

January 15, 2026

Heather Conn, Principal

Re: Resignation

Dear Heather,

It is with bittersweet emotions that I must tender my resignation from Petersburg City Schools, effective at the end of the school year '26. Please know that this was not a decision I have made lightly. I am honored to have been part of the Stedman Elementary family these past few years, and I am grateful for the trust you have shown me in my role as teacher/librarian.

It's been quite a journey! I have officially reached the point where I am both entering my "retirement era" and concluding my "four-timer era." Having been invited to serve in four different capacities over the years is a testament to the incredible partnership we've shared, and for that, I am endlessly grateful!

It has been a pure joy and a distinct pleasure to work with the families of this community. Being trusted with their children is a responsibility I've never taken lightly, and those connections have been the highlight of my career.

However, as my body likes to frequently remind me lately, I'm facing some ongoing physical struggles that I can no longer ignore. In the interest of fairness, I know I don't have the capacity to give this district as much as it truly deserves. You have shown me so much trust and support, and I want to ensure the students have someone who can keep up with their boundless energy!

Please know that I will always carry this district, the staff, and the families in my thoughts, heart, and prayers.

Thank you for everything.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Tice