science activities.

Because of my business, I collaborate with, listen to and learn from thousands of teachers around the country. I am excited to bring a new set of eyes to our local community so that the 8,500 students in OUR district can benefit from what's working in today's classrooms.

3. Describe your familiarity with Tahoma School District's Highly Capable program and how you believe it compares to other districts' Highly Capable programs.

Our oldest son, Chase, is in the 3rd grade Discovery class at Lake Wilderness. Although he has just begun his official journey in Tahoma's Highly Capable program, I have been monitoring it as an educator and parent advocate for the last few years.

I believe that Tahoma has made great strides to provide a quality education for our children – the Discovery classes in grades 3 through 5 are a great example of that.

In order to support and develop Tahoma's world class programs, however, we need to build an ongoing culture of improvement and growth. Strengthening the language arts and science options available to highly capable middle school students is a critical next step. For our highly capable children, academic rigor and social-emotional programming are paramount to their success.

I am deeply committed to providing ALL of our children the cutting-edge education they need to excel.

4. What changes (if any) for Tahoma School District's Highly Capable program would you endorse?

First, I believe we must improve the highly capable language arts and science offerings in middle school so that they better meet our students' needs.

And second, we need to take a closer look at the differentiation in kindergarten through second grade to ensure that our highly capable children are receiving appropriate stretch work. Professional development and ongoing reflection is key to improvement and growth.

5. What do you want parents of Tahoma School District children deemed “Highly Capable” to know about you?

As the PTA president at Shadow Lake (and a parent advocate for our son), I had ongoing conversations with the principal about ways to further differentiate instruction for our highly capable students. I am extremely committed to providing ALL of our children the education they need to excel.