Welcome to Henry Elementary School.

My name is Thomas Heminger, and I am honored to serve as Henry’s chief learner. Our learning community has a rich history dating back to 1971 when our doors first opened to the students in this neighborhood. Henry Elementary serves preschool through fifth grade students.

I am very excited to join the Tucson Unified School District and this amazing team at Henry, in our Pantano Region! Go Gila Monsters! I began my career in education over two decades ago as a certified classroom teacher at the intermediate level. My commitment to the students and families of Mesa Public Schools continued as a classroom teacher, behavior interventionist, administrative intern, Title 1 School Improvement Specialist, and building principal. These many different positions during my time with Mesa Public Schools helps me to bring a wide variety of experiences to my position as Henry’s principal. I consider myself blessed to have this new role in working with our students, families, and team.

I am originally from Indiana where I graduated from Indiana University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. I went on to earn a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership, completed the Principal Certification Program from Northern Arizona University, and joined the National Institute for School Leadership. Despite my new role here at Henry; I continue to have the heart of a classroom teacher, and I will always do what is best for our students to succeed in the classroom and in life. Family is important to me. My wife and I have two terrific sons, and our younger son will be entering high school here in TUSD this school year. Together we enjoy spending time in the great outdoors, cooking any delicious Mexican cuisine, and playing with our dogs.

Teachers at Henry Elementary base their instruction on the Arizona Common Core Standards. Henry educators also establish academic goals for students which are communicated to students and their families regularly. Establishing positive communication lines between home and school ensures the success of academic, social, and personal growth for all students. Our student expectations at Henry include: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Caring! This team is committed to modeling these expectations every day on our campus.

Henry is proud to be an OMA Gold School- Opening Minds through the Arts School. Arts Integration Specialists, Teaching Artists, and Classroom Teachers
collaboratively design instruction aligned to the child's neurological development. These skills include auditory discrimination, language acquisition, kinesthetic and spatial awareness, decoding skills, abstract reasoning, and organization skills. Our students learn dance and movement, opera, visual arts, orchestra, and band.

We have highly qualified educators with years of teaching experience, we have a full-time school counselor and social worker to support students' social emotional needs, we embrace technology skills in the classroom, we offer enrichment through tuition based before and after school care provided by Henry Community Schools Program, we support parental involvement opportunities, and we have an active Parent Teacher Association. We exemplify our TUSD belief in delivering excellence in education every day where students grow, reach, and succeed!

I am a firm believer in open communication. I realize as a parent, there are many decisions to make in consideration of your child’s education. I greatly value our parents and community members. Please come into our office to visit with me and learn more about your child’s educational opportunities at Henry Elementary School. On behalf of our entire team, welcome to Henry Elementary School for a new and exciting 2019-2020 school year!

Respectfully,

Thomas Heminger, principal