Mr. Jerger



Happy Principal Appreciation Month, Mr. Jerger! We are so thankful to have you as our principal! To start things off, I asked Mr. Jerger some questions about himself. He has been working in education for 27 years. He was an assistant principal for 10 years and a principal for 8 years. His favorite memory during his time in education has been seeing students achieve their goals, exceed expectations, and grow into mature young adults. Mr. Jerger's typical day looks like all gas with no brakes between the chaos and meeting deadlines. Given all the chaos, I asked if he would rather have a day with no meetings or no emails. He responded with no meetings. This job comes with challenges such as changing policies like graduation requirements, attendance mandates, funding, etc. Mr. Jerger hasn't always been in the principal role. He was a head baseball coach and athletic director. Mr. Jerger has a special love for DHS, and it is described as family-oriented, diverse, and talented. He hopes students take away that this is their school, home, and family. Embrace it, respect it, make it better. To the teachers and staff who help make our school special, he wants to say, "Thank you for your commitment, dedication, patience, flexibility, and willingness to go above and beyond to help our students grow into young adults and prepare them for the life ahead."

Principal Appreciation Month

Written and designed by Natalie Ordway and Addison Miller

HAPPY PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH!

IT'S PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH! THAT MEANS HONORING THE PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WHO WORK HARD EVERY DAY FOR OUR SCHOOL. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE MR. FISHER AS OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL; HE IS A LIGHT TO THE SCHOOL. MR. FISHER THINKS THE BEST PART OF HIS JOB BY FAR IS SEEING STUDENTS SUCCEED, GROW, OVERCOME OBSTACLES, AND ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS BOTH IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL. MR. FISHER THINKS WE HAVE AWESOME STUDENTS HERE WITH GREAT STORIES, AND HE STATES HE HAS LEARNED THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT PATHS TO SUCCESS BY BEING AT THIS SCHOOL. HE IS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT WORKING HERE; HE THINKS IT'S AWESOME MOST OF THE TIME. MR. FISHER FEELS THAT THE STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE EXCELLENT, AND IT'S GREAT TO WORK IN A PLACE THAT HAS SUCH GREAT ENERGY AND A COMMON MISSION. IT IS A VERY BUSY JOB FOR HIM, THOUGH, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE MANY SITUATIONS HE SEES THAT ARE TOUGH. IF MR. FISHER HAD A THEME SONG FOR HIS LIFE AS A PRINCIPAL, IT WOULD BE THE OHIO STATE FIGHT SONG, OF COURSE (GO BUCKS). ONE THING TO KNOW ABOUT MR. FISHER THAT WOULD SURPRISE YOU IS THAT HE IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE THIRD WRIGHT BROTHER. THE TWO BROTHERS WHO INVENTED THE AIRPLANE DID NOT HAVE KIDS, BUT THE THIRD BROTHER DID. SO ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT, WHO INVENTED THE AIRPLANE, ARE HIS GREAT-GREAT UNCLES. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THERE USED TO BE A RULE THAT STUDENTS COULDN'T HAVE FACIAL HAIR OR MULTI-COLORED HAIR. MR. FISHER WAS A PART OF CHANGING THAT RULE FOR STUDENTS TODAY!

WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH AN OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS HERE WITH MR. FISHER! THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO; WE ARE VERY THANKFUL.

Mr. Fisher







PRINCIPAL Spotlight

Meet Mr. Carr, our middle school principal! He has been in education for 19 years; 9 of those years he has been a principal, and this is his 8th year at Defiance Middle School. One thing he thinks his students may be surprised at is his love for cooking. He says the most rewarding part of his job is watching how students grow to overcome challenges and achieve success. An accomplishment he is proud of is the academic growth he has noticed over the last few years, as well as the school-student connections. The three words Mr. Carr would use to describe his school are inclusive, empowering, and encouraging! He feels as if he would have multiple theme songs for his life as a principal, all depending on the day. His home life is very busy, filled with fun activities like concerts and sporting events.

He and Mrs. Carr don't have much downtime as they are also very attentive to their children's activities. They are great educators and great parents! The most important thing he hopes students take away from their time at his school is the realization that mistakes help you grow and that every student is cared for and valued. Thank you for everything you do for this school and the people in it, Mr. Carr!



