

In Step with Joe MacClay CR's new Director of Elementary Education

Council Rock's new Director of Elementary Education, Joe MacClay, knew he had big shoes to fill replacing Joy McClendon who previously held the post. He made it through the very competitive interview process this year and has hit the ground running with no intention of slowing down.

Joe, married with 3 children in 2nd, 7th & 9th grades, graduated from LaSalle University and continued his education at Holy Family University where he received his master's degree in Education. He also earned his Principal Certificate from Delaware Valley University in 2005 and his Superintendent's Letter from California University of PA in 2013. Joe spent 7 years at Rolling Hills Elementary as Principal before being appointed last year as Principal at Maureen Welch Elementary.

As Director of Elementary Education, all elementary curriculum issues require Joe's involvement. He also deals with management and budgetary issues and is involved with several district committees including those for Academic Standards and Technology. CR elementary principals, along with several curriculum coordinators, report to Joe and he reports directly to CR Superintendent Dr. Robert Fraser.

Joe is learning all he can about the people and procedures within the district. Over the past summer, Joe met with all the new elementary teachers hired at CR. Besides getting to know them personally, he wanted them to know that he is a resource for them. Much of his time is spent walking the hallways of the 10 elementary schools to observe firsthand what is taking place. One of his main goals is to build strong relationships with the teachers, administrators and office staff at each elementary school, and being visible and accessible is a means to that end.

In the near future, Joe will be involved with the issues of elementary capacity, full day kindergarten and the possibility of a school closure and redistricting. Whatever the outcomes, there is one thing Joe works toward: the consistency of curriculum in all CR elementary schools, so that regardless of which elementary school a child attends, the curriculum is identical to the other elementary schools in the district. He looks forward to assisting in implementing district wide goals and delivering information as effectively as possible across the district.

Joe realizes there is much he still has to learn, but he has a tremendous love of learning so this should not be an obstacle for him. He believes in pacing himself and absorbing all he can. He also has the benefit of having worked under Mark Klein and Joy McClendon who formed a strong support team. Everyone he has encountered so far has been very supportive and willing to help him.

Asked if there is anything he missed about being an elementary school principal, Joe said he missed "the excitement that comes with opening up a school in September." Joe is optimistic about CRSD's future and he feels extremely fortunate to be in his new position. CFE would like to thank Joe MacClay for taking time out of his busy schedule to sit down with us, and from our view it appears that Joe is already on his way to filling those big shoes!

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