

Dear Parents,

My name is Patrice Counts and I am the new Interim Principal at Tom Bean Elementary. This is my thirteenth year with our district. I have previously taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade for twelve years, served as a substitute teacher for many years, have been a parent volunteer, as well as an executive member of PTO. I am very excited to have been given the privilege to serve the students, parents, and teachers of our school in a leadership capacity.

My husband Greg and I have lived in Tom Bean for twenty-five years. Greg attended Tom Bean ISD from first through twelfth grade. I attended Sherman ISD from kindergarten through twelfth grade. I earned an Associates Degree from Grayson County College, a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Degree from Texas A&M University at Commerce, and a Masters of Education Degree from Texas Woman's University. Greg and I have two sons. Our oldest son, Shawn, is a 2004 graduate of Tom Bean High School and attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is an assistant baseball coach at Grayson County College. Our youngest son, Travis, is a junior at Tom Bean High School and is very active in athletics.

All children are important at Tom Bean Elementary. Each day should bring excitement and fulfillment where education is enjoyed, not just experienced. As educators, we wish to be partners with our students' parents. We believe that parental involvement greatly contributes to improved student achievement, attendance, motivation, self-concept and behavior. It is our privilege at Tom Bean Elementary to work with your children in the continued quest for excellence. We appreciate parent and community support and rely on their continued dedication to our school.

As a parent myself, I understand many of your cares, concerns and even proud moments! Please feel free to call me to discuss any of these. Our number at school is 546-6333. My E-Mail address is [patrice.counts@tombean-isd.org](mailto:patrice.counts@tombean-isd.org).

Once again, thank you for sharing your most precious possession with us, YOUR CHILD! I know that together we can make this year the most successful and exciting school year ever!

Sincerely,

Patrice Counts, M.Ed.  
Interim Principal  
Tom Bean Elementary