MR. CARR

WRITTEN BY:
CAMERON WIDMAN, ANIA CROSS, AND RYLEE LEAL

MRS. PFEIFFER



HAPPY PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH MRS. PFEIFFER! SHE IS THE 3-5 ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL AT DEFIANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHERE SHE WORKS HARD TO HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SUCCEED. HER PASSION FOR EDUCATION STARTED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG BECAUSE SHE LOVED HELPING CHILDREN AND WOULD OFTEN PLAY SCHOOL WITH HER DOLLS. IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WAS A MEMBER OF FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA, BUT DURING HER SENIOR YEAR, SHE CHANGED HER MIND AND DECIDED TO STUDY MARKETING IN COLLEGE. HOWEVER, AFTER SITTING IN A MICROECONOMICS CLASS AND SEEING A BULLETIN BOARD WITH TEDDY BEARS AND RAILROAD SAFETY INFORMATION, SHE EXPERIENCED WHAT SHE DESCRIBED AS A CALLING TO BECOME A TEACHER. THE VERY NEXT DAY, SHE CHANGED HER MAJOR TO EDUCATION WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PSYCHOLOGY AND NEVER LOOKED BACK.

BEFORE BECOMING A PRINCIPAL, MRS. PFEIFFER SPENT 24 YEARS TEACHING STUDENTS IN GRADES ONE THROUGH SIX, WITH MOST OF HER EXPERIENCE IN FIRST AND THIRD GRADE. DURING HER 21ST YEAR OF TEACHING, THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN ENCOURAGED HER TO BECOME A PRINCIPAL BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH SHE HELPED STUDENTS AND OTHER TEACHERS. MRS. PFEIFFER REALIZED THAT BECOMING A PRINCIPAL WOULD ALLOW HER TO HELP MORE THAN 550 STUDENTS WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING THEIR TEACHERS. EARLIER IN HER CAREER AT WAYNE TRACE PAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHE EVEN CHANGED GRADE LEVELS EVERY YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS TO FOLLOW THE SAME CLASS FROM SECOND THROUGH SIXTH GRADE. AS A PRINCIPAL, HER DAYS ARE ALWAYS DIFFERENT AND INCLUDE MEETINGS, ANSWERING EMAILS, ANALYZING SCHOOL DATA, CONTACTING PARENTS, SUPERVISING LUNCH AND RECESS, AND HELPING WITH STUDENT BEHAVIOR. ONE OF HER FAVORITE PARTS OF THE DAY IS GREETING STUDENTS EVERY MORNING, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING HUGS FROM HER. SHE HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED SOME UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS, INCLUDING STUDENTS BRINGING KITTENS TO SCHOOL IN THEIR BACKPACKS AND THIRD GRADERS TRYING TO DIG A HOLE TO CHINA DURING RECESS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO CLASS. MRS. PFEIFFER BELIEVES STUDENTS CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING THEY WANT IN LIFE IF THEY ARE WILLING TO WORK HARD AND STAY PERSISTENT. THE SCHOOL'S MOTTO IS, "IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU, IT WON'T CHANGE YOU, AND ...CHANGE TAKES TIME." SHE IS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF BEING THE FIRST PERSON IN HER FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE, EARNING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND TWO MASTER'S DEGREES. SHE WANTS STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR CHILDHOOD CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT HAVE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURES AND THAT EDUCATION CAN HELP THEM BREAK CYCLES. ONE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT MAKES HER PROUD IS SEEING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CHANGE THEIR MINDSETS FROM SAYING THEY CANNOT DO SOMETHING TO BELIEVING THEY CAN SUCCEED TOGETHER. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, MRS. PFEIFFER ENJOYS SNOWMOBILING WITH HER FAMILY, OWNS HER OWN SNOWMOBILE, AND EVEN CROWD-SURFED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT A CHEVELLE CONCERT LAST MAY. WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE AS PASSIONATE AND DEDICATED AS MRS. PFEIFFER. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.

WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY: GRIFFIN LUDERMAN AND NIC HARTNETT

Meet Mrs. Held!
K-2 Principal

No better way to learn about someone than from the person themselves, and boy do we have an amazing person for you! We interviewed Mrs. Held and these were her words: **How long have you been working in your position?** “This is year twenty for me. I was hired when the new elementary school was opening. I have been the K-2 principal since its inception.” **What does your day look like as a k-2 principal?** “Every day is different. However, I always begin with greeting the children as they enter the building. It's important for them to see a friendly and familiar face as they enter our doors. I also try to be visible throughout the day in classrooms, on the playground, in the cafeteria and at dismissal for bus duty. Each day brings different challenges related to student needs, staff needs and community needs - but my days fly by. It ends waiting for the last bus to finish their route, in the event a student cannot be dropped off. Someone has to be in the building to help locate parents and keep the children safe in the meantime.” **What is your favorite part of your job? “**My favorite part of the job involves the morning greeting. I am surrounded by students with hugs and funny stories. It warms my heart and starts my day off on a positive note. Hopefully my return hug helps their day begin on a high note as well.” This woman has an unmeasurable passion for her job and couldn’t be better for her position. THANK YOU MRS. HELD!







Photo credit: Mrs. Held

Created by: Emme Finnegan & Isabella Detter