

## **A New Chapter at Wrightstown Elementary With Beth Fox**

"Successful leadership is not about being tough or soft, sensitive or assertive, but about a set of attributes. First and foremost is character." - Author Warren Bennis. This is how the new principal at Wrightstown Elementary, Beth Fox, describes herself.

Citizens For Education recently met with Beth Fox in order to learn more about her and her transition to Council Rock. Growing up in the area, she attended Neshaminy schools, graduating in 1996. Mrs. Fox obtained her undergraduate degree from Penn State University, majoring in Elementary Education, with a minor in Social Sciences. She then went on to receive her Master's Degree in Special Education from Holy Family University. Mrs. Fox also obtained a second Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University.

Putting her degrees to use began with her alma mater, Neshaminy High School, where she was a learning support teacher for seven years. It was there that she met her husband, who presently is the Department Chair for Special Education. Direct involvement with students is her nature and she was a class advisor while at the High School. From there, Mrs. Fox became Assistant Principal at Neshaminy Maple Point Middle School under Mark Collins and Rick Rosenblatt, two people that she exclaims were great role models. In her role as Assistant Principal, her area of attention was as the disciplinarian. Understandably, this role can be challenging, dealing with the heavy issues facing the sixth to eight grade population. After realizing that she no longer felt rewarded in this role, she decided it was time for a change. "Change is healthy" and to her good fortune, just when she needed a change, the principal position opened up at Lower Southampton Elementary School where she went back to the students for which she received her original certification.

After two years at "Lower South" she took advantage of an opportunity to "balance life out". The position opened up at Wrightstown Elementary when Principal Sue Gormley moved to an Assistant Principal position at Council Rock South. Living in Furlong, the Council Rock position is closer to home. She has less travel time and more time to work in her yard and prepare for the birth of her first child, a boy, in January.

Since arriving at Wrightstown, her standout impression is that everyone takes care of one another, both in school and out, whether it be students, staff or parents. She is also impressed that the conversations are always about the kids. Mrs. Fox began her transition to Wrightstown in May with Nicole Crawford, a former principal at Wrightstown and now at Goodnoe Elementary, being her mentor. Her style consists of being visible, sometimes even joining students at lunch in the cafeteria, which is one of her favorite activities. Coming from larger schools, her method is to "work smarter, not harder" and she hopes to set that example.

Mrs. Fox is very technology oriented and hopes to bring more to the school, relaying how surprised she was at the amount of technology not available in the school. One of her goals is to implement an even greater focus on reading, as evidenced by her desk being covered with materials and data about new initiatives. Several committees are in the works to develop school wide initiatives and foster teamwork amongst students and staff to further improve morale.

Wrightstown is one of the oldest schools in the district and it will benefit from Beth Fox's energy and passion. She promotes curb appeal and a welcoming environment to compensate for any aches and bruises the school may feel due to its age and size. She wishes to create a reading nook for students in the lobby amongst other exciting plans. Look for great things at

Wrightstown with Beth Fox, someone who claims that the fun part is that everyday is unpredictable. We predict a bright future.