

Rebecca Grimm **New Principal of Richboro Elementary School**

Rebecca Grimm did not have to change her work commute very much this year, transitioning from Richboro Middle School, where she served as assistant principal over the last two years, to Richboro Elementary School, directly across the street. Mrs. Grimm is the new principal of RES, and agreed to talk with representatives of Citizens for Education to discuss her background, and goals for the future.

Mrs. Grimm grew up in the area, attending the Centennial School district, and then received a dual degree in Elementary and Special Education from West Chester University. In addition, Mrs. Grimm completed her Masters in Special Education from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) and her Masters in Education Administration from Rider University. She is married with two college aged daughters, who both attend Rutgers University. She also has pets, including turtles that began as a classroom pet and have grown to a level that required her husband to build a pond in their backyard, just for the turtles.

Mrs. Grimm began her love of special education as a senior in high school when she volunteered in a special education classroom. She started her teaching career in the Bristol School District, and quickly settled into the area of special education. She worked with Easter Seals as coordinator of the Early Intervention Program for four years in Levittown. At that time, Mrs. Grimm became the Director of Joy Bell Pre-School, a position she held for six years. In that capacity, she worked with the Intermediate Unit to develop and implement a special education program for Joy Bell, as well as a Kindergarten enrichment class.

In 1993, Mrs. Grimm came to CR as a special education resource room teacher at Holland Elementary School, just before districts began inclusion in classrooms. She feels that inclusion classes are a good way to bring a tolerance for diversity to students. In 2000, she went to the newly opened Welch Elementary School as a fourth grade teacher. From there she was hired as Richboro Middle School's half time Assistant Principal. The additional half of her time was spent in special education. She held this position for two years, the second year as a full time administrator before becoming principal at Richboro Elementary School this past July.

Mrs. Grimm wants to spend her first year as principal getting to know the teaching staff at the school, and developing a rapport with them. She wants to develop a team process for solving problems. She will work to ensure that all decisions reflect "what's good for students". Like Mr. Bell (see article on page ___) Mrs. Grimm has the benefit of having worked at the middle school, and observing, first hand, the transition process from 6th to 7th grade. She will continue to work on making that process as smooth as possible for the outgoing sixth grade students.

One of the committees that Mrs. Grimm has worked on at the district level is the Strategic Planning Committee, and she is looking forward to implementing that plan at the elementary school level. She specifically feels that it will improve continuity of instruction across grade levels, and will help the staff to have a stronger sense of direction. She also served on the district Supervision and Evaluation committee and therefore has a working knowledge of that plan for professional staff.

Citizens for Education thanks Mrs. Grimm for taking time to meet with our executive board members and wishes her well as she begins her first year as principal.