
MEET THE
STAFF



EVAN TOWNSEND

Principal

Evan has lived a couple lives before becoming WHS principal. He grew up in East Tennessee playing in the woods and went to undergraduate for studio art (sculpture). After leaving the art world, he joined AmeriCorps building trails for years and eventually ran the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) here in Laramie for 3 years. During that time at the WCC, he taught some university classes and fell in love with Education. He went on to get a couple degrees in Education, taught in ACSD#1 as well as other districts for better part of a decade and now is with WHS. He could not be more excited to be a Wizard! You can learn more about why WHS is so meaningful to him on the Principal Welcome Letter on our website.



CHLOIE MELBY

English Teacher

My name is Chloie Melby (I just got married this summer), and I am excited to join the school community as an English teacher. This is my second year in education, with previous teaching experience in both Virginia and West Virginia. I earned my bachelor's degree from Concord University in West Virginia and am currently pursuing my master's degree. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy fishing, hunting, and playing slow-pitch softball. As an educator, I strive to create a positive, goal-oriented classroom environment where students are encouraged to work hard, maintain a positive attitude, and take pride in their growth and accomplishments. I look forward to building meaningful relationships with my students and supporting them throughout the school year.



KATIE POLLARD

Interventionist

This is my first year at WHS but my 5th year teaching overall. I love everything to do with books and being cozy. I spend a lot of time baking, reading, gaming, and going on walks with my big, fluffy dogs.



JASON DEISS

Math Teacher

I was born and raised in Laramie, and spent a decade and a half in foodservice before deciding I wanted to teach Math. In that decade and a half, I have several published poems, a failed English degree, and a love of reading. I enjoy many types of games and most forms of storytelling in addition to math, music, games, and food.



JASON STILL

Social Studies Teacher

Mr. Still has been teaching at Whiting High School since 2010 (16 years), where he teaches a variety of social studies courses. Originally from Aurora, Colorado, he moved to Laramie in 2003 to attend the University of Wyoming, where he earned a degree in Secondary Social Studies Education. He later earned a master's degree in Learning and Technology from Western Governors University and is a National Board Certified Teacher in Social Studies History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood. His passion for education grew from his love of coaching and helping students and athletes recognize and reach their unlimited potential. Outside of school, Mr. Still enjoys hiking, fishing, camping, watching movies at the theater, and figuring out how things work. He especially enjoys anything that involves a little friendly competition. Whether it's a sport, a game, or a classroom challenge, he has a hard time turning down an opportunity to compete.

One of his favorite guiding quotes is: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." — Winston Churchill



GINA SIGEL-HERDT

Counselor

Raised in Laramie and a graduate of LHS, Gina left for 10 years and went to college in New Orleans and then moved to Chicago, where she worked in public relations. Upon returning to UW to graduate with her master's in school counseling, Gina worked as the counselor at Whiting HS from 2007-2012. She worked at Climb Wyoming and started a private counseling practice, returning to ACSD in 2019 as the counselor at the UW Lab School. Gina came back to WHS upon the closure of the Lab School and is happy to be part of the Whiting family again. She has settled in Laramie with her 4 kids and husband, Ben.



Sherri Hogsett

Counselor

I have been a school counselor in ACSD #1 since the 1900's. I have worked in several different school buildings but I absolutely love Whiting High School! I'm married to an LHS math teacher and have two amazing children that are both going to college on the east coast. My favorite thing to do is to spend time with my family and travel the world.



Randy Mills

Computer Science Teacher

Now in his 34th year of teaching, Randy Mills has done just about every job education has to offer. He's taught elementary school, high school, vocational programs, community college, and alternative education, and even spent a short stint as an administrator before deciding the classroom was where he really belonged. These days, Randy's focus is computer science and cybersecurity, teaching through the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program.

As a PLTW Master Teacher, his impact reaches well beyond his own students — he trains teachers across the country to bring computer science into their classrooms too. That work was recognized in 2020-2021, when he was named the National Computer Science Teacher of the Year.Ask Randy what he's proudest of, though, and it probably won't be the awards. He'll tell you he's a learner first — someone who still enjoys digging into his subject right alongside his students instead of just standing at the front of the room. That curiosity shows up everywhere: directing the CyberPatriot cybersecurity team, coaching baseball, dabbling in theater and music, and traveling on international exchanges to Germany and France. There are far too many stories to fit in a short bio — more than three decades' worth, really. If you want to read them, Randy keeps a blog at randymills.org full of stories from his teaching career and his life outside it.



Dustin Giesenhagen

Science Teacher

Mr. G comes to Whiting with 16 years of teaching and school counseling experience. His career began back in 2008 right here in Laramie at the UW Lab School. After a few years teaching at the middle school level, he taught biology and ecology at LHS. For the past 11 years, he and his wife have been living in Grand Junction, CO. They have two young children that they are excited to be raising in the hills of Wyoming. He loves to be out in the mountains, skiing, biking, climbing, kayaking or rafting. He is stoked to be back in Laramie, sharing his passion for the outdoors, wild spaces and science with the students of Whiting High School.



Rachel Kelly

Para Educator

I am a paraeducator at Whiting High School. I earned my Bachelors in Psychology at the University of Wyoming and currently pursing my master's degree in School Counseling. Outside of school I enjoy reading, traveling and spending time with my french bulldog, Zorro!



Renee Slider

Para Educator

My name is Renee Slider. Born and raised in East Los Angeles, CA. I am married to my best friend Tom and I have two adult kids and four grandsons. I love the Packers, Cubs, Brewers, and Foo Fighters. My favorite pastime is picking a spot in Wyoming and driving there. I have been to more historic spots in Wyoming than I ever saw in my 35 years living in CA. One of my other passions is cooking. Pozole anyone?



PHILIP DRIETZ

Custodian

I am born and raised in Laramie, I have visited most of the 50 states as well as 3 countries. I love to sing, play video games, and hang out with friends. I am a nerd, with my favorite nerd thing being Lord of the Rings, but I also really love axe throwing and shooting.



Aimee Gray

Physical Education Teacher

I am passionate about helping students grow into healthy, confident, and capable young adults. As I begin my third year as an educator in ACSD1, my classes will continue to focus on helping students connect with their community, develop practical life skills, build meaningful relationships, and make informed decisions that support their overall well-being. Outside of school, you can usually find me outdoors, whether it be fishing, golfing, hiking, backpacking, snowboarding, spending time at the lake, or enjoying time with friends.



Sarah Stephans

CNA

Sarah is a Holistic Nurse with 22 years of experience, including pediatrics, school nursing and hospice. Her career is guided by a lifelong passion for caring for others while honoring the importance of caring of self. Throughout her career, she has led with advocacy, heart, and a steady commitment to compassion. Her nursing practice has always centered on showing up fully for patients and families, combining skill with humanity. She is so excited to be teaching this important program at Whiting!

Outside of work, Sarah is a lifelong learner and traveler at heart, who finds joy in exploring new places, cooking meals that bring people together, and spending time outdoors usually in some form of water. Her greatest adventure is life with her 5-year-old son and husband, who both keep her curious, grounded, and laughing. At home, her two dogs add daily doses of chaos, comfort and belly laughs.



Kelly Marston

Daycare

Hello! I'm Kelly Marston. I have my BA in psychology with a focus on developmental psychology but fell in love with the world of Early Childhood Education. I am passionate about teaching littles with empathy and compassion. In my free time I enjoy Dungeons & Dragons, painting, birdwatching and you can always find me at karaoke.