

Cushla Shepherd - AJHS Principal



Kia ora Koutou, Ko Cushla Shepherd toku ingoa, Ko ahau te tumuaki o te Kura o Albany Junior High School.

My name is Cushla Shepherd, and I am Tumuaiki, Principal at Albany Junior High School, (AJHS). Welcome to our unique school that provides a caring, inclusive and values-based learning environment for our Year 7-10 adolescents, where we nurture a culture of learning and wellbeing.

I have been married to Mark for 30 years, we have 2 daughters - Ella who is 23, and Emma who is 20.

I trained as a teacher at the University of Auckland. Over the past 32 years I have been a teacher in primary, intermediate, and secondary schools, teaching Year 0 (New Entrant) through to Year 13 Health and Physical Education, across 5 schools.

In 2018 I completed a Master Degree in Educational Leadership at the Auckland University of Technology, which has enabled me to strengthen my knowledge and skills in school leadership.

As we venture through a time after covid and subsequent significant events that have changed our society, and therefore changed our students' needs, a robust quality of education and wellbeing services are required. It is critical we provide teaching, learning and pastoral care for our students to develop their holistic knowledge and skills in a range of disciplines that enable them to be resilient, confident and positive young people. This can be achieved through our 4 year school programme, which engages students through a range of distinctive opportunities within a flexible curriculum, both in and outside the classroom and school environment.

I believe that high expectations must be central to education. For our students to be active participants in bicultural Aotearoa, they must understand who they are, and where they come from to be active contributors to help shape our future. It is our shared responsibility with parents, to teach our students to show respect for themselves and those around them, and to care for our environment and our community.

Together we must continue to strive to empower our students to be connected, collaborative, community minded individuals. We are stronger if we are united as a collective to support and nurture our tamariki, our learners - Whanaungatanga.