

Sam Smith, New Principal at Rolling Hills

In July 2014, Sam Smith was named Principal of Rolling Hills Elementary School. Mr. Smith had sixteen years of teaching experience in CR before taking his current position.

A 1998 graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Smith also earned his Masters in Instructional Technology from St. Joseph's University along with a Certification of Administration. After subbing for a year outside of CR, he began his career at CR as a full time substitute until he was hired in 1999 as a full time fourth grade teacher at Holland Elementary. Mr. Smith has taught 3rd, 4th & 6th grades over the years and in 2010 he became the Math Specialist at Holland Elementary and Maureen Welch Elementary. More recently, Mr. Smith filled in for Wrightstown Elementary principal, Beth Fox, who was out on maternity leave. After several rounds of interviews with different teams during the principal search, Mr. Smith was hired and now reports to Joy McClendon, Director of Elementary Education.

Mr. Smith is married to a former Richboro Elementary teacher and together they have 4 children – 3 boys ages 11, 9 & 7 and a 2 year old daughter. As a parent and principal who has a passion for teaching he often asks himself, "How do I want my own children talked to?" and "What do I want from my children's teachers?" Respecting the students and enjoying their love for learning enabled him to become a successful teacher.

Now an Administrator, Mr. Smith is focused on developing relationships with the students, parents and staff at Rolling Hills. He looks forward to greeting the students in the morning as they enter school and wants to be as visible and accessible as possible. He is also working closely with the Home and School Association because he knows the value of having a great partnership with the parents. Rolling Hills is a community-oriented school with many involved parents. Getting to know the staff at Rolling Hills is also important to him. He is looking forward to working with the District on staff development and also on integrating technology into all subjects. One of his priorities is spending time in the classrooms and working with teachers on new initiatives, such as updating standards on the new elementary report cards. Rolling Hills has a Positive Behavior Support Plan where students who are "caught" being good are rewarded. Mr. Smith will mail a card to the students at home or contact the parents to let them know their child was caught being good. He also sends out a weekly email to parents keeping them informed of what's going on. These are just some of the ways that he is reaching out to the students and parents and keeping the lines of communication open.

Mr. Smith is excited to be Principal at Rolling Hills, is looking forward to becoming more involved in this school community, and working together with staff and parents to make Rolling Hills a great place to learn and work. His enthusiasm can be summed up in the saying he shares with students and staff, "Make today better than yesterday